

# Journalist blasts investors

By WILLIAM KOGUT  
Of the Emerald

"If a college has to depend on investment in South Africa for its continuance, it doesn't deserve to continue," said Donald Woods, white South African dissident journalist at the EMU ballroom Monday night.

"Some college administrators have a lot of objections to divesting their universities of South African investments," Woods said. "First they say, 'Our job isn't to make foreign policy, we just want to maximize our investments.'"

"I say if that's the way you feel, why don't you invest in brothels and drugs? The fact is, every dollar invested in South Africa results in taxes for the government, a government that considers anyone slightly to the left of Ghenghis Khan a radical."

By investing, Woods said, contrary to what corporations say, the black man isn't really helped. Less than one percent of the black work force works for American corporations, he said, adding that those corporations employ mostly whites.

American corporations may have integrated canteens, but the black leaders are not impressed, Woods said.

"Blacks ask where are their Western friends? For 20 years they have futilely begged the West not to block UN sanctions on South Africa."

Now, he said, the blacks are

ready to take help from the Russians and Cubans. "The Russians and Cubans don't have investments here, have not blocked the sanctions, and help is help, no matter where it comes from," Woods quoted black leaders as saying.

Unless the United States and Britain apply pressure, Woods claimed, bloodshed will erupt and the U.S. and Britain will certainly feel the repercussions of that upheaval.

It may already be too late for sanctions to work, he said.

Woods has opposed apartheid in print since 1960 and as editor of The Daily Dispatch in South Africa vigorously criticized the system until he so angered the government that he was last fall banned--made a non-person. He was confined to his house and kept under strict surveillance, forbidden to write even so much as a postcard.

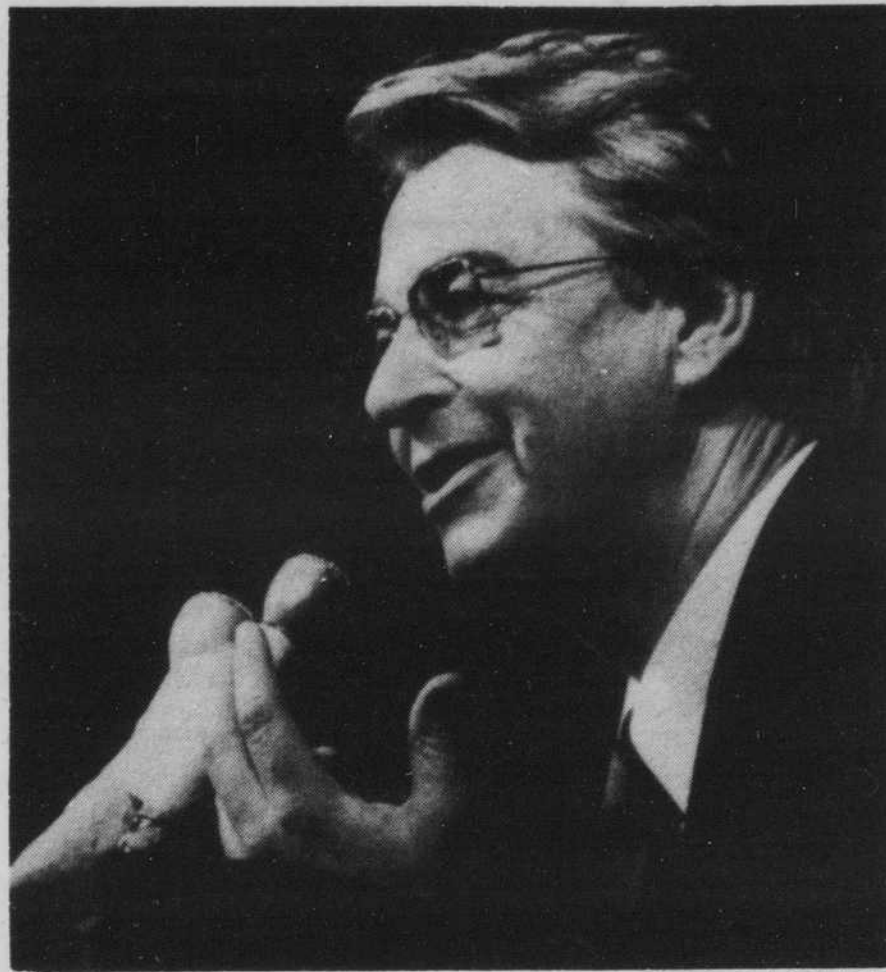
Nevertheless, Woods wrote in secret. While still in South Africa he wrote "Biko," a history of apartheid and a biography of his friend Steve Biko, the martyred South African black freedom movement leader.

In a scenario reminiscent of a spy-thriller the 45-year-old Woods, his wife and two young daughters escaped from South Africa on New Year's Eve 1977.

One reason for his flight from his homeland was an incident that occurred in November of 1977. His five year old daughter, Mary, received a T-shirt through the mail and when she tried it on, her eyes began to burn. The T-shirt had been impregnated with an acid irritant.

The T-shirt, Woods later learned, had been sent by an Afrikaner security police officer.

Presently Woods is a Neiman Fellow at Harvard.



Donald Woods

Photo by Erich Boekelheide

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