

(DURBAN KULCHA's)

A13.7.2

MOTIVATION FOR TAM ALEXANDER AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE WEST GERMAN TOUR ~~to~~.

- TAM HAS A GOOD PUBLIC/MEDIA PRESENCE, DEMONSTRATED BY HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESSFUL DEBATE AGAINST THE DSA.
- HE'S VERY KNOWLEDGABLE ABOUT SOUTHERN AFRICAN HISTORY, POLITICAL ECONOMY etc, ESPECIALLY ECC (has represented Durban at NC's)
- PERSONAL FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH HIS RESIGNATION WILL NOT BE APPLICABLE ON A TOUR
- HE WILL BE ALL THE BETTER RE-INTEGRATED ON HIS RETURN DUE TO REPORTBACKS ETC.

MOTIVATION FOR WEST GERMAN TOUR: ROB GOLDMAN

We, the Durban ECC Churches Sub-committee, propose Rob Goldman as a candidate for the ECC Tour to West Germany in October 1988. Our motivation for this proposal follows below.

1. Experience in war resistance work

Rob has a broad range as well as a long history of experience in war resistance work:

1.1 As a conscript

He served in the SADF from 1980-1981. He engaged in resistance from within by becoming a non-combatant. This entailed active refusal to do a range of combat-related tasks, and the carrying of a metal pipe instead of a rifle.

He has had personal experience with the Board for Religious Objection, is currently doing his alternative service and is due to complete it in August 1988.

1.2 In the COSG network

He was part of the formation of the initial C.O. Support Group in support of Peter Moll in Cape Town in 1979. He was also involved in the War and Peace Issues Forum (WAPIF!) on UCT campus which looked at war-related issues. He has continued to be involved in COSG and is active in the organisation in Durban.

1.3 In ECC

He was part of the planning group for the 1983 COSG National Conference in Durban which resulted in the formation of MAC (Movement Against Conscription) in Durban, which launched as ECC in 1984. Since his return from overseas in July 1986 (more about that later) he has been active in ECC in Durban. He has been involved in the planning and execution of various campaigns over the last two years, initiated the re-formation of the Churches Sub-committee in February 1987 and co-ordinated it until April 1988. He has been on the co-ordinating committee (Exec) since mid-1987 and has been Chair of Durban ECC since April 1988.

1.4 In the National Community Servers' Group

He was part of the small group of community servers at the September 1986 COSG National Conference that decided to initiate a community servers' group on a national scale. Its general objectives are to provide mutual support for community servers, to lobby for improvement of conditions of service, the broadening of placement opportunities, and the broadening of the basis of qualification for community service. He was the Durban Regional Co-ordinator until March 1987 and was the National Co-ordinator from April 1987 to April 1988.

1.5 In the Conscription Advice Service

He has done conscription counselling since his army days in 1980 when his O.C. told him to be a good boy and stop doing it (which he didn't) and continues to be involved in the CAS in Durban.

1.6 In the Durban "OSG"

This is not an organisation like Cape Town's, but has been called this for the want of a name. He is part of a group of conscripts who will be making a public declaration at the up-coming August call-up.

We feel that this breadth and depth of experience in the war resistance movement, as well as his primary commitment to ECC, will enable him to speak with knowledge and authenticity to overseas audiences.

2. The broader political scene

Rob is personally aligned to the broad democratic movement and is committed to working for a free, non-racial, democratic, and unitary South Africa, and has a nasty letter from former Law and Order Minister le Grange to prove it! He has participated in some UDF campaigns such as the Million Signature Campaign and the Christmas Against the Emergency campaign. He has an understanding of the tri-cameral system, the extra-parliamentary movement and groupings such as Sash, NIC, Durban Democratic Association and NUSAS, as well as the trade union movement, and some exposure to exile politics.

We feel that while his exposure to broader politics is not as in-depth as issues in the White community, his understanding of and commitment to the broader political scene equip him well enough to discuss the broad political situation in South Africa, as well as the trickier questions such as disinvestment and the role of Inkatha.

3. Commitment to non-violence

Rob understands and even sympathises with those who have turned to the armed struggle for liberation. However his own commitment is to nonviolence as a way of life, as well as a political tool, on the basis of both principle and a belief that it is the most strategic way forward in our context. He has been involved in both non-violence training and practical actions for many years. We feel that his experience and commitment to this method of struggle within the country is important for German peace groups to hear.

4. The Christian basis of his life and activism

Rob's life reflects a blend of spirituality and activism. He is deeply involved in the Church and is in touch with the issues in the different churches that are relevant to ECC, such as the Catholic Bishops' Conference-initiated Alternative Service Programme, the Anglican church's response to the Lusaka Statement, the Methodist Church's discussions on being a peace church and the discussions around Walter Wink's book on active non-violence, Jesus' Third Way.

We believe that these points will enable him to speak with integrity and in an informed way to church-related people in West Germany. This is important in respect of the educational input the ECC "tour-ist" will need to give as there seems to be quite a strong conservative church movement there, from which Inkatha gets a lot of support.

5. Written and public speaking skills

Rob has written articles for Objector, At Ease and student newspapers, and helped to write a number of ECC pamphlets and has had public speaking experience in campus, church and general public contexts.

He has had good public speaking experience overseas when he and his wife Sal went on an independent, self-initiated speaking and learning tour through the USA and Canada in 1986. He spoke on the S.A. political scene, his personal involvement, and ECC (from a personal perspective only), to groups ranging from 10 to 500 people. The groups he addressed were wide-ranging, including peace activist groups, labour organisations, Amnesty International, high school classes, student, youth and church groups. He also had press interviews (see attached eg's - take account of America's love for melodrama!), live and prepared television interviews and radio interviews and phone-in's.

We believe that his extensive experience in the USA and Canada (61 encounters in all) of public speaking and answering questions from the floor and participating in group discussions, equips Rob very suitably to carry ECC's message with clarity and confidence to small and big groups alike.

In conclusion

Durban has never had an ECC tour-person. Although it is not a training event we never-the-less believe that the Durban ECC branch would benefit with such an experience being plowed back into the organisation.

We therefore motivate strongly that a Durban person be selected and we believe that Rob has the skills, depth and range of experience and necessary perspective to do the job.

Patriotic leanings

The Goldmans are not roaming the globe in search of a new national identity. They say they love South Africa and call themselves "patriots." Sally is the daughter of a supreme court judge; Rob is the son of an army hero.

But theirs is a patriotism that does not exclude criticism. Goldman, an Anglican and a pacifist, was one of the first men to be granted conscientious objector status when it became legal two years ago. He couldn't face the thought of suppressing his own people to protect a flawed government.

"Apartheid is a totally evil system," he said.

The Goldmans are convinced the future of South Africa will be determined by blacks. But their hope for a non-violent transition becomes more tenuous.

They watch American television and for the first time see rage on the faces of blacks. They know it existed before, but it was always too risky to express.

Change seems right and inevitable to them. But they worry about anything that will make it more difficult. They wonder how much talking they must do. What can they do for the only country where they want to belong?

Camilla Warrick is a columnist for The Enquirer

METRO

- Gillmor feels slighted/B-2
- State news, obituaries/B-3
- Hamilton County sued/B-6

White couple travel abroad for civil rights

Rob and Sally Goldman didn't need to travel 11,000 miles to denounce apartheid.

They didn't need to save every penny for the past three years, give up their careers and beg hospitality from strangers.

But they figured that Americans and Europeans should hear about South African injustice from their privileged white lips. They needed to talk more than they needed a new house, good jobs or private indignation.

They joined a small but growing number of white South Africans committed to ending the system that has made their lives so comfortable. It gave them good educations, fine neighborhoods, economic security and the cleanest public toilets.

It has also denied 25 million blacks voting rights, decent jobs, freedom of movement, equality.

Motivated by fear

The Goldmans looked at their own white community, the most heavily armed in the world, and wondered how they could call themselves free. Fear was warping people's behavior, turning Saturday afternoon shopping trips into desperate forays.

"The oppression of blacks is by far the greatest," said Sally, a 26-year-old teacher. "But apartheid oppresses everyone."

For all their saving and planning, the Goldmans couldn't have afforded a year's trip in the U.S. and Europe without help. So they sought American hosts through an ad in *Sojourners* magazine and received nearly 50 invitations, including one from Cincinnati attorneys Mike and Jo Rizer.

They arrived here without a formal agenda, the same way they have already visited half a dozen cities. Unplanned encounters interest them far more than scheduled addresses. But they've learned to expect suspicion.

"Americans tend to see the issue a bit simplistically. They think it's all a black/white confrontation," said Goldman, 28, who used to work in the personnel department of a large corporation. "We feel it's important to explain that the major anti-apartheid organizations are actually multi-racial."

South Africans in U.S. to urge change at home

DAVID JARRARD

Staff Writer

Americans often seem surprised when they learn South Africans Rob and Sally Goldman are white, the couple says.

They are even more surprised when they learn the young couple is against apartheid and actively campaigning for a peaceful change for their homeland.

"I feel more convinced than ever that the only way I can justify my existence in South Africa is to be involved in changing the system, because as white people we benefit from apartheid in almost every way," said Rob Goldman, 28.

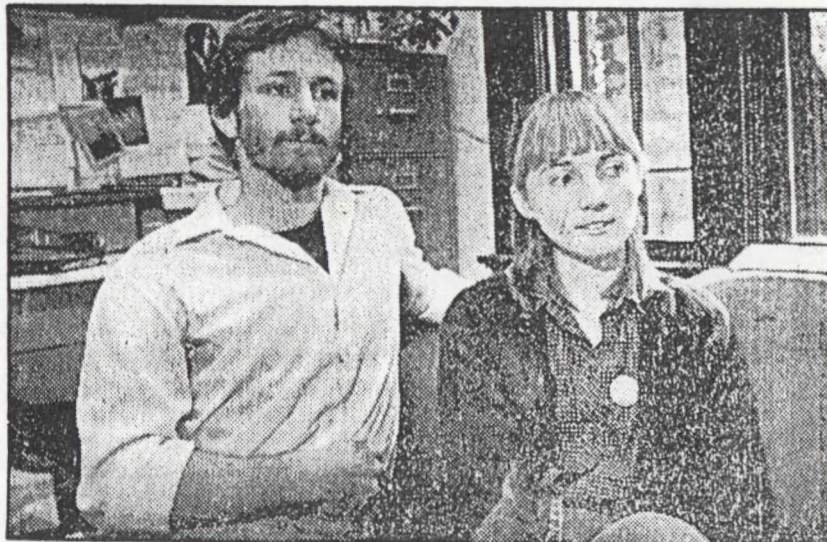
"We want a peaceful change," said Sally Goldman, 26. "But peaceful or not, a change is coming."

The Goldmans left their home in Durban, South Africa, several months ago and began meeting with groups in the United States in January.

They say they have found support for their views in America, but also a tendency for people to simplify the problems in their country to an issue of black vs. white.

The Goldmans will speak at 7:30 p.m. tonight at Edgehill United Methodist Church, and tomorrow at 10 a.m. to Church Women United at the home of Dorothy Copple, 202 Craighead Ave. and at 7 p.m. at St. Anselm's Episcopal Church.

They don't have a prepared speech. The Goldmans find their



Billy Easley • Staff

Taking a stand against apartheid, South Africans Rob and Sally Goldman visit Nashville during a tour of the United States to discuss peaceful change they feel must be made in their homeland, and how America can help.

speaking time is usually spent simply answering questions.

"The most common question is: 'Were we born in South Africa?'" said Sally Goldman, laughing. "And we say, 'Yes, we really were.'"

The second most frequently asked question concerns America's role in the transition of that country from a system of apartheid to freedom.

"We are very unhappy with the policy of your administration towards South Africa," Rob Goldman

said. "It's retarding the process of change rather than helping us.

"Your administration must take a far more critical attitude towards South Africa. We are struck by how inconsistent it is to take a hard line against Nicaragua and Libya, and then to do the opposite against South Africa.

"I'm prepared to lay a bet our government has killed more people than any of those governments."

◆ Turn to PAGE 4B, Column 5

South Africans fight apartheid with U.S. visit

From Page 1B

But suggesting just what policy America should adopt towards South Africa is difficult for the Goldmans.

It's difficult not because they don't have any opinions — they do. But by expressing their thoughts, by advocating them, the Goldmans said they could be put in jail for up to 20 years by their government when they go home.

As to the suggestion that the U.S. government and American companies should boycott South Africa, Rob Goldman said:

"It's logical to assume it would have a definite effect. To think that one can be prosecuted for even discussing it, I think shows how effective a measure it would be. You can't even debate it."

But even though they tiptoed around that issue during their visit to the United States, the couple said there's still a chance they could be arrested when they return home in July.

"It's a possibility we can't rule out," he said. "It's impossible to know. There's not always logic in what they do."

The Goldmans said they support the peace movements in their country on the basis of their Christian faith as members of the Anglican Church.

"We believe God is working to bring about change in South Africa," he said. "He is a god of liberation. We want to be part of that. The change will come through people being obedient to him."

Being away from home has given the Goldmans a period of liberation, he said. And the news here offers a dramatically different picture of what's happening in their country than what they saw when they were living here.

"We were seeing things on the news that we would never see at home," Sally Goldman said. "Particularly on television we would see the riots almost every night. I was writing people and saying 'Do you know what happened in your neighborhood last night?'"

But in July the Goldmans will finish their tour and return home to Durban. They say they will have to search for jobs and new places in the peaceful, anti-apartheid movement.

"It was good to get out of South Africa for a while," he said. "It was good to take a break and get out of that environment." ■

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.