



Photo by James Marks
Many of the 300 people who attended the anti-apartheid rally Wednesday in the EMU Courtyard (right) continued the protest downtown at the Federal Building (above) with chants of "Down with apartheid, up with morality."

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While he taught at Cornell University in the early 1960s, Olum said he worked for divestiture of higher education funds invested in South Africa, but was told that American companies were working for positive changes. This argument still is used today, he said.

"Don't believe it," Olum said. "Twenty-five years have passed and nothing has changed except it is worse now than it ever was."

Americans need to "let the people of the world know that its behavior and mistreatment has put the government of South Africa outside the pale of civilized nations," Olum said.

'You can't end oppression with apathy... I think it will grow.'

— Leslie Shaheen

Author Ken Kesey said the problem of racial segregation goes beyond South Africa. President Ronald Reagan's administration is supporting brutal regimes around the world and is reviving a policy of racism.

"There are only two sides," Kesey said. "The hurt and the hurters. I hate to see us on the wrong side."

Students need to send a clear message to Washington and Salem, he continued. The Legislature must divest all state funds in South Africa, and the United States must stop sending military and economic aid to South Africa, he said.

Following chants of "Boycott South Africa, not Nicaragua," South African resident Tony Morrison

said his country's government is the most brutally oppressive regime since Adolph Hitler's Third Reich. The white minority government will not change unless other governments from around the world force that change, said Morrison, a University student.

"Opposition starts on this campus," Morrison said. "It starts here, and it starts now."

Sharon Claeysens, the final speaker, said that besides being paid less than one-fourth of what whites are paid, black South Africans are dying from hunger and lack of medical care. Although there is one doctor for every 100 white citizens in South Africa, there is only one doctor for every 93,000 black citizens, Claeysens said.

"Profit knows no humanity," she said. "I say change the damn system."

Other speakers included Costas Christ, the Emerald's editorial editor, who was later arrested.

After the conclusion of the rally, several hundred protesters marched down 13th Avenue, halting traffic and chanting, "Free South Africa." On reaching the Federal Building the marchers' mass stretched for three blocks.

Protesters entered the south entrance of the Federal Building and exited through a nearby door. After circling the building, protesters sat on the floor near the Internal Revenue Service office, and under a portrait of President Reagan.

The IRS office, which was scheduled to close at 4:30 p.m., had been locked by 4 p.m.

Soon after the sit-in began, Christ, who spoke at the rally, announced that some of the protesters planned to stay for at least two hours — one hour

after the building was scheduled to close. "Stay with us," Christ said. "We want to make sure our message is heard."

While 40 protesters continued to march outside of the building, about 250 people sat inside. "Down with apartheid, up with morality," they chanted.

Among the protesters were about 25 high school and junior high school students. After joining the sit-in, they met outside the building to discuss what to do if they were arrested.

"Young people are becoming more and more

'Profit knows no humanity... I say change the damn system.'

— Sharon Claeysens

aware," said Wendy Dasso, a South Eugene High School student. "We are really going to be working hard for this."

Nine or 10 high school students were among those removed from the building by police. They were the last protesters to be taken from the building.

Organizers of the protest say this is only the first stage of a much larger movement. Protests will be continued until there is support for a boycott of classes, as has been done at several other universities across the nation, said Leslie Shaheen, a protest organizer.

"You can't end oppression with apathy," Shaheen said. "I think it will grow."



Photo by Karen Stallwood

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