

Help take the profit out of apartheid

Perhaps the most frustrating dilemma of private citizens and public policy lies in the seeming remoteness of the instrumentalities of power and the difficulty of popular access through the mechanisms of political control.

The intensity of the dilemma usually increases directly with the remoteness of the issue: those in an international context remain

ours

much more impervious to citizens' influence than local ones.

So, the opportunity to endorse a course of action that could weaken an ugly, but apparently remote institution — South African apartheid — comes as a welcome relief from this frequent sense of individual powerlessness.

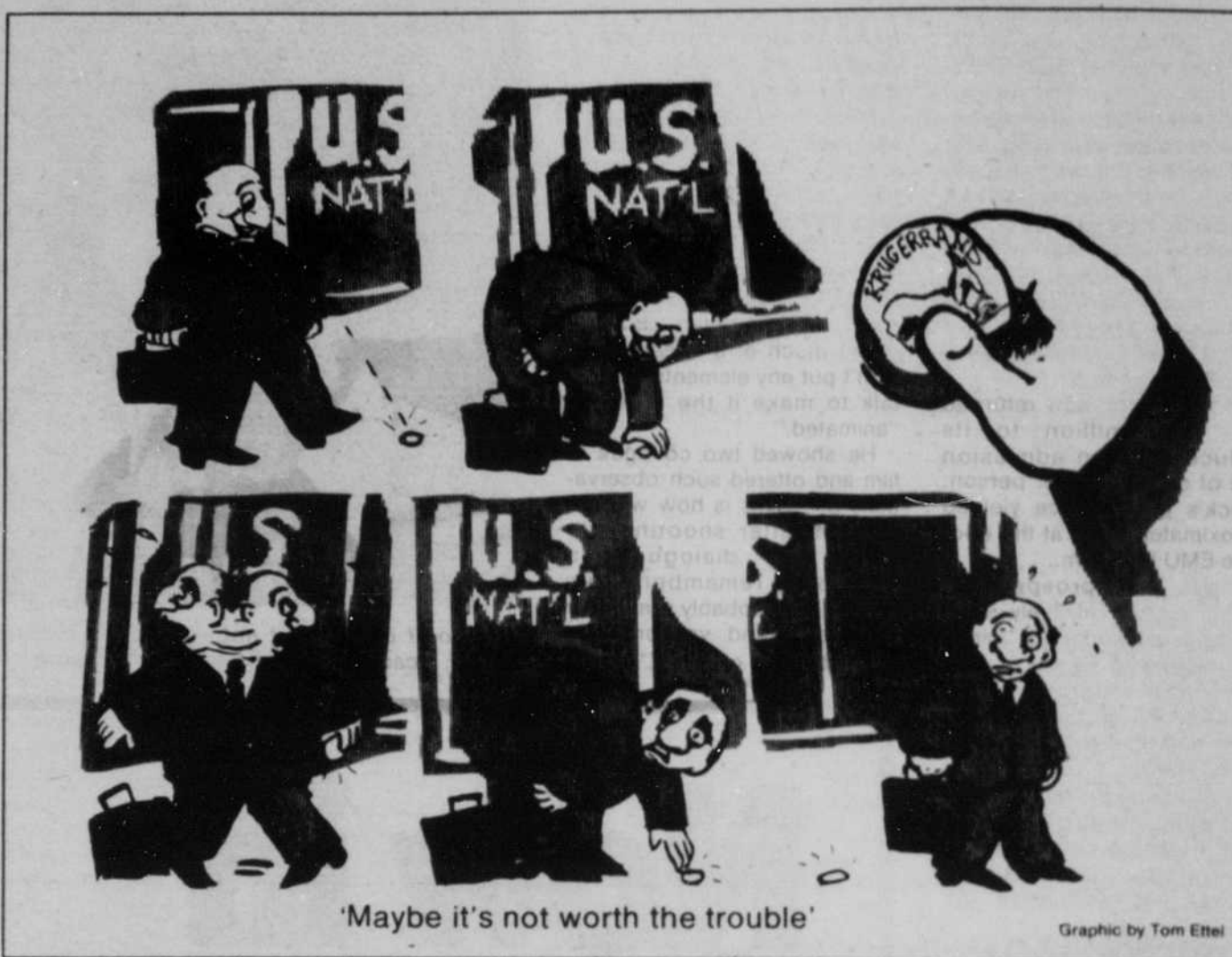
Today, a coalition of local and national groups is leading a coordinated withdrawal of funds from Eugene-area branches of the U.S. National Bank of Oregon. U.S. National was singled out because of its participation in the Private Export Funding Corporation, the ninth largest lender to businesses and government in racist South Africa.

The pervasive, often violently enforced segregation policies of that nation's all-white regimes have forced black citizens to live in destitute squalor while their Caucasian overlords — only 16 percent of the population — enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world. This situation derives from the rigorous deprivation of civil rights and economic resources of one race by another.

These conditions, however, could not continue without the large amount of economic support South Africa receives from outside its borders, particularly from American government, businesses and financial institutions. No matter what apologists for apartheid say about incidental effects of U.S. businesses on blacks there, to South Africa ensures both white prosperity and supremacy.

Noble words and toothless declarations from governments and organizations around the world have had scant effect on South Africa's "conscience." Only direct political or economic sanctions can aid the cause of South African blacks.

Since funds deposited in saving and checking accounts provide the resources for banks' loans and investments, withdrawal of these funds have a direct, incontrovertible impact on financial institutions. By coordinating these withdrawals and associating them with U.S. National's South African connection, the anti-apartheid coalition hopes to make these tainted investments fiscally unattractive.



In a referendum two years ago, University students overwhelmingly voted (97% yes) to urge the State Board of Higher Education to get rid of stocks in corporations conducting business with South Africa. The divestiture issue now is ensnared in the courts.

Earlier this year, the University Bookstore board voted to remove certain funds from an investment portfolio containing such stocks. Now other University-affiliated groups and individuals opposing apartheid have a similar opportunity to act.

Withdrawals, pamphletting and picketing will take place at the U.S. National campus branch, 810 E. 13th Ave., from noon to 2 p.m. today. A similar action is scheduled for the main branch, 811 Willamette St., from 4 to 6 p.m.

In the investigation to search out and destroy economic links that may be aiding the government of South Africa, we've begun to suspect everyone — including ourselves.

The Emerald has dealt with just about every

bank in Eugene and found none of them completely satisfactory.

Ironically, the U.S. National Bank of Oregon has served better than most of the others in terms of convenience, efficiency and the professional demands of our accountant.

As a result of past decisions made in light of these criteria, Emerald checks are now being written on U.S. National Bank. (We keep our savings at Equitable, which, we are told, invests only in U.S. real estate.)

We have found no significant characteristic that distinguishes the Emerald's checking account and favor closing it.

Financial decisions that concern the Daily Emerald corporation as a whole, however, are not made in the editorial department. Consequently, we must admit to some degree of impotence in the matter.

Nevertheless, we are hopeful that those controlling the strictly corporate aspects of the Emerald will ally with other enlightened students and businesses and get out of U.S. National Bank in hopes that U.S. National will get out of South Africa.

yours

Symposium delay

This letter is difficult for me to write because I must announce publicly that the event known as the World Symposium on Humanity is hereby postponed in Eugene indefinitely.

To explain why the project is terminated would fill a page of the ODE with descriptions of problems inherent in an event of this size and stature. Rather than point fingers here I must accept a good portion of the responsibility for this postponement because I have been project director from the start. While my activities of the past five months encouraged others, my naivete at administrating such an effort as the WSH caused me to make some poor decisions.

I have learned much from my efforts and thus the notion of

failure for me personally or as part of the Symposium effort here in Eugene isn't an appropriate or constructive way of viewing the past five months' work. I must also emphasize that the World Symposium on Humanity in Eugene has been only suspended for now. Specifically, problems in implementing the event on a time schedule led to a grant from the Oregon Committee for the Humanities being withdrawn. This is a setback for sure, but there are options available to continue in the effort of giving Eugene a cause celebre.

In the next couple of months I will continue in my efforts to re-establish a firm funding base that will make it possible for Eugene to experience the WSH early next Fall.

My sincere thank you to all of the people who have helped in

one capacity or another and who share the common vision and spirit on which the World Symposium on Humanity is based.

Wayne Miller
Director, SEARCH

Rainbow dissent

On March 5, I was contracted by Neem Shiva Dass to design a story for the Press that would get coverage for the Crow Owners' Society at a Rainbow Gathering held at the Olde Dexter Theatre on March 10. I accepted the contract and, acting as the Crow Owners' Society press agent, arranged an interview on Earththoughts, an environmental news show on KWAX, for Shiva Dass to introduce his Crow Owners'

Society to the Eugene community and be interviewed.

However, between the time of the taping appointment and the time he was supposed to go on the air, Shiva Dass got arrested by Eugene City Police... a very interesting and unexpected development! The final taping was done at KWAX March 27, Joe Williams and Brian Michaels substituting.

I was there and can testify to the accuracy of the description the Crow Owners' Society is known for. Shiva Dass' letter appears in today's (March 27) issue of the Daily Emerald. In it he calls himself a medicine man. He further states that I am not "affiliated with our trip in any positive way." He signs the letter as spokesman for the Rainbow National Disarmament Council, a "questionable" U.S. Government recognized form of government.

The Crow Owners' Society is officially recognized by Congressman Jim Weaver's Office as a politically viable separate organization. I speak for this Society, having the Congressman's approval to do so.

I also speak for Rainbow Laloma, a Pine Ridge Sioux native and guest at the Rainbow Benefit, and, hopefully, for Garret Beck and his Rainbow Farm in Drain, Oregon.

If credit must be given for the National Council, let the designers take it. I, personally, will not take the word of a "medicine man"... I challenge his form of government to overrule mine.

Marcia Medler
historical relics revisiting
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Eugene

Friday, April 6, 1979