

# Between THE Lines

VOL. 1 NO. 1

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## Act Against Apartheid

by Stuart Fisk

The movement for divestment has been successful, in part, because it has been able to combine the moral and political aspects of symbolic action with the concrete, galvanizing effects of economic demands. It is a movement that has inspired and educated a large segment of the American people and united them around the demand that economic complicity with apartheid is not acceptable. The movement for divestment on college campuses has been one of the most forceful and creative in achieving this goal. The reality of apartheid and the system that upholds it, however, is that it can be shaken by demands but not toppled.

### APARTHEID AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN ECONOMY: THE NATURE OF THE BEAST

South Africa plays a strategic and highly vulnerable role in the supply of uranium, chromium and other minerals crucial to the military and industrial sectors of the U.S. economy. The U.S. imports 75.8% of its chromium ore, used in the "defense" industry, from South Africa, almost a third of SA's chromium exports. All of the uranium mined in South Africa is exported to the U.S., making up 46.2% of this country's uranium imports. In addition to selling 96.8% of its platinum and much of its gold and diamonds, almost half of the titanium used for military production in the West is exported by South Africa.

South Africa is also the world's 7th largest exporter of food commodities and produces a wide range of manufactured goods that are exported. All of these commodities are produced at huge profits to the white minority, because of the virtual enslavement of the indigenous black majority. U.S. corporations share in those profits through their investments and holdings in South Africa and by allowing them to shift production out of the U.S. into cheap labor markets in South Africa. This inevitably creates wage cutbacks and loss of jobs here.

If the transport of these goods is threatened, the result will be an increasing economic burden on the white regime and its industrial supporters.

### ECONOMIC PRESSURE A KEY TO WEAKENING THE APARTHEID REGIME

The key to the Pretoria regime's continued power is, plain and simple, the strength of its economy. If cut off from its riches, it will fall. Direct economic pressure can be applied to the South African government from both inside and from without. Already the movement for liberation in South Africa has been striking more and more serious blows to the economic structure of oppression. Consumer boycotts in the Black townships are continuing and the labor movement is maintaining its attempts to hinder the economy. Here in the U.S., there have been actions, including divestment, that have helped to stop the flow of money to South Africa. One potent example of direct political/economic action in the U.S. was the 11-day boycott of South African Cargo by the ILWU in San Francisco in 1984 (see "Labor Actions Against Apartheid" in this issue.)

This action by the ILWU was far more than symbolic act of protest against apartheid. Stopping the importation of manufactured goods and raw materials from South Africa to the U.S. signifies a clear and present danger to the health of white rule there and of big-business rule here.

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## At What Price Porsche?

by Lisa Wu

Three hundred students participated in a rally on Wednesday 2/26 to protest campus recruiting by defense contractors involved in the bombing of El Salvador. General Dynamics, whose Cessna division manufactures the A-37 Dragonfly jet bombers responsible for the recent bombing of Guazapa Volcano in El Salvador ("Operation Phoenix"), was on campus to recruit UC students. Lockheed, McDonnell Douglas, General Electric, and the Institute for Defense Analysis were on campus the same week.

Pickers carried signs reading "War Recruiters Off Campus" and "GE, GD, MD Building Weapons to Destroy Your Future". Students were heartened by news of protests that same day at Smith College and Brown University demanding divestment of those universities' funds from South Africa, and were reminded that many of the same companies with holdings in South Africa were the defense contractors responsible for the production of weapons of genocide used in Central America. UC has 50 million dollars invested in General Electric stocks, and the president of Watkins-Johnson, another defense contractor, is UC Regent Dean Watkins, who opposed every divestment proposal brought before the UC Regents.

David Raymond described the suffering of the Salvadoran people. Daily large scale bombings force the peasants to flee their farms in order to seek refuge in nearby hills and mountains. It is estimated that more than 4,000 civilians have been killed, and 100,000 have been driven from their homes and had their crops destroyed

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## The Radical Legacy Of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

by Eric Auchard

January 15th, 1986, marked the first official commemoration of a national holiday in Dr. King's honor. The conflict which led to the breakdown of the Bishop Tutu event in Oakland last month was, at heart, a product of deep divisions over the meaning of Martin Luther King's legacy for today. This struggle among powerful forces within the Black community and in the overall society to define the significance of the slain Civil Rights leader was the topic of discussion at a recent Black History Month lecture delivered in Berkeley. Vincent Harding, activist and historian of the Black Struggle for freedom, began his talk by moving away from an academic approach to the Civil Rights Movement. Instead, Harding spoke of trying to communicate a "personalized" sense of history, for "without the personal, it is all meaningless. It must be a lively history, in the sense that it presses us to see ourselves struggling for the future." For Harding, it was his entry into the freedom movement -- his term for the Civil Rights struggle that took place in the 1950's and 60's -- which fundamentally recast his sense of personal identity as well as challenged his conception of the history of his people, Black people in America.

"I am not here to be halliographic about Martin," Harding stated from the outset. Too many people are willing to indulge in hero worship of King, he mused, glossing over his personal weaknesses, and in doing so, shaving the radical edge of King's personality off of his contemporary image. King's development as a great

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Any Day Now...

Increasing pressure from inside and outside of South Africa for unconditional amnesty for Nelson Mandela has led to expectations that he will be released in the next few weeks. His family has made it clear that he "will take up where he left off as leader of his people." Although the South African government would see his release as a way of showing internal stability to its foreign creditors, Mandela's plans clearly differ. Most sources feel that he will call for immediate mass actions and a national strike.

**Apartheid in the Sunshine State???**

A federal judge has ruled that a Palm Beach, Florida law requiring blue collar workers to be fingerprinted, photographed and forced to carry an ID card whenever they are in town is unconstitutional. The law was strangely reminiscent of the notorious pass laws in South Africa. A spokesman from the ritzy beach resort said, "I'm quite sure that many of our residents will be disappointed. (The law) represented a certain protective screen, a barrier."

**Eight Year Old Boy Refused Bail**

An eight year old South African boy was recently refused bail when he appeared in court on a charge of 'intimidation'. His aunt said that his family was not allowed to see him after he was arrested and when she saw him in court the next day he was crying and had a huge bruise on his forehead. Police would not say exactly what an 8 year old was doing that was "intimidating."

**South African Blacks Strike to Protest New Jersey Layoffs**

Black workers at a South African branch of the 3M Company walked off their jobs last week in a sympathy-strike with 3M workers laid off in New Jersey. Union leaders said the protest was peaceful, and was characterized by singing and dancing. Black workers wore t-shirts reading "3M, Don't Abandon My Hometown", referring to Bruce Springsteen's song about the closing of a 3M plant in Freehold, New Jersey.

**Help Wanted**

The Campaign Against Apartheid has ambitious plans for the spring, of which this paper is only one. The strong support of the ROTC defendants, the growing attendance at our weekly meetings, and a phone tree that has grown into the hundreds, (we've been going door to door looking for community support), tells us that this spring is going to be very busy. Given that we are ahead of where we were at this time last year with respect to experience, organization and numbers, we feel we can put pressure on South Africa's apartheid regime both off the campus and on.

We all know that the university has given us what amounts to a flat-out NO to our demand for full and immediate divestment. That demand remains the same. March 21st (anniversary of the Sharpesville Massacre) marks the beginning of a week of actions on campuses across the country, and we expect that UCB will play a significant role during that time.

And off campus? Ships are coming into Pier 80 in San Francisco every two to three weeks, loaded with cargo from South Africa. The Campaign is now working on getting ready to put up a massive picket line down at the docks with the aim of ending the flow of cargo from South Africa to the Bay Area until Botha's government is toppled.

The Campaign Against Apartheid is an action oriented group. We believe that it will take a lot of action to get divestment and stop the cargo. To deal with the many tasks at hand we have divided up into work groups which not only allows us to focus better, but means that new people can plug in and get involved immediately. The new work groups are:

- Newspaper. We need people for layout, distribution and all the areas that go into running a newspaper.
- Media. Keep the press on top of things. Write releases, arrange interviews, set the story straight.
- Poster/Art. Need artists for posters, leaflets, photographs, silk-screening T-shirts, and the like. We also need equipment.
- Outreach. We need people interested in working with other campus groups, the dorms, labor organizations, other campuses, and high schools.
- Literature. Research and writing.
- Tabling. Staffing the table on Biko (Sproul) Plaza, where the Campaign got its start.
- Education. Arranging for movies, speakers, etc.
- Finances/Fundraising. We hope to be able to bus people to the docks. If you have any ideas about raising money, or if you know someone with a bus or van, please give us a call.

There's a lot happening, and a lot to be done. The Campaign needs to grow. We are at 613 Eshelman Hall. Come up and check us out, or catch us at our table on Biko Plaza...

They want me to write a poem  
 Because I presume they want a perspective  
 From the gray-matter of a dark face  
 I suggest they make sure there are more  
 Than a few token black participants  
 In their radical paper  
 And in their radical movement  
 Because those with dark faces  
 Will no longer be fronted off  
 Dig?

-Oliver

**Labor Against Apartheid**

Labor unions have the ability to give direct support to the embattled black masses and black workers in South Africa, by blocking off trade and communications with the apartheid regime. Short boycotts and strikes of South African seaborne shipping have occurred in Australia and Europe within the last two years. Last year the South African Congress of Trade unions, the underground trade union wing of the African National Congress, issued a call to labor in Europe and North America asking them to refuse to handle any cargo, mail, telephone or telegraph messages to or from South Africa.

Following the crushing of the black South African gold miners' strike and the arrest on treason charges of a number of black trade union leaders in late 1984, San Francisco longshoremen refused to handle South African cargo for eleven days. Northern California trade with the brutal apartheid regime was paralyzed with the Nedlloyd Kimberley sitting idle in port. The longshore boycott of South African cargo failed to spread to other longshore and transport unions leaving ILWU Local 10 isolated. After the top union leadership sided with the employers in finding San Francisco longshoremen in violation of their contract with the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA), the employers were able to get a federal court injunction in their favor. Threatened by millions of dollars in fines and jail sentences, the majority of the Executive Board of Local 10 called off the boycott. About every three weeks a Nedlloyd Line ship arrives on the west coast to load and discharge cargo to and from South Africa. About 95% of the cargo these ships handle at Pier 80 in San Francisco is from or to South African ports. Since 1984 small, ineffectual picket lines put up at west coast piers have resulted in only two very brief work stoppages on Nedlloyd Line ships in Tacoma and Vancouver, Washington.

by H.C.



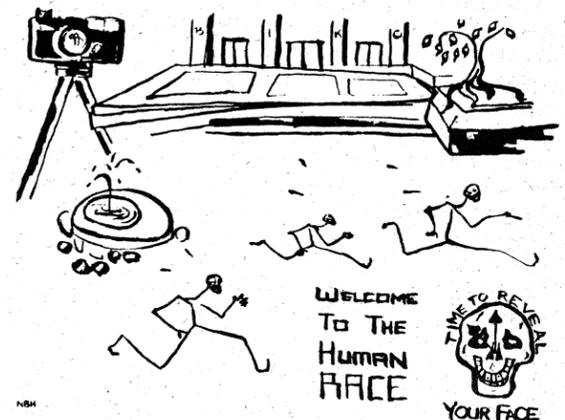
**PORSCHE (Continued from Page 1)**

by the incessant bombings. General Dynamics' A-37's, equipped with minigun machine guns capable of firing 6,000 bullets per minute, drop napalm and 500 lb bombs on the Salvadoran civilians. General Electric, who claims it "brings good things to life", manufactures the minigun along with the more widely publicized light bulb.

Rita Himes, a UC student and one of five anti-ROTC protesters whose charges of disruption of a ROTC orientation program have been dropped for lack of any genuine evidence, stressed to the crowd that "we are not here just to get marketable job skills...[but]...to struggle and educate ourselves to help transform this society into a more just, more humane society."

Following the rally, about 150 students marched to Building T-6, where General Dynamics was conducting interviews. Students blocked entrances to the building by crowding around the doors chanting "GD, UC, Partners in Insanity!" Protesters stapled posters to the building which showed a photograph of a child burned by the napalm dropped from a General Dynamics A-37 bomber. The protest lasted until 2:30, causing interviews to be rescheduled.

Some students who were to be interviewed felt that the protest was a personal attack on their efforts to get jobs, but protesters view the issue as something broader than individuals' careers. Who is being driven from their homes or killed when UC graduates earn \$30,000 at General Dynamics to buy Porsches and other material comforts to which Americans have become accustomed? What are the consequences? What compromises are graduates willing to make? What does one answer to a Salvadoran who holds up a child burnt by napalm and asks "Why are you doing this to our people?" Graduates must act based on the global issues which are affected by the choices they make.



Thanks to: Dave, Lisa, Stuart, Eric, Howard, Nancy, Bob, all three Mikes, Brendan, Steve, Oliver, Andy, Rodney, and everybody else who helped to make this issue happen.

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## Demonstration Celebrates Marcos' Fall

By David Lukas

On Friday, February 28, approximately 200 students assembled on Upper Sproul (Biko) Plaza to celebrate the recent change of government in the Philippines. The noon demonstration was sponsored by the Filipino-American Alliance (PAA) and endorsed by numerous other groups. A number of demonstrators marched in a circle carry-

ing picket signs while the crowd listened to a variety of speakers and a musical group.

In the flyer calling for the demonstration, the PAA took the following positions:

- Support the new Aquino government and continuing democratic struggle in the Philippines.
- Free all political prisoners in the Philippines.
- Oppose U.S. political asylum for Marcos.
- Freeze Marcos assets in the U.S.

The main tone of the rally was celebratory. All of the speakers indicated that they were pleased that President Marcos had been ousted. However, there were a range of positions expressed concerning the demonstrators' and speakers' faith in the new government headed by Corazon "Cory" Aquino. Some signs carried by demonstrators expressed total faith in the new leadership: "Cory = Freedom" was one upbeat sign.

On the other hand, Mario Santos from the League of Filipino Students/USA (an American chapter of a Philippines-based organization), while expressing support for Aquino for the time being, cited several reasons for concern that the new regime might not live up to its promise to bring freedom, democracy, and needed economic reforms to the Philippines. He pointed out that the change in government had been brought about with the help of the military and with American support, and that an end to the extensive influence of the military and of the United

States was necessary to bring true democracy to the Philippines. Afterwards he told me he was "pessimistic in the sense that she [Aquino] appointed the defense minister back as defense minister. The whole fascist machinery is intact."

A number of other speakers said that the struggle for freedom in the Philippines was just beginning. Most speakers and demonstrators were confident in Aquino as the rightful leader of the Philippines while also feeling that it would be necessary to continue to apply pressure to the new government to carry out reforms, and for Filipinos in the United States to pressure the American government to stop meddling in the affairs of the Philippines. Many people emphasized the importance of bringing Marcos to trial in the Philippines and of returning his assets, stolen from the Filipino people. A few signs attacked the sugar industry for profiting off of the misery of the people and urged Aquino to cooperate with various opposition and guerrilla groups to bring freedom and equality to the country.

Despite the range of opinions concerning the prospects for a just society under the new government, all of the participants in the demonstration joined in rejoicing that Marcos had been ousted after twenty years of oppression. As several speakers noted, it was refreshing to have something positive to celebrate. That thousands in the streets of Manila were able to turn back Marcos' tanks will inspire oppressed people throughout the world to take control of their governments and their lives.



## M.L.K. (Continued from Page 1)

American radical was a constantly escalating personal process as he made his way through the struggles of the 1960's. As an historian, Harding is especially concerned with the amnesia inherent in recent portrayals of King, in which everything he did after his 1963 speech is punctuated by his cry "I have a dream." On the local soul-music station, KDIA, for example, the short retrospective played around the time of King's birthday skipped from the 1963 March on Washington directly to his assassination without a mention of King's radical final years.

Harding categorized three powerful forces in this country which he sees "blocking any true encounter with post-1963 King," by seeking to obscure "what he was becoming as a radical." Over the past decade, in the course of the struggle to make his birthday a national holiday, King's own family and friends, and established Civil Rights leaders have tried to "smooth Martin's rough edges...all in trying to make him acceptable to the Senate and House", who were needed to pass the Federal legislation. The vibrant optimism of his constantly quoted "I have a dream" speech has been used to make King respectable and legitimate with people who might be disturbed by his increasingly radical pronouncements of later years.

Radicals are a second group which shares some blame, in Harding's assessment. Leftists are prone to juxtapose King to Malcolm X, implying that King played a sort of Uncle Tom role against the fiery truth of Malcolm X, a modern day Frederick Douglass, in this view. The "Martin vs. Malcom folks," as Harding dubs this group, misses where both men were headed, before their assassinations, which was a merging of opinion over what means were necessary to liberate the Black people of this country. However far apart these two great leaders were in earlier years, "you have to realize their confluence, that both were travelling at supersonic speeds in their final years." The view that King was "moderate, weak or shimmy-shammy" is something that activists "drink to their detriment."

The final group seeking to block understanding of King are "the keepers of the status-quo: economic, political and educational." Harding is sickened by how longtime opponents of King and what he stood for, now when pressed, memorialize him sanctimoniously without seeming to skip a beat. A few years ago, Ronald Reagan bluntly stated his view of King: "Is he communist-inspired? We'll see in

fifty years." Now Reagan manipulates the popular memory of King to make the dream of racial equality into a mere plea for equality of opportunity; that is, Reagan attempts to co-opt King's image to put forward his own right-wing agenda, implying the nonsensical idea that 'King would oppose affirmative action if he were still alive.'

Harding's analysis should be broadcast far and wide, but more importantly to students is Harding's narration of King's development as a radical. King's path is punctuated with terribly important lessons that every campus activist would do well to take to heart. There is a clear progression in King's life after 1963 which led him to jettison his previous liberalism. Late 1963 saw the bombing of the Birmingham, Alabama church, in which four girls died. There was "a new fire in his eyes" when King spoke of the Civil Rights struggle after that. We must follow King into Watts in 1965 and the burning of American cities to see how he embraced the militance of Black ghetto youth without pious condemnation of their tactics. Soon after that, King left "the relative safety of a successful struggle for civil rights in the South to face the challenge of urban poverty in the North." King "did not end his life with fascination with integration. Poverty becomes an issue on which he lived and died from that point on." Contrary to other establishment Civil Rights leaders, he refused to attack the growing Black Power movement, seeking dialogue instead with youthful radicals.

We cannot forget that by 1967 King had become the major national spokesman against the War in Vietnam; he said then that "this country I love is the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today...as long as we keep up with it we will be killing ourselves with schizophrenia." He saw by this time the need for some sort of revolution in the sphere of values. His portrait of America became one of unthinking militarism, self-destructive capitalism, paranoid anti-communism, and the necessity of militant, though non-violent opposition.

For Harding, the struggle for the future of this country is intimately bound up in the last years of MLK. "How truthfully, how courageously, how wildly some of us will move with Martin Luther King in the struggles beyond 1963 holds the key to unlocking the powerful oppositional forces we will need for the struggle in the 1980's." By tracing the history of a person in transition, like King, we can see the way for ourselves more clearly. The challenge of understanding King's legacy is not to elevate the man himself, but to see through King's life the ques-

tions which America fails to deal with still. To speak of the pre-1964 King is to speak of someone profoundly reformist, deeply linked to the establishment, square in the middle of the integration struggle of the South.

The much more significant legacy comes in the post-'I have a dream' King. Ultimately, his belief in the innate power for good in American society gave way to his conception of a powerfully sick society in need of harsh, oppositional medicine. This is the King who was killed in 1968. But was it the assassin's bullet or the establishment politician's benedictions which really threatens to kill the legacy of Dr. King?

That MLK had to die trying to make his dream a reality only underscores the challenge which his legacy poses to America today. We are left with Harding's question: did the process of making this man into an institutional holiday twist the meaning of his struggle into something palatable to a public unprepared to consider the radical threat that King's living legacy poses to the forces of racism and oppression in America?

# Time, Place and Manner

**March 4:** Nonviolent Action Project (N.A.P.) formerly Livermore Action Group (L.A.G.) working group to meet. 7:30 PM 3126 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley. Newcomers welcome. 644-3031.

**March 5:** "Generations of Resistance" film on South Africa from early 20th century through Soweto school uprising. 7 PM Upper Biko (Sproul) Plaza, UCB.

**March 6:** Underground videotape of last spring's Biko Sit-in. 7 PM Upper Biko (Sproul) Plaza, UC Berkeley, the scene of the "crime."

**March 6:** "Words and Music From Five Xerox Underground Magazines" 7:30 PM at Hotel Utah, 500 4th St. at Bryant, SF. \$3 admission. 421-8308.

**March 6:** "Goals of the Cooperative and Collective Movement" by author/participant John Curl. Sponsored by East Bay Green Alliance. 7:30 PM 2151 Vine at Walnut, Berkeley. Free. 525-7035.

**March 7:** International Women's Day Demo against U.S. involvement in South Africa and Central America. 4 PM. Gather at 4th and Market, SF. 652-4401 ext. 656.

**March 7:** "The Defoliated Heart" Storyteller/actress Elisa Pearmain presents the story of one Vietnam vet's struggle to remain human and to survive. Sponsored by ASUC Berkeley Draft Counseling Center. 7:30 PM 10 Evans, UCB. Donations appreciated. 642-0165.

**March 8:** Dia Internacional de la Mujer sponsored by Casa El Salvador. Speakers, music, food, drink. 988 Valencia, SF. \$3 donation.

**March 8:** International Women's Day at the Women's Building. Speakers and workshop. Registration 8:30 AM. Opening Plenary 9:15 AM. Intl. buffet and cultural program in the evening. Childcare provided. 3543 18th St., SF. 431-7522.

**March 8:** "Awareness & Action: Building the Asian Pacific Movement." Includes cultural program, dinner, dance, and more. San Francisco State University, Student Union. For information and registration, contact Enrique Sy at 849-9729 or 505 Eshelman Hall, 642-6728.

**March 9:** "Mothertongue", A Feminist Readers' Theater. 10th Anniversary. 7 PM at La Pena, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley.

**March 9:** Support the Watsonville Strike on the occasion of International Women's Day. 1:00 PM 201 Brewington Avenue, Watsonville. Contact United People of Color for transportation information. Child care provided.

**March 11:** Stoney Burke and others perform. 8 PM, Club 9, 999 Harrison, SF.

**March 11:** Slideshow/lecture on United Nations Conference on Women held in Nairobi, Kenya in 1985. 7 PM, La Pena, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley. 849-2568.

**March 16:** Big Mountain Support Group presents "In Defense of a Sacred Land"; slide show about the Navajo-Hopi relocation. Potluck 6 PM, slide show 7 PM. N.A.P. Office, 3124 Shattuck, Berkeley. 644-3031.

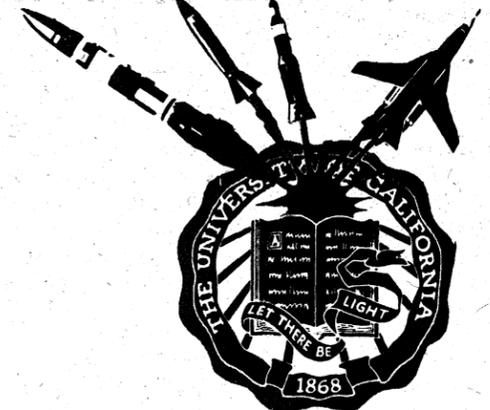
**March 13:** "Community-based Economics" presented by Terry Mollner, author of Mondragon Cooperatives. Free. 7:30 PM. 2151 Vine at Walnut. 525-7035.

**March 17-22:** Lesbian/Gay Awareness Week. Sponsored by Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Alliance, UC Berkeley. Culminating in a dance at Haas Clubhouse on the 22nd (Saturday) at 9 PM. Movies and rap groups all week. Recorded events info 642-6942.

**March 18:** "Ethical Considerations in Career Decision-making" sponsored by the Career Planning & Placement Center. Which ethical issues will be discussed has not been specified. 3-5 PM. Alumni House, UC Berkeley. 642-5966.

**March 22-23:** Nonviolent Civil Disobedience to protest Strategic Defense Initiative on 3rd Anniversary of Reagan's "Star Wars" speech. Legal rally and march at Sunnyvale Civic Center, on the 22nd (Sat.) with civil disobedience both days at: Lockheed Corp., NASA's Ames Research Center, and the "Blue Cube." For more information call the San Jose Peace Center, (408) 297-2299.

(Compiled by David Lukas and Bob Goss)



## ACT (Continued from Page 1)

Ever since a State of Emergency was declared by the South African government in response to uprisings last year, the Pretoria regime has effected an almost complete blackout of news. During this time, the government has been able to regain much of the economic strength they lost during the widely publicized unrest. The racist leaders have been working quietly to restore good faith with the international economic community and prove its viability with empty talk of reform and increased internal repression. The result has been a 25% increase in the value of the Krugerrand, and a renewed agreement with South Africa's foreign creditors. The economy is expected to keep growing in strength as long as Pretoria's facade of reform is kept up.

### WHICH WAY FORWARD?

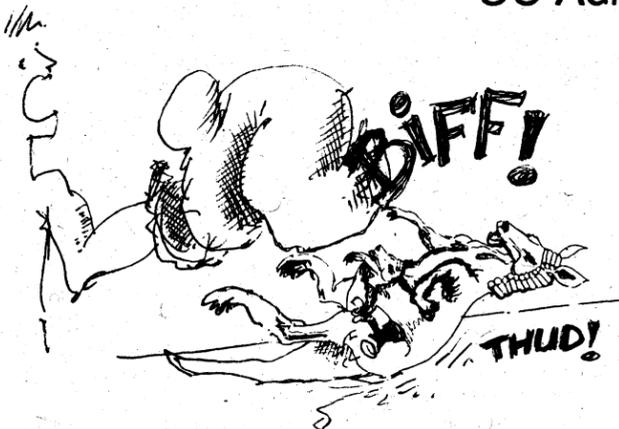
The best way for those of us here to aid the struggle of those fighting for liberation in South Africa is to lean harder on the regime's external sources of financial support. This is precisely the reason why the anti-apartheid movement in the U.S. -- students, labor and community activist alike -- must step up actions against the movement of South African goods through U.S. ports.

The student movement, here at UC Berkeley and at other campuses across the country, has done a tremendous amount to help the anti-apartheid movement grow. Militant and creative protests on the campuses inspired others, and created a political climate in which complicity with apartheid will not be tolerated. We must continue in this direction by expanding our targets beyond the universities, and by joining with others to increase the political and economic pressure against those who support apartheid through their actions and investments. This pressure must build until both the political climate is too hot for apartheid's allies to handle, and the economic climate is too cold for them to survive.

Ships carrying the products of oppression in South Africa are a prime target for action. Students and community must join together with labor to build an effective and lasting blockade of South African ships entering San Francisco.

## Student Protest - 5

## UC Administration - 0



### ROTC Protesters Exonerated

Well, it's all over now. We won. The university attempted yet another tactic to clamp down on student protest, and lost on its own turf! If you followed it in the Daily Cal, you probably heard about the disciplinary hearings that were held in response to our protest at a publicly advertised, open ROTC orientation in August. When we got to this open orientation, we found the entire upper echelon of the UCPD there, along with half of the campus vice-chancellors. They had brought a couple of video cameras to "document" the "disruptions" that they expected to happen. While some were intimidated by the cameras, and covered their faces with handkerchiefs or notebooks, others took what at this campus is a risk, and exercised our free-speech rights to voice our opposition to ROTC. As soon as a dialogue opened up between protesters and some of the cadets, the police and the ROTC commander, Lt. Col. Ashley took no chances, and shut the orientation down.

Five of the seventy students who showed up for the orientation received letters informing them that the University would seek sanctions against them for their participation in the protest. Shortly thereafter, we learned of a meeting of over 100 university lawyers (including UC's Mike Smith), South African embassy

officials, US State Department officials, and representatives of Mobil Oil, held in Washington, DC, at which the topic of discussion was "enjoining student protests." One of the suggestions that came out of this meeting was to "use internal procedures to discipline protesters because the courts are unreliable" (emphasis added). Here at Berkeley, internal procedures are usually "much more reliable" than the courts because the chancellor writes the rules, appoints the judge and jury, pays most of the prosecution witnesses (the UCPD), and makes all final decisions, including the judgement of appeals. The game is, to say the very least, rigged.

Unfortunately for the UC administration, things didn't work out as they hoped. It proved extremely embarrassing to the university that their case was so absurdly weak that charges were dismissed before the defense even presented its case. A defense motion to dismiss the charges on grounds that the prosecution had not proved its case gave the committee which had heard the case the badly needed excuse to end the hearing and go home. Chancellor Heyman, advised to acquit the five defendants by the committee, and in the face of enormous potential for protest if he attempted to ignore the committee's recommendation, cut his losses and agreed to drop the matter.

While this is a major victory for student protest, no one should mistake the university's not-guilty ruling for benevolence...the administration clearly got cold feet when a rowdy crowd of 300 packed the hearing room -- a pretence of democracy had to be maintained. In fact, the university will continue to attempt to quell free expression of politics which run contrary to its own policies of collaboration with forces of militarism and oppression here and abroad. But the results of the "ROTC Five" hearing should encourage all students in their desire to be heard and respected here at Berkeley.

- "The Whistler" (R. W.)