

Moral Imperative

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Although Father Mahler described Ryan as a moderate among the divestment protesters, Ryan himself questions the designation. "There was a point at the beginning where I considered myself a moderate, but I think I may have become more radical as the university's intransigence has continued." He cites the limited success of negotiation and education compared with the seeming success of confrontational measures like sit-ins.

Negotiation and education, however, is the approach adopted by the Catholic ministry team. Father Mahler notes that the team is "working as a staff with the other chaplains and the ecumenical organization of chaplains on the issue of divestment," but isn't taking any direct position on the issue.

"The chaplains in general have not become identified with the movement — in terms of getting arrested or sitting in — because we felt we would be more helpful serving ... as mediators, bringing people

together in formal and informal settings." Father Mahler says he supports the divestment movement "from a very realistic viewpoint, knowing that it is not the answer to South Africa's problems." He also said that some of the impetus for divestment is "the notion of not touching anything tainted," distancing one's self from sin, but in reality not doing anything to stop that sin. "I think people who are in it from a 'morally pure' motivation are really barking up the wrong tree."

On the other hand, he says the divestment movement could have a good effect if it "gets South Africa to perk up and take notice. Since profit is the chief corporate motivation, if divestment causes profits to go down, it might cause corporations to take a look at what they're doing in South Africa ... Anything that puts pressure on the U.S. government to put pressure on Praetoria helps ... because we're their best friends."

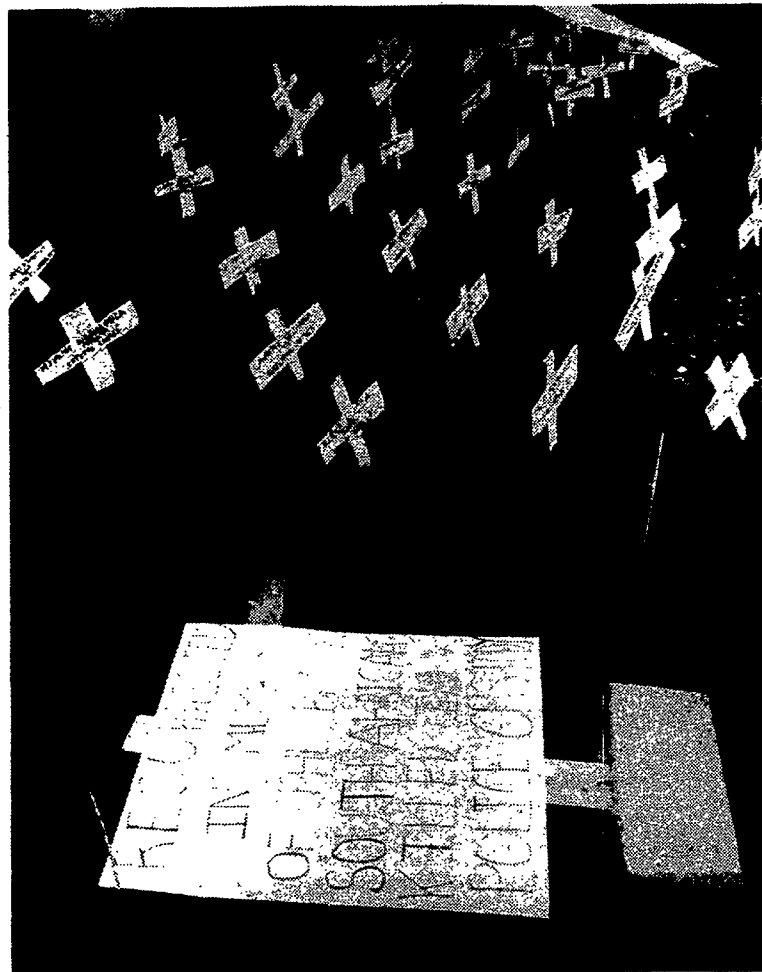


At the entrance to the Shantytown on Cornell University a banner reminds the passers by of what the town represents.



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

Anne Levine from the Los Angeles area helps to complete a dwelling that will meet fire codes placed upon the residents of the shantytown after a fire destroyed an area earlier in May.



A mock cemetery was erected in honor of those who have died in South Africa due to a variety of unexplained causes. At right, Lauren Faessler from Ithaca walls some material in place in an attempt to protect the enclosed belongings and her pet guinea pig from an approaching storm.



Church Groups Target Companies

New York (NC) — Catholic religious orders and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee have joined Protestant groups in launching a "Campaign of Intensive Focus," demanding that 12 companies stop doing business with the South African government.

The firms include International Business Machines, General Electric Co., Ford Motor Co., General Motors Corp. and Citicorp.

The church coalition said the companies are improperly tolerating and assisting the practice of apartheid, South Africa's legal system of strict segregation of the races.

Among 30 Catholic orders and organizations included in the coalition's effort are the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers' Justice and Peace Office, the Jesuit national social justice office, several communities of the Sisters of Charity in the United States and Canada, Dominican Sisters, Ursuline Sisters, the Marianist Brothers, the Holy Name Province of the Franciscans and the Milwaukee Archdiocese.

The coalition, under the auspices of the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, said that the firms should immediately stop selling goods and providing related services to the South African government.

"All support the South African government through products and services used by the police and military, by the size of their assets in the country ... and by the strategic nature of their involvement or financial services rendered," the coalition said.

If the companies do not stop doing business with the South African government, the coalition will ask them to inform the South African government that changes in apartheid are "a necessary precondition for their remaining in South Africa."