

Do your favorite entertainers play in South Africa?

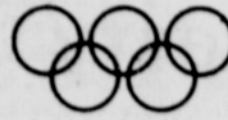
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Refreshing summer salads

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First day customers find fresh bargains at the new Farmers Market. Every Saturday through October, local farmers and home gardeners will

sell produce. The Farmers Market is located on the corner of North Williams and Knott, just south of Emanuel Hospital. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Civil rights leader pans Reagan record

by Ralph G. Neas, Executive Director, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

Recent statements by the Justice Department constitute an astonishing misrepresentation of the Reagan Administration's record on civil rights. For the Administration, unless it changes course dramatically, will be remembered for its repeated attempts to weaken the civil rights laws enacted over the past two decades and to restrict the remedies presently available to Blacks, Hispanics, women, and other minorities who have been victims of unlawful discrimination.

To combat its deserved reputation for insensitivity, inactivity, and unfairness in civil rights matters, the Administration has launched an extensive public relations campaign. In addition to highly publicized "field trips," the Justice Department has been maintaining that the only real substantive differences between the Administration and the civil rights community is a disagreement over the use of busing and quotas.

Such an assertion is absurd and defies the reality of the Administration's performance on civil rights over the past two and one half years. Indeed, a case can be made that the Administration is using these two controversial issues to mask the absolutely abysmal record it has compiled in virtually every area of civil rights enforcement.

A brief review will amply demonstrate the nature and the extent of the Administration's lack of commitment to civil rights. The Administration:

- led for many months the opposition to a strong and effective extension of the Voting Rights Act;
- tried to reverse the well estab-

lished federal policy of denying tax exempt status to schools which discriminate on the basis of race;

- has opposed the Equal Rights Amendment;
- has threatened the independence and integrity of the federal judiciary by supporting legislation which would strip the Supreme Court's jurisdiction over certain constitutional issues;
- has jeopardized the independence of the Civil Rights Commission by trying to fire every member of the Commission;
- has repeatedly sought to impose an "intent" test in discrimination cases;
- has refused to endorse the Women's Economic Equity Act, legislation to eliminate sex discrimination in key economic areas;
- has been unable or unwilling to enforce vigorously the law with respect to discrimination in housing, in education, and in employment;
- has tried to limit the coverage of civil rights laws by narrowing the definition of "federal financial assistance" and by prohibiting discrimination only in those programs and activities for which

federal funds are given directly.

In the coming weeks and months, whether it is in the context of defending President Reagan's unprecedented actions regarding the U.S. Civil Rights Commission or his dangerously weak fair housing bill, we can expect much more rhetoric from the Administration on quotas and busing. But we must reject this transparent attempt to deflect attention away from the Administration's terrible record on civil rights.

Indeed, we must demand that the Attorney General and the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights start enforcing fully all our civil rights laws, including those with which they disagree. Only then can they faithfully uphold their oaths as the champion of the victims of discrimination, rather than being perceived as their adversary. And only then can they begin to undo the perception of unfairness that best characterizes the Reagan Administration policies regarding Blacks, Hispanics, women, and other minorities.

The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights is a coalition of 165 national organizations representing Blacks, Hispanics and Asian Americans, women, labor, the disabled, the aged, religious groups and minority businesses and professions.

Entertainers join South Africa ban

By Michael Beaubien, Africa News

NEW YORK — The movement organizing a cultural boycott of South Africa continues to grow in the United States despite the lack of national coordination and despite the absence of an authoritative list of artists in violation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly since 1968.

New York has evolved as a focal point for the cultural boycott, and activists here recently mounted demonstrations to encourage boycotts of the performances of Ray Charles, Lou Donaldson, Dakota Stanton, Chick Corea and Frank Sinatra, all of whom have performed in South Africa.

In some cases this type of protest has brought immediate results. After pickets virtually shut down her concerts in New York and New Jersey, for example, Millie Jackson joined with Stanley Turrentine and pledged never again to perform in apartheid South Africa.

The demonstrations here have been led by two community-based organizations: the Unity in Action Network, sponsored by the Patrice Lumumba coalition and the African Jazz Artists Society (AJASS); and the Coalition to End Cultural Collaboration with South Africa, which was formed by the National Black United Front (NBUF).

The lack of national coordination for the movement will soon be addressed by the lobby group TransAfrica, which is now promoting the boycott as one of its priorities. The campaign was launched on June 4 at TransAfrica's sixth anniversary meeting with a press conference featuring the O'Jays.

In addition to their pledge to support the boycott, the O'Jays an-

nounced plans to underwrite the costs of the TransAfrica Entertainment and Apartheid Symposium to be held in Los Angeles during 1983. The symposium is designed to inform the entertainment industry about the United Nations-sanctioned ban on tours of South Africa.

The problems that activists have encountered due to lack of an authoritative list of boycott violators will soon be a thing of the past. The United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid has announced plans to compile and publish a register of cultural contacts with South Africa.

The register will be compiled by the United Nations Center Against Apartheid in six-month intervals. The first register will cover the period of January through June of 1983 and will be distributed in the fall. Artists who visited South Africa during this period, however, can escape inclusion by pledging to respect the boycott in the future.

Activists have been heartened by a growing list of cancellations in 1983. Among those artists who have turned down contracts and announced their refusal to perform in South Africa are Barry White, the Commodores, Third World, the Jacksons, Tony Bennett and Odysse.

At the same time, however, Peter Braham, a South African promoter, boasted to the *African Capetown Times* late last year that he had signed Martha Reeves and the Vandellas, Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes, the Stylistics, the Shilites, the Three Degrees, Edwin Star, the Temptations, Hot Chocolate, and the Drifters for South African tours.

Portland group gives aid:

Salvadoran refugees tell their stories

by Robert Lothian
Part two of three parts

Flight from army scorched earth campaigns has meant an almost unimaginable survival struggle for Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees, say refugees in Portland and representatives from CAMINO, the Central Americans in Oregon Refugee Support Committee.

"They have had an incredibly hard life, barely escaping with their lives. They have incredible survival skills," said Don Barnhart, pastor of Centenary Wilbur Methodist Church in S.E. Portland.

Barnhart said he met one Salvadoran couple passing through Portland who fled after discovering their names on a death list dropped over their village by airplane. The couple spoke of widespread and indiscriminate repression, of bodies floating in the river near their village.

One local church family is sharing their home with a young Salvadoran, and they are also providing him with a part-time job.

Through an interpreter, he said he left his homeland because he felt that union activism made him suspect. He feared for his life, he said, because 200 people from his neighborhood had already disappeared.

"No one can say whether they are dead or alive, they've just disappeared," he said.

Entering California illegally, he

was picked up by immigration authorities and detained for a year. While awaiting deportation, he applied for political asylum and was bailed out by a local church. He then came to Portland, has been here two months and hopes to stay. His asylum application is still pending.

"The whole situation in El Salvador since 1930 has been very bad," he said. War, repression, and outrages perpetrated by the secret police and right wing death squads, are aimed at trying "to stop the movement for a better way of life," he said.

"A lot of people think the Central Americans come here for economic reasons, but that's not true." El Salvador is a poor country, he said, but it is still possible to eke out a reasonable living, in spite of the war. "The principal reason is political," he said.

Now, after work, he combs the streets looking for refugees who need help, and has met about 20 Salvadorans and 10 Guatemalans that way.

"The people on the street have nothing. It's hard living underground, but the Latin person is already used to living a kind of underground existence in the U.S."

"The people on the committee have done everything possible to make sure there is help," and, he said, the Medical Aid for El Salva-

dor campaign headed by Ed Asner and other aid programs organized in Europe and North America are greatly appreciated back home.

Even though he finds it "cold all the time here," he likes Portland. He desperately misses the warm weather of his homeland, he said, however, also soccer, swimming in Lake Ilopango near San Salvador, playing drums called timbales and black beans cooked the way he likes them with garlic and onions.

Portlanders have also contributed "thousands" toward meeting the basic living expenses of a Guatemalan family as they start a new life here. Through an interpreter, they said they barely escaped an army campaign during which relatives and friends in their village were murdered.

"I always say that I am not political and neither is my family," said the woman. "But now, people suffer in Guatemala whether they are political or not."

"The poor people who stayed behind, some, have disappeared forever. They died innocently. Some are still alive but have been tortured and can never work again."

"My mother is being persecuted and followed by the army. They have tortured and killed many of my relatives."

"The government is concerned with murdering people and getting more arms. The government has

given permission to kill, it doesn't matter if it's a family," she said.

Now, said the woman, "I want to take the fear out of my children."

Medical care, household necessities, and clothing have been donated to the family, and volunteers act as translators and are teaching them English, and also helped them learn to use Tri-Met and look for work.

In addition, new Portland friends invited them on outings to the country and to the zoo.

"The refugees have a really deep need to be self-reliant, support themselves and not have to go pick up free bags of food," said Terry Rogers, CAMINO coordinator.

"They're dealing with heavy duty poverty," she said. "They're putting out their best effort to get on their own feet. But often it just isn't possible, so money is necessary," and also "safe" housing, clothing, food and employment "on a limited basis," she said.

Rogers said that Portlanders have responded warmly to the refugees, and the committee is looking to expand.

"There's been a really positive response by people here once they realize who the refugees are, that they're here, and that they can contribute personally to their survival," she said. For more information contact the American Friends Service Committee, 230-9427.