



Crowd rallies for released protesters

Energy concentrated on continued fight



Photo by Ross Martin

Apartheid protesters Adam Ward (left) and Arthur Mortell wasted no time Thursday between being released from the Lane County Jail and urging continued struggle against South African racism. About 100 students and community members gathered across the street from the jail to cheer the released demonstrators.

By Paul Ertel
Of the Emerald

University students Adam Ward and Arthur Mortell stepped out of the Lane County Jail Thursday and into afternoon sunshine and warm applause from waiting supporters.

Ward and Mortell, who were among the 89 people arrested during an anti-apartheid rally Wednesday night, were released on bond at about 2:45 p.m. Nine juveniles arrested at the rally were released earlier from Skipworth Juvenile Home.

"This is not the climax; this is the beginning... and we're off to a good start," Ward told about 100 people waiting across the street from the jail.

Mortell, too, encouraged the crowd to continue fighting South Africa's racial policies and the U.S. government's support of South Africa. "We have rattled them, but we have yet to completely rattle," he said.

The protesters were arrested after a sit-in at the Federal Building that followed a rally in the EMU Courtyard. Most protesters were charged with trespassing. Costas Christ, editorial page editor of the Emerald, was charged with interfering with the police.

Also, 86 of the protesters were cited for making false statements. When arrested, they identified themselves as Steve Biko, 25, of Freetown, South Africa.

Biko, the leader of the South Africa Black Student Union and a prominent anti-apartheid activist, died in September 1977 during an interrogation by South African police. Official cause of death was listed as self-inflicted head wounds, but that

version has been rejected by anti-apartheid activists, who consider Biko a martyr for their cause.

Ward said the protesters used Biko's name to promote solidarity and unity but later gave their real names at the advice of an attorney. Ward added that it was important to raise consciousness about apartheid among people in the United States and throughout the world.

"Once the weight of that consciousness hits the government of South Africa, the moral weight will crush that system," he said.

Ward said he was treated well during his night in jail, but he added he did not want to get arrested again if it did not stimulate others to get involved in the anti-apartheid cause.

"It's not important what goes on in there; what's important is what goes on out here," he said.

The protesters' release was greeted by enthusiastic applause from the crowd of supporters who lined Fifth Avenue across from the jail. Many of the supporters had gathered in the EMU Courtyard for a noontime rally before marching downtown.

Once at the jail, they waited almost two hours, chanting, singing and listening to speakers. Protesters were released in small groups throughout the afternoon and evening. They were released as quickly as they could be processed, a sheriff's deputy said.

Although most of those arrested were University students, several students from South Eugene High School were taken into custody.

A 15-year-old student named Abe, one of those arrested, said he was persuaded to join the protest after seeing stories about South Africa on television newscasts.

"South Africa is really there," Abe said. "When you see a person crying because their kid got killed, because their husband got killed, it's a real person — they really did get killed."

"I think a lot of people see it and don't consider what they see. It's almost like entertainment to them," he added.

Several of the students reported reactions from their parents ranging from understanding to hysteria.

A father of a 16-year-old who was arrested admitted Wednesday night that he had mixed feelings about the situation.

"I'm a little apprehensive about his arrest, but it's not the first time he has been arrested," he said. "He was in one of these when he was 1½ years old."

Organizers of Thursday's rally vowed to continue their activism and encouraged people to attend a Student's Against Apartheid meeting at noon Saturday at the Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid St.

The apartheid issue will be debated in the Oregon Legislature today when the House Human Resources Committee holds a work session on a bill to divest state funds invested in companies doing business in South Africa.

The session on House Bill 2001 begins at 1:30 p.m. in Hearing Room D of the Capitol Building in Salem.

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Briles' sanity argued in trial

By Jolayne Houtz
Of the Emerald

The "guilty except for insanity" defense came under scrutiny Thursday in the trial of former Eugene resident Douglas Andrew Briles, who allegedly attacked a University professor last November and set fire to his house.

Deputy District Attorney Frank Papagni told jurors in his closing argument that Briles knew what he was doing when he went to the house of Harry Wolcott, 56, a University education and anthropology professor.

"All the facts add up to show that this young man (Briles) wants to extract the best revenge he can get," Papagni said.

Briles, 24, of Escondido, Calif., is charged with first-degree arson, first-degree burglary and second-degree assault in a Nov. 8 fire that destroyed Wolcott's home at 85711 S. Willamette St.

Defense attorney Ted Carp contends that Briles committed the crime while suffering from a mental illness that was aggravated or caused by his homosexual relationship with Wolcott, who allegedly exploited Briles while writing a scholarly article on Briles' life history.

The burden of proof rests with the defense, who

must prove that Briles suffered from a mental disease or defect when he committed the crime. Briles is a diagnosed paranoid schizophrenic and also suffers from an anti-social personality disorder.

In Oregon, personality disorders do not qualify as mental illnesses that would enable a defendant to be found not criminally responsible for his or her actions.

Papagni pointed out that in testimony that was recorded immediately after Briles' arrest, Briles admitted that he knew what he had done was wrong.

"We're not denying that Mr. Wolcott seduced him, manipulated the relationship," Papagni said. "He did. But... this wasn't delusional thinking — this was revenge."

Papagni said Briles wanted to "get even" with Wolcott, whom Briles blamed for ruining his life because of their sexual relationship.

Carp focused his arguments on Wolcott's testimony that he initiated most contact with Briles and on Briles' history of family and emotional problems.

"The boy is vulnerable emotionally," Carp said.

"The signs were already there in terms of loneliness. He's immature and he's not so bright... he's on the bare edge of survival," Carp said.

"Harry Wolcott is seeking help for Doug Briles... but it's help with a hook," he said.

Series marks end of Nazi Germany

A series of lectures and a film examining the defeat of Nazi Germany and the fate of East European peoples will be held tonight and Saturday, concluding a week-long look at World War II.

The free public humanities symposium, titled "Forty Years after V-E Day," is sponsored by the University's Russian and East European Studies Center in commemoration of the surrender of Nazi Germany on May 7, 1945.

Today's events include a lecture on "The Soviet Defeat of Nazi Germany. The Search for a Usable History," presented by Professor Alan Kimball in 107 Lawrence Hall from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Immediately following, Stephen Reynolds, associate professor of religious studies, will talk on "The Fate of Religions in the Western USSR from the End of World War II."

"The Impact of World War II on the Non-Russian Nationalities of the European USSR" is the topic of a speech by Vernon Aspurtarian, of Pennsylvania State University, tonight at 7:30 p.m., also in 107 Lawrence Hall.