

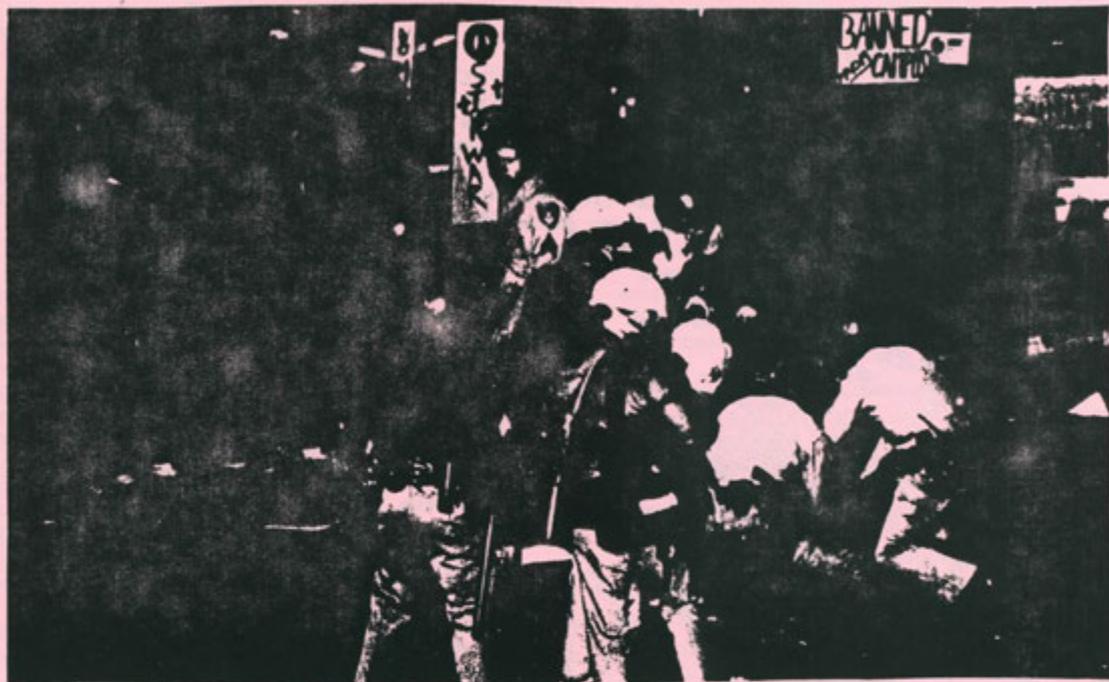
# Between THE Lines



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Daily Extra

April 7, 1986



## What Went Down

by Eric Auchard

By the time that police arrived on Wednesday, people had learned a lot about how the administration worked. People felt very manipulated by the way Chancellor Heyman pretends to act in a principled way, and to support our right to protest, but then arranges for arrests and beatings in the middle of the night, so that the majority of students can't see what happens. When the police showed us the Fire Marshall's one-sentence, unsubstantiated statement -- supposedly the basis of the Temporary Restraining Order that was served on us -- we knew we were being had...and this was confirmed on Friday, when the TRO was vacated in court.

## Shantytown II, an Eyewitness Account

When the police moved in at 2:45 a.m., after waiting in vain for the bulk of the protesters to leave the Shantytown, they tried to bring a bus up the hill by Moffitt library. People moved to blockade the bus, and the police formed a line, first prodding people out of the way with their nightsticks, but quickly escalating to brutal overhand clubbing of non-violent demonstrators.

David Nuang, a CSU Humboldt photographer, got clubbed over the head, and when we looked toward the sickening sound, blood was everywhere -- on his clothes, on his camera...and we were shocked. As he was taken away in an ambulance we began to

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## Time, Place and Manner

- 12:00 - 1:00 Big Mountain Rally: Stop the Relocation.
- 1:00 - 4:30 Teach In, at Winnie Mandela (California) Hall:
- 1:00 - 1:30 Introductory Speeches
- 1:30 - 3:00 - Update on South Africa  
- People of Color: Issues at U.C.  
- Big Mountain
- 3:00 - 4:30 - History of the Divestment Movement  
- Racism in the U.S.  
- Third World Liberation Struggles
- 4:30 - ??? Cultural Program
- Tues., 7 a.m. Human Blockade of Winnie Mandela (California) Hall
- Tues., noon Rally, Biko (Sproul) Plaza



## "Crossroads, Berkeley": Shantytown Makes South African Papers

"We believe the next phase of our struggle has come. No more talking, we are now planning action. We are going to physically dismantle apartheid in this country. You have been patient for too long. We appreciate that, but now is time to act."

- Winnie Mandela, April 4, 1986

Perhaps the most significant meaning of the Shantytown resistance here last week was the message it communicated to the people in South Africa. The protest was front-page news in a number of South Africa's leading papers, including the Johannesburg Star.

"Crossroads, Berkeley" was the theme of the stories, referring to the South African squatter settlement located near Cape Town, which has been bulldozed and defiantly rebuilt countless times. "Crossroads" was the biggest news story in South Africa on Friday, because instead of the daily unrest in South African townships, white South Africa has to contend with the fact that American students are rioting over apartheid, and because the spirit of resistance embodied by squatter settlements in South Africa has found expression on an American campus.

On Sunday, South African papers explained a fascinating concept: that America bears a rather striking resemblance to South Africa, in that political protesters can be "banned" from certain areas without hearing or trial.

The lines are growing thin.

"What the hell is the university doing making profits from a slave system in 1986?" (Daniel Elleberg)

"I don't think I was in anyone's way, the cop just stepped up and hit me." (David Nuang, CSU Humboldt photographer)

"I blame the violence completely on the protesters." (Chancellor Heyman)

"Heyman said he could not comment about charges of police brutality because he had not been back long enough to investigate them." (Daily Californian, Friday April 4, 1986)

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## On Record

"I am proud that students are actively involved and socially committed to the point where they voice their concerns through legitimate protest and other means." (Chancellor Heyman)

"We don't want to get into another prolonged period of demonstrations..." (Assistant Chancellor John Cummins)

## What Went Down

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realize that the police were acting in some way differently than they had at previous anti-apartheid protests.

The bus got in, and barriers of concrete bike-racks and dumpsters were put up to prevent the bus from leaving from the north side of the Shantytown. Our goal in this and in our other blockade actions was to delay the police so that students arriving for classes in the morning could witness the arrests, and see for themselves how police violently broke up our peaceful Shantytown protest.

On the South side, people tried to block a second bus, and the same scene was repeated -- first an insistent prodding, then when the non-violent blockaders would not move, police began to club people pretty mercilessly. Meanwhile, the protesters remaining in and near the shanties were absolutely non-violent. No one actively resisted arrest, but cops pulled hair, threw people to the ground, drove their knees into the backs of demonstrators, and applied potentially lethal chokeholds. We on the outside of police barricades were scared to death for our friends. The conduct of the massive police force (213 cops) both infuriated and frustrated us.

People got benches and dumpsters, and built Southside barriers to slow the busses. When the busses began to move, we threw reams of paper (mostly leaflets) at the police lines, like a surreal ticker-tape parade. The tactic worked for a while: we drove the police line back, and delayed the busses, without doing anything violent.

At some point, someone emptied the contents of a garbage can over the heads of police, and UCPD officer James Hammett ("Rambo") went completely crazy, charging from police ranks into the crowd, swinging his club at anyone who he could reach, knocking people down, and hurting a couple of people pretty badly. About 20 cops jumped out to pull him back. This incident was symbolic of how people felt the cops had been acting all night -- completely overreacting, using an absurd level of force on a crowd that would never have attempted anything more violent than chanting and clapping if the police hadn't been brought in.

It was early morning, and new people were arriving, from the dorms and co-ops where people had gone to tell of the ongoing bust. It was becoming clear that if police did not get the busses out quickly that students arriving for classes would witness the arrests.

About 250 protesters sat down to block the busses behind the barriers that had been set up on the South side. Oakland cops cleared the barriers, then came into the crowd -- again, first prodding people, then swinging their clubs, hard. Some of the most committed pacifists -- I'd call them 'crazy pacifists' myself -- actually got beaten, then sat back down to blockade non-violently again. One guy was laid out cold during this stage of the protest, which went on for about 150 feet south from Winnie Mandela (California) Hall.

People attempted to shatter the bus windows by throwing rocks at the windshields, so they could not be driven to Santa Rita. The busses moved slowly towards Sather Gate surrounded by a police cordon. At Sather Gate 200-300 people had gathered; a first line sat and locked arms across the gate, and others knelt behind them...there were rows and rows of people blocking the gate.

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Two rows of police -- at least 40 riot-gearred cops -- stood between the blockaders and the bus. There was a stand-off for about two of the longest minutes I've ever experienced. Then a lone rock came from the back of the crowd, and hit a small cop in the front line; he took a step back, surprised, but not injured because of his riot gear. Almost instantly, as if they had been waiting for an excuse, the police surged forward, and lit into the crowd, clubbing the living shit out of people. It was horrible. There were broken kneecaps, broken arms, people hurled around, bloody heads and faces...

After that there was no question in anybody's mind about what to do. All night we'd acted with as much restraint as we possibly could, keeping our Shantytown and our blockade non-violent. But the police finally beat the pacifism out of us. All night it had been building up, one clubbing after another, and the virtual massacre at Sather Gate was the last straw.

The trip across Biko Plaza was a street-riot in the classic sense. The scene could have been South Africa, Chile, the Philippines...all that was missing was tear gas and bullets. People were furious. We first muttered to ourselves, then shouted out "They're driving us off of our campus; this is our campus!"

By the time we reached Bancroft, people were breaking trash cans, doing anything to create debris with which to block the bus. People tried to turn over a car, but weren't successful. I witnessed another kneecapping at this point...

The press is putting out that only 11 protesters were wounded, but I saw many more than that. They say 22 cops were hurt, but haven't named specific injuries. I neither saw nor heard of a single cop who was bloodied, or who suffered broken bones or kneecaps.

Maybe we could have been more organized, and thereby avoided the few random acts of rock-throwing that could be considered provocative; but people were utterly unprepared for the level of sustained intensity of police violence against our peaceful, symbolic Shantytown protest.

## Another Eyewitness Account

by Mary Moore

Like most people, I was anxious to read the newspapers after Thursday morning's police riot. Unfortunately, I saw a great disparity between what was "reported" and what actually happened. It seemed to me that most newspapers took their story straight from the UC administration's press release, but failed to look at what really took place.

I was at the Shantytown protest Wednesday night and Thursday morning. Although I could not be everywhere at once during the demonstration, I believe I have a realistic idea of what happened.

What I saw at the Shantytown was a group of students engaged in and committed to peaceful direct action protest. From what I saw, the police struck the first blow. And the second. And the third.

At first, protesters responded by shouting angrily. Later, I saw some people fling garbage at the police. I did not personally see any rocks, bricks or bottles thrown.

The worst violence did not begin until several hours after the police first moved in. At about 7:30 a.m., police armed with riot gear and nightsticks charged a line of unarmed protesters who were sitting down at Sather Gate to block the busloads of prisoners. At that point, police were swinging nightsticks indiscriminately, clubbing people who were running and people who were already on the ground. I was not hurt, but many of my friends were clubbed.

Many of the wounded protesters on the ground were crying for medical attention, but nearby police ignored their pleas. I ran up to one woman, who was bloody and looked like she was about to faint, and I asked her if she needed an ambulance. A cop chased me away, telling me that "She's fine. She just needs some rest."

Chancellor Heyman claims that protesters instigated the violence. Well, he wasn't there. I was. I did see a few protesters do some foolish things. But the sickening majority of the violence was instigated and committed by the police. And though I do not condone violence from any group, I do commend student protesters for their remarkable restraint in the face of the UC Police's savage and sadistic attacks.