

Opinion

Sanctions don't work

By Stephen Jones
Guest Columnist

Last summer and fall, liberal forces across the nation claimed victory when congress overrode President Reagan's courageous veto of punitive economic sanctions against South Africa.

But this summer, black and white anti-South Africa activists "can't be reached for comment" about the impact of sanctions.

That's because sanctions have not only failed; they've backfired.

That's the conclusion of an increasing number of experts -- among them the nine members of the French parliament who visited South Africa from June 27 through July 11.

The French delegation reported a unanimous opposition to sanctions among representatives of black, Asian and colored communities. They also found compelling evidence that sanctions have gravely harmed South Africa's blacks. Unemployment among black laborers has soared, as industries which were heavily dependent upon exports to the U.S. have lost much of their market

share.

Sanctions have also increased the political strength of apartheid's supporters. An anti-reform backlash in the recent south African whites-only elections ousted the moderate Progressive Federal Party as minority party. The pro-apartheid Conservative Party is now the official opposition.

Now, the Pretoria government will be criticized in parliament not for moving too slowly to abolish apartheid but for moving too quickly.

The French delegation unanimously expressed their opposition to further sanctions. They concluded that the process of dismantling apartheid should be evolutionary not revolutionary.

They recommended that supportive measures be undertaken by the West which will enable the Pretoria regime to continue, without human suffering, down the path toward greater democracy for all South Africans.

For their sakes, it's time Congress took heed.

SGA Speaks...

It came to our attention that many students attending UNCA were not registered voters. As a result, SGA sponsored a "voter registration blitz." With the help of C.B. Squire, independent registrar, well over 100 people registered in the Carmichael Lobby within seven hours.

It proved to be a tremendous success, and we are organizing another voter registration planned for the first week in February. This will give more students a chance to vote on Super Tuesday in the presidential primaries.

Earlier in the semester, it became quite clear that students were annoyed by the changing of "Homecoming" to "Fall Fest". In response, SGA approached Chancellor Brown with this problem. After a week or so of deliberation, Chancellor Brown agreed that "Homecoming" should return to the fall. This tradition will rekindle itself next year thanks to student input.

Since many people are uncomfortable at this time approaching SGA person to person, we are making available a suggestion box. It will be

placed on the desk of the game room attendant in the Student Center. This box will allow students to voice any concerns they feel SGA should address, and the suggestions will be brought to the SGA meeting. This will open one more door for communication between SGA and students.

SGA is in the process of organizing Alcohol Awareness Week Oct 19 through Oct. 23. Jeff Kilpatrick, dorm senator, is chairman and will welcome any ideas to add to his own. Activities are planned for Wednesday and Thursday of that week in the Student Center.

Once again, all SGA meetings are open to the public and scheduled every Monday at 4:30 p.m. in Room 37 of the Highsmith Center.

Remember we are here for you!

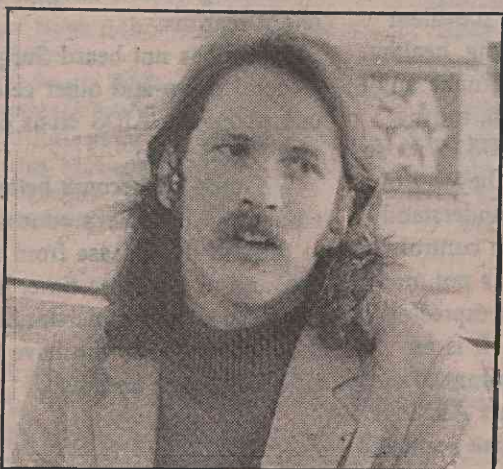
Monica Bonikowski
SGA President

Bill Pfeiffer
SGA Vice President

Corner

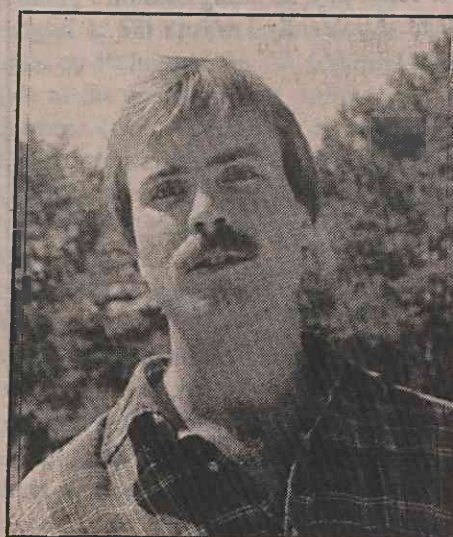
What do you think about the General Education requirements?

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"I think that the general education requirements are important at a liberal arts institution. I think there should be more selections within disciplines.

Gordon Hinners
Senior
History



"I can see how humanities, world history, is a little more relevant than two years of spanish. I think it should be left up to the individual."

Dave Campodonico
Senior
Economics



"I am a transfer student, and the only thing holding me back are my general education requirements. Yes, I do think one should have to take them. It provides a well rounded student."

Mary Beth Bryman
Junior
Biology



"I think they ask too much of students in that area."

Dave Brackett
Junior
Accounting

Interviews by Pat Foyles
and photos by Crystal Smith.