

HARVARD/RADCLIFFE ALUMNI/AE AGAINST APARTHEID

August 1994

Dear friends and supporters of HRAAA:

With the transformation of South Africa finally and triumphantly begun, the time has come formally to close down shop at Harvard/Radcliffe Alumni/ae Against Apartheid. We have had a good run. We elected four members of the Board of Overseers. For a decade, we helped thrust the issue of apartheid into the consciousness of the Harvard community, raising the level of awareness and discussion, and mobilizing many fine people both within the Harvard community and elsewhere.

To be sure, we did not persuade Harvard to divest. Back in 1986, in a speech at the JFK School of Government, Archbishop Desmond Tutu said, "When we get to the other side of this liberation game, we would like to say, 'You know something, Harvard University was with us.' " It will be to the everlasting shame of our alma mater that that wish was not fulfilled. Rather, we seem to have sufficiently terrified them that they changed the rules by which Overseers are elected.

Perhaps our greatest accomplishment was the clear demonstration that a large, committed, vocal cadre of progressive men and women can be found in the ranks of Harvard and Radcliffe graduates.

As we bring HRAAA formally to a close, we should like to thank some whose efforts over the years have sustained us. First, of course, our thanks go to Gay Seidman, Consuela Washington, Peter Wood, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who were elected to the Harvard Board of Overseers on a HRAAA-backed divestment platform. Our thanks also to John Plotz and his fellow Bay Area co-conspirators who started the whole effort nearly ten years ago; to Dot Benz, who managed HRAAA efforts during academic year 1987-88; to Jan Handke, who kept the organization alive after 1990; to Judith Baker and Ephraim Isaac, who have been in touch with many of you to canvass possible future paths for HRAAA; to the HRAAA members who comprised our Overseers slates; and of course to all of you whose financial contributions and other support made this possible.

As we officially go out of existence, there are several good causes close to home to which you might like to add your support. Among the many positive consequences of our efforts were Bob Wolff's founding of University Scholarships for South African Students, a volunteer organization that currently supports 110 poor Black men and women at historically Black universities in South Africa. USSAS can be reached at 107 Buffam Road, Pelham, MA 01002.

You might want as well to make contact with the US-South Africa Sister Community project, which links communities in this country with disadvantaged communities in South Africa looking for international assistance in their effort to build a better life. Projects have been established to date involving Atlanta, Berkeley, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver,

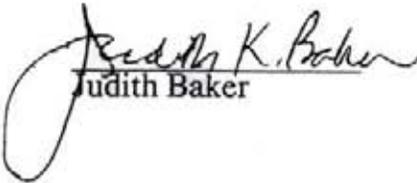
Louisville, Memphis, Milwaukee, Phoenix, Seattle, St. Paul, and Wichita. The US office is at 3254 Adeline Street, Berkeley, CA 94703, tel: 510-602-7635.

Finally, as has been widely reported, 118 employees of the Harvard Club in New York City have been on strike since April 3rd, after management demanded more than 35 contract concessions on wages, benefits, and work conditions from an already notoriously underpaid workforce (concessions that include a costly co-payment of medical coverage, a wage freeze, and a host of give-backs.) The strike has caused a significant decline in Club business and has spawned a movement by members to delay payment of dues. Charges of unfair labor practices are pending with the NLRB.

The striking employees, members of Hotel, Restaurant and Club Employees Union, Local 6, have received strong support from Club members, Harvard alumni/ae, and the general public, as they continue to picket around the clock. Union leaders are enthusiastic about potential HRAAA support - they believe that support from HRAAA members who are also Club members could turn the tide. Anyone seeking additional information - or better yet, who is willing to help in any way - is urged to contact the union at 212-957-8000.

South Africa is marching gaily, brightly into the twenty-first century. All of us can give ourselves, or each other, congratulatory pats on the back and high fives for a job well done.

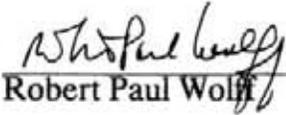
Should you wish to contact us, you can direct your messages to Chester Hartman, 3372 Stuyvesant Place, NW, Washington, DC 20015.


Judith Baker


Chester Hartman


Joel Krieger


Donald Solomon


Robert Paul Wolff