

Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism

Box 3002 — Pine Hills Station
Albany, NY 12203

Chairman
M. J. Dollard

NEWS RELEASE

Vice-Chairman
E. J. Josey

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For further information:
Michael J. Dollard
(518) 457-2952 (work)
(518) 436-8008 (home)

CAPITAL DISTRICT COALITION RECEIVES
THREAT FROM KLAN

As a direct result of its recent work in opposition to the Ku Klux Klan, the Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism has received a threat from the Klan.

On Thursday, July 15th, a cleaner at the United Methodist Center at Lexington and Clinton in Albany, found a manila envelope addressed to Rene' Dubose c/o the United Methodist Center. Ms. Dubose, a prominent anti-Klan activist from Washington DC, had been the guest and principal speaker at the Coalition sponsored workshop "KKK - Closer Than You Think" the previous evening at the United Methodist Center.

Inside the manila envelope was a second envelope, also addressed to Ms. Dubose, and bearing a large sticker reading, "The Ku Klux Klan is watching you!"

Inside the second envelope was an assortment of Ku Klux Klan calling cards stapled to a letterhead of the "Knights of the Ku Klux Klan." These cards contained a variety of messages including one that read, "You have been paid a friendly visit by the Ku Klux Klan. Should we pay you a real visit?"

The Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism considers this incident to be a direct threat against itself and against its guest, Ms. Dubose. It is also a direct threat against all of the good and decent

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people in the Capital District who reject the violence, the ignorance and the undisguised racism of these little men in their dirty sheets.

This incident certainly reinforces the theme of the Coalition's public education program "The KKK - Closer Than You Think." The KKK is closer than you think! It is here in the Capital District. It was at the United Methodist Center early in the morning of July 15th. It also was in the Town of Bern last fall when a cross was burned. It was on New Scotland Ave. and on Hackett Blvd. when anti-Semitic stamps and posters were plastered on store fronts and on the doors of a synagogue.

The Coalition believes that this community must defend itself against attacks by the Klan. We strongly believe that a community can best defend itself when it is aroused, organized and knowledgeable. Rather than being deterred by threats such as that received at the United Methodist Center, the Coalition is determined to push on even harder and faster with the educational program that was successfully kicked off Wednesday night by Ms. Dubose's workshop for some 200 persons. A film series on the Klan will begin in September, and Coalition speakers will be available to churches, schools, community groups, senior citizens' groups, etc. throughout the summer and fall. The Coalition will also be promoting the National Education Association curriculum on the Klan for adoption by local school districts. The best defense is surely a strong offense. Ignorance, racism and hatred cannot survive in the clear bright light of truth and knowledge.

The Coalition is reporting this incident to the Albany police and making the threat documents available to them. Any subsequent incidents will similarly be reported immediately to the police.

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ALBANY, N.Y. 12203
BOX 3003 - FIVE HILLS STATION
Anti-Racism
Against Apartheid
Capital District Coalition