Next General Meeting

CD-CAAR

Thursday, March 26, 1992
7:00 p.m.
Albany Public Library
Washington Avenue, Albany, N.Y.

At this meeting there will be a report from the Mozambique support committee of CD-CAAR. If you would like to work with this committee, call Debbie Maxwell at 393-4002.

"HATE CRIMES" — A panel discussion featuring Mark Mishler (National Lawyers Guild, CD-CAAR Steering Committee) and Deborah Williams-Muhammad (New York State Division of Human Rights). St. Rose College, Roger Bacon Hall, Monday, April 6, 1992 at 8:00 pm
Celebrate
Saturday, April 11, 1992, 7:00 p.m.
Same date as the community conference but, no problem.
In fact, after a full day of important discussions, come out and celebrate ten years of activism with the Palestinian Committee at a dinner and social event at St. Patrick's Church, 283 Central Ave.
Albany, N.Y.

The Capital District Committee for Palestinian Rights
will celebrate with a complete dinner including humus and pita, grape leaves, kebbe, kafta, and bakalay. There will also be a presentation by AL-Jaleel Debka group - Debka is a traditional Palestinian folk dance. Tickets are available at the Social Justice Center or by calling David at 458-8001. Tickets are $12.00 regular ($14.00 at the door, however, if you are coming from the Center for Law and Justice Conference, the price will be $12.00), $6.00 limited income ($7.00 at the door), or $25.00 sponsor.

FIGHT!

Fight the Cutbacks - On Saturday, March 28, 1992 in Baltimore, Maryland, there will be a national strategy meeting on how to build a fight back movement for jobs against cutbacks, and for social and economic justice. This meeting is being organized by an ad hoc committee of activists from more than 50 cities. We are facing an economic, political, and social crisis without precedent in most of our lifetimes. This is a difficult time, but it is also a time of great opportunity for organizing the kind of powerful, grassroots peoples' movement that can fight and win the economic and social rights we need. This meeting is a strategy meeting to make a concrete plan of action.
(410) 235-7040 or (212) 741-0633 for more information.

Unite!
Clarence doing the wrong thing

William Raspberry

Clarence: I know I'm supposed to call you Justice Thomas, but I don't want to be quite that formal. I want to talk straight, to a guy I thought I knew a little.

You know what I want to talk about. It's that dissent of yours in the matter of Hudson v. McMillian. Come on, Clarence. Conservative is one thing, bizarre is another.

The uncontested facts are that Keith Hudson, then an inmate at the Louisiana state penitentiary, got into an argument with a Jack McMillian and two other corrections security officers.

The guards handcuffed and shackled Hudson, took him out of his cell and walked him to the "administrative lockdown area" where they proceeded to kick and punch him. The supervisor on duty watched the beating but didn't stop it, merely telling his men not to have "too much fun."

Hudson sued, alleging a violation of the Eighth Amendment's prohibition against "cruel and unusual punishment," and he won in Federal District Court. The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the ruling, holding that to constitute a violation of the Eighth Amendment it was necessary that the guards' actions involve excessive and unreasonable force, the wanton infliction of pain, AND significant injury.

Since there was no "significant injury" — only minor bruises, a swollen face, puffy lips, loosened teeth and broken dentures — the appellate court said there was no constitutional violation.

Now that was strange enough. What was truly bizarre is that when the conservative-dominated U.S. Supreme Court reversed the appellate decision this week, yours was one of only two dissenting voices.

To tell you the truth, Clarence, I'm personally embarrassed. You know you weren't my choice to succeed Thurgood Marshall on the nation's highest court. You were too conservative for my taste and, more significantly, I thought you lacked the requisite judicial experience. But I thought I understood your conservatism as a sort of harsh pragmatism that most of us harbor to some degree. I cautioned black America not to let your conservatism blind them to your intellectual honesty. Conservatism, I insisted, isn't the same thing as stupidity — even in a black man. And since Bush was going to name a conservative to Thurgood's seat, I said, better he should appoint a conservative who has known deprivation and unfairness and racism at firsthand.

As a matter of fact, you encouraged that view. I mean, wasn't that the whole point of your recital of your underprivileged background, of your but-for-the-grace-of-God musings about society's losers?

Look, I never expected you to do a Hugo Black and become a court liberal. But I was prepared to see you put a compassionate face on conservatism. When it became clear that you would be confirmed on the court, I told my friends (your critics) that they should just watch while you surprised your right-wing supporters and confounded our enemies.

But your high-falutin' angels-and-pinheads opinion the other day that for prison guards to beat hell out of a handcuffed and shackled inmate does not constitute "cruel and unusual punishment" (unless the victim winds up in intensive care) confounded only those who had tried to cut you some slack.

And it was such a natural and easy chance to show that you could read into the Constitution and prior court decrees at least as much compassion as the white conservatives on the court.

Chief Justice Rehnquist, hardly a font of newly invented constitutional rights, had no problem finding for Keith Hudson. Six of your fellow justices joined him. Only you and Justice Scalia couldn't see your way clear to doing the right thing.

Why? Can't you see that the only reason for the president to appoint a person of your limited experience was the combination of your conservatism and your status as symbol of America's outsiders? The president sees, even if you don't, the value of having all Americans harbor some hope of fairness from the Supreme Court. Not favoritism, just fairness.

William Raspberry is a nationally syndicated columnist.
AN INTERNATIONAL APPEAL LAUNCHED TO DETERMINE NATURE OF CHEMICAL WEAPON WHICH KILLED MOZAMBIAN SOLDIERS

Maputo, January 28 - The Government of Mozambique launched an international appeal to determine the nature of a suspected chemical weapon which killed four Mozambican soldiers and seriously wounded 22 others in a battle against RENAMO on January 16.

Government officials believe that casualties are higher than the above figures. A communique from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that as a result of a "huge explosion... our forces started to develop strange reactions and abnormal sensations, namely skin irritations, burning, deep thirst and weakness." (See page 2, column 1)

Following a military operation carried out by Mozambican governmental forces on January 16, 1992 against a RENAMO stronghold in the region of Ngungue, Estomene, an area located five kilometers from the border with South Africa, our forces spotted a light aircraft overflying the area of operations.

At the same time, government forces also spotted what appeared to be a white Toyota Land-Cruiser pickup truck approaching the area and withdrawing shortly afterwards. This was immediately followed by sounds of machine gun fire accompanied by a huge explosion which released a thick smog covering the entire area occupied by governmental forces.

Our forces then started to develop strange reactions and abnormal sensations, namely skin irritations, burning, deep thirst and weakness. Subsequently, some soldiers died; others were reeled paralyzed, mentally affected; and others lost their sight and hearing abilities.

Preliminary medical reports from the military hospital in Maputo, the capital city of Mozambique, suggest the possibility of chemical warfare intoxication and contamination.

At the invitation of the Mozambican authorities, a medical team from South Africa made up of military and civilian personnel was dispatched to Maputo, where it joined a national medical team in collecting evidence from the victims and the site of the incident, with a goal of determining the exact nature of the explosion.

The Government of Mozambique launched an urgent appeal to the International Community for assistance in its efforts to determine the nature of the weapon involved, as well as the treatment of injured people in this grave incident. Foreign Ministry of Mozambique, January 28, 1992

BRITAIN WILL NOT RECOGNIZE RENAMO WHILE ATTACKS CONTINUE

A letter by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office states that the British government has "made it clear" to RENAMO that it "cannot afford Mr. Dhlakama the recognition he would like whilst (RENAMO attacks) continue." In addition, the government is "unaware of any plans by Mr. Dhlakama to visit Britain" and confirms that "he has not been invited by the Government." Mozambique Angola Committee January '92.

NEW YEAR MESSAGE URGES LASTING PEACE

Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano, in a New Year message to the nation, criticized Renamo for actions intended to destabilize the government and delay ceasefire negotiations. He urged Renamo to "listen to the voice of the people," and their calls for peace. AIM 1/2/92
SESSION II

Policing and the Courts

Don Carlos Jackson

"A network television crew videotaped a Long Beach, California police officer as he pushed a black suspect face first through a hardware store window before throwing him onto the trunk of a police car. . . . The suspect had violated no traffic laws and had offered no resistance at any time. . . . The suspect actually was Hawthorne Police Sgt. Donald Jackson, a crusader against racism within law enforcement. Using himself as bait, Jackson intended to illustrate complaints of racial brutality in Long Beach by catching police officers in a tape-recorded "sting" - with the help of a TV news crew from NBC's Today Show." (L.A. Times, 1/16/89)

Don Carlos Jackson, the subject of a soon to be released HBO special on his life entitled "Firebrand," has had over ten years of law enforcement experience including one year with the Ventura County juvenile and adult correctional facilities, two years as a deputy with the Ventura County Sheriff's Department and seven years with the Hawthorn Police Department as a field supervisor, detective and sergeant. Aside from being a law enforcement expert, Mr. Jackson writes, lectures, studies public administration and participates in a number of community activities He is the recipient of numerous awards including: the Congressional Certificate of Merit; Black Radio Exclusive, "Martin Luther King Award;" NAACP "Mary McCloud Bethune Civil Rights Award;" and the California State Assembly Community Service Award.

Judge Nicholas Figueroa

"there are two basic justice systems at work in the courts of New York State, one for whites and a very different one for minorities and the poor." (from a report issued by the New York State Judicial Commission on Minorities after a 3 1/2 year examination of alleged bias in the New York Court system. Judge Figueroa served as Vice Chair of that Commission)

Judge Nicholas Figueroa is a Justice of the Supreme Court in the First Judicial District. He has extensive experience as a trial lawyer and is actively involved in community activities. He has served as President of the Puerto Rican Bar Association, a member of Mayor Dinkin's Committee on the Judiciary, and Chair of Bronx Legal Services. He has also served as an associate counsel for the Knap Commission which investigated alleged police corruption. In November of 1992, he was made Vice Chairman of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Committee on Minorities which is to implement the recommendations made by the New York State Judicial Commission on Minorities of which he was also Vice Chair.

Conference Schedule

8:30 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. - Registration

9:00 Welcome - Alice P. Green, Executive Director

I SESSION I

9:30-10:15 Keynote Speech: Mr. Don Jackson

10:15-11:00 Response Panel

11:15-12:30 Community Meeting and Discussion - Agenda Setting

12:30-1:30 LUNCH, INFORMATION BOOTHS, ENTERTAINMENT

II SESSION II

1:30 Presentation of the First Annual "Frederick Douglas Struggle for Justice Award"

H. Patrick Swygert, President, University at Albany.

I 4:30 Keynote Speech: Judge Nicholas Figueroa

2:30-3:15 Response Panel

3:30-4:45 Community Meeting and Discussion - Agenda Setting

4:45 Summary Remarks

THIS CONFERENCE IS ALSO SPONSORED BY:

Albany County Comprehensive Crime Victims Assistance Program
Albany County Probation Department * Statewide Youth Advocates
Albany County Rape Crisis Center * Law, Order, and Justice Center
Albany Dispute Mediation Program * Prisoner Support Network
Albany Law School * Albany Chapter NAACP * Equinox, Inc.
Arbor Hill Community Center * Urban League of the Albany Area
Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism
Centro Civico - Amsterdam, Albany * Siena College Sociology Dept.
City of Troy Human Rights Committee * Legal Aid Society
Council of Albany Neighborhood Associations * Citizens Action
National Lawyer's Guild * Peace and Service Committee (A.F.M.)
Council of Albany Neighborhood Associations * Schenectady NAACP
Sage Colleges Criminal Justice Programs * Blacks in Government
Rensselaer County Public Defenders Office * The Woman's Building
NYS Coalition Against Domestic Violence * NYS Police
NYS Commission on Corrections * NYS Division of Peace
NYS Defenders Association * NYS Division for Youth
NYS League of Women Voters * SUNYA School of Criminal Justice
SUNY A Department of African Studies * Albany Farmers Meeting
Union College - Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Capital District Hispanic Outreach Services

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Prexy back in town - Prexy Nesbitt Senior Consultant for the Government of Mozambique was in the Capital District on February 27 and 28. Thanks to the African and Caribbean Student Association at P P I for bringing him here for a speaking engagement. We also had the good luck to have him attend the CD-CAAP February general meeting.

I would especially like to express my thanks to Prexy for coming to Street Academy Albany's alternative high school to take part in a Black History month program. The students had put together a music and poetry celebration for February 28th. When I realized on Thursday that Prexy might be free on Friday afternoon, I asked him if he would come and speak to the students and he agreed. Anyone who has worked with Prexy knows that he is one of the best organizers in the country because of his obvious commitment to working for justice and his ability to convey that in a most humane way.

In a very moving talk to the kids, Prexy told of some of the horrors suffered by the Mozambican people at the hands of the South African backed Renamo bandits. He also urged the students to take advantage of the opportunity to finish school. There was total silence in the room as he spoke and everyone was listening. I think Prexy was moved, too, by the kids at Street Academy and the poetry of strength which they presented. It was one of those last minute, unexpected events that happen sometimes and then become the most unforgettable.

Thanks again - Amandla!

E. Kavola

our souls grow deep like the rivers - and the trees

Cuba: 1992 Study Seminars

There are several trips planned to Cuba for 1992 by Global Exchange, a San Francisco based non-profit research, education and action center which builds direct people-to-people links between North Americans and grassroots development efforts in Third World countries. Alternative travel also include trips to Jamaica, Mexico, the Philippines and South Africa. For more information please contact Global Exchange, 2141 Mission #202, San Francisco, California or (202) 547-2640.
Dear Friend:

Three years ago, many of you responded generously to our request for money to support the Zenzeleni Community Centre in Winterweld, South Africa. The center, which opened in 1985, now occupies two brightly painted trailers and serves 100 children between the ages of two and six. Last spring, one of us (J.B.) visited Zenzeleni, met again with its founder Frances Bead, and saw the refrigerator and stove that were purchased with our donations.

Frances Bead and others working at the creche are hopeful about the promise of a formal end to apartheid in South Africa. But its demise will leave a brutal legacy of poverty, unemployment and landlessness. The shortage of child care facilities will remain a particular acute problem for black women, whose income is crucial for family survival. Jobs are especially hard to find in Winterweld, a barren rural area located over an hour from Porteins.

Frances Bead was a trade union activist and leader of the women's campaign against pass laws in the 1950s. Imprisoned during the 1960s, she was banished upon release to Winterweld, far from her home in Port Elizabeth. Though now over eighty years old and in ill health, she continues to organize around the needs of the local community and to work for an end to racial injustice and exploitation. But her spirit alone cannot provide the center with funds for teachers' salaries or food for the children.

You continued support of this project can help the women of Winterweld in their daily struggle for survival and can contribute to building the community solidarity necessary to empower people on a grassroots level.

Contributions are tax deductible. Checks should be made out to the Albany Friends Meeting and designated for the Zenzeleni Centre. Thank you once again for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Irz Berger

Joe Levinger
Gulf War Crimes

Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark and others in the anti-war movement founded the Commission of Inquiry following the Gulf war. Similar commissions in 20 countries and in many U.S. cities have held hearings and meetings exposing the truth about the war. The findings of these commissions were presented on February 29, 1992 in New York City at the International War Crimes Tribunal. (Four II-CAAP members, Morton Simpson, Naomi Jaffe, Vera Michelson and Eileen Havila attended.) The Tribunal documented how the war brought the death of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, the destruction of 686 schools, 95 hospitals and health care centers, 83 bridges, numerous dams, electrical power stations, grain silos, agricultural facilities and roads.

While the people in the U.S. were being told by the government and the media that this was a "surgical war" and we watched a fairy tale video game war, the people of Iraq were suffering from one of the most intensive bombing attacks in history. The U.S. by targeting the infrastructure of Iraq also insured that the suffering will continue - the people are now facing extreme medical crises and starvation. The continuing embargo of Iraq further exacerbates a desperate situation causing hundreds more deaths each day.

The Tribunal also addressed the issue of U.S. atrocities against the people of Panama - Olga Mejia, president of the National Human Rights Committee of Panama outlined how the U.S. invasion of Panama was a practice for the invasion of Iraq.

The "victors" will not be the only ones to write the history of this war.

Those who have worked for years to uncover truth about U.S. policy and operations in Central America, Southern Africa, the Middle East and in our own communities, know how the truth is seldom reported in our media. This Tribunal was covered by over 70 media representatives from all over the world and was attended by more than 1,000 people.

Did you see or read anything about it? In fact, do you remember the anti-Gulf war demonstration and march in Albany with about 1,000 people in attendance and the Times Union story featured a large picture of an anti-demonstration protester waving an American flag?
Capital District Coalition
Against Apartheid and Racism
Project of the Social Justice Center
33 Central Avenue
Albany, New York 12210

Save the date - next CD-CAAR general meeting.
March 26, 1992 - 7:00 pm, Albany Public Library

There is still time... The response to CD-CAAR's annual membership drive has been great! However, there are still some of you who might have forgotten about sending in your yearly dues - dues used to keep this newsletter coming to you and which will bring you a wallet-sized membership card. So, once again, we've included a membership response form for your convenience.

Don't waste it!

Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CD-CAAR
ENCLOSED IS $_______ (Dues are $5.00 - more is better!)

NAME

STREET

CITY_________________________ STATE________ ZIP_____

Mail to CD-CAAR, Box 3002, Pine Hills Station, Albany, New York 12203.