



FOUNDED 1877

VOL. CIX—No. 98

NEW YORK, N.Y., FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1985

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FIFTEEN CENTS

Protestors blockade Hamilton

Pro-divest students camp out on its steps overnight



SPECTATOR/SAMANTHA McCORMICK

BLOCKADE: Demonstrators embargoe Hamilton Hall in and all-day—and all night—sit-in.

By the Spectator Staff

In an outpouring of support for divestment, more than 300 students blocked and chained the main entrance of Hamilton Hall yesterday morning and vowed to stay there until their demands were met.

Members of the Coalition for a Free South Africa, who organized a rally beforehand and the blockade in conjunction with National Divestment Day, announced that students would remain encamped until "the trustees immediately issue a written public statement of their intention to divest." The Coalition also requested a meeting with the full Board of Trustees.

The Coalition is calling on the University to divest its approximately \$30 million worth of South-African related holdings within the next three years.

The sit-in, more than 18 hours old at Spectator press time, was peaceful and marked by speeches and songs and cheers and chants.

Armed with banners and a megaphone, the protestors shouted slogans and cheered as numerous student groups from Gay People at Columbia to the Black Law Students Association voiced their support. Several faculty members also joined the students and some cancelled their classes—even ones that were not held in Hamilton, the same building that was shut down in the 1968 riots by militant blacks and Students for a Democratic Society.

Early this morning the protestors were encamped on the Hamilton steps, the plaza in front and the grass of Van Am Quad, braving the cold and rain with blankets, umbrellas and plastic covering. Dominick Moro, director of security, had assured them that he would not seek to have them forcibly removed during the night.

But, Moro said, if the protest reaches the point at which the students are "disrupting the legitimate activities of other students," then some action will be taken. He said the University "won't permit it [the demonstration] to continue indefinitely," and that students had been informed that they are violating University rules and New York State law.

Early in the afternoon four Coalition members met with Executive Vice Presi-

dent for Administration Paul Carter, who was representing University President Michael Sovern, and demanded a meeting with the entire Board of Trustees. Monday this week, when the full Board met, it snubbed fasters for divestment by refusing to meet with them.

After the negotiations, the University agreed to arrange a meeting for the Coalition with the trustees' subcommittee on investments "within a month" according to Robert Gallione, director of student employment and presidential delegate to the committee on the University's rules of conduct.

"We want to meet with the entire body," countered Laird Townsend, a member of the Coalition's steering committee who has been fasting for 11 days.

Townsend said a meeting with a subcommittee would not "guarantee that our interests are represented to the general body," adding that the Coalition is "sick and tired of these subcommittees."

Throughout the day, most high-level administrators remained silent, issuing only a formal release reiterating the University's policy of temporarily freezing investments in companies doing business in South Africa. Dean of Columbia College Robert Pollack, who headed a University Senate committee that recommended a continuation of the freeze policy, refused to comment on the demonstrators.

A member of the University administration who asked not to be identified said that "there have been ongoing conversations and attempts to respond to [students'] demands for a meeting with members of the Board of Trustees." He said the administration is "concerned that there be an open channel" of communication with students.

"We've gone through every democratic process available to us," said CFA steering committee member Tony Glover. "The University has not listened." Civil disobedience "is the strongest statement we can make. What else can students do?"

Peter Johnson, Columbia College assistant dean of student affairs, said he thought the wisdom of the takeover is unclear. "I think it is irresponsible on the part of the Coalition, in light of the University's offer

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Elections result in 1st coed council

By JACQUELINE SHEA MURPHY,
JOHN A. OSWALD and STEVE WEST

Four women were elected to the first co-educational Columbia College student council, election officials said late last night.

One thousand, one hundred and four College students turned out to elect David Lebowitz CC '86 chair of the council by a 10-vote margin over Stuart Gallant, CC '87.

The positions of two at-large representatives, liaison officer and the class of '87 president all went to Columbia College women, correcting what current council members have described as an imbalance in the previously all-male council.

Having women on the council is "the only way you could represent the College accurately with three co-ed classes," said Junior Class President-elect Diane Hilal.

Current council chair Jon White said voter turnout would have been higher if Hamilton Hall, where elections were to be held, had not been blockaded yesterday.

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Thousands of students rally for divestment across country; Harvard draws over 4,000

By ALISON CRAIGLOW and ELIZABETH SCHWARTZ

Yesterday, thousands of anti-apartheid demonstrators across the country participated in National Protest Day for South African Divestment, coordinated by the American Committee on Africa. Of the more than 20 universities that held rallies, Columbia's demonstrators were the only ones to block the entrance to a building, while Harvard University drew the largest crowd, estimated at 5,000.

"The rallies have been successful," said Sandy Boyer, a legislative liaison for the Committee.

According to Harvard Crimson reports and Harvard rally organizer Evan Grossman, University President Derek Bok and his vice presidents left Massachusetts Hall, the central administrative building, yesterday when demonstrators arrived. Bok later announced he would not conduct business in Massachusetts Hall while the protesters were there.

Harvard Vice President and General Counsel Daniel Steiner defended the university's investments in companies that do business in South Africa at a press conference at 3 p.m. yesterday.

About 150 people camped out last night on the steps of Massachusetts Hall, and many said they will not occupy the building, but will make it as difficult as possible to enter.

Grossman said demonstrators at Harvard kept in touch throughout the day and night with activities at Columbia. "The news hit the key organizers," Grossman said, "Josh Nessen [national student coordinator for the African Com-

mittee on Africa] called to let us know."

Grossman continued, "I think students heard about the actions at Columbia [the blocking of Hamilton Hall] and we're waiting to see if it will be possible here."

The American Committee on Africa also coordinated a protest march in midtown Manhattan that began at 5 p.m. in front of the South African Consulate.

According to Nessen, 1,000 people marched past corporate headquarters of companies that do business in South Africa, including Citicorp, ITT, and Manufacturers Hanover Trust. The march ended with a rally outside the headquarters of Mobil Oil, which leads the corporate committee against divestment legislation.

In Washington D.C., 4,000 protesters gathered in commemoration of the 17th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. "A key thing at this April four is that it leads to the possibility for national disinvestment," Nessen said. "We've shattered one myth of the complacent university. We're setting up a political climate."

Other university demonstrations were less attended than Harvard's, according to college newspaper editors.

At the University of Pennsylvania, over 300 students attended an hour and a half long rally which was not only for divestment, but also in protest of what some see as the university's racist hiring practices and generally oppressive atmosphere of minorities.

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