

# IN PERSPECTIVE

by Albertina Smith  
Editor

There is a mentality - a mentality whose essence is ever present in a certain segment of our world. This mentality is so undaunting that it allows 25.2% of South Africa's black children die from improper medical and nutritional care. This mentality mandates the arrest and prosecution of over 8 million people who fight for the freedom to work, to vote, and to realize dreams of educational achievement that we all take for granted.

This mentality condones the systematic political and economic rape of the black masses in a country that is over 85% black.

This mentality is called **APARTHEID**.

On Monday, Sept. 17, the Black Student Movement held a news conference in which Sherrod Banks, a senior political science major the BSM President, presented the organization's official position concerning South Africa.

*We, the BSM Central Committee, and the Black Greek Council recognize that apartheid is first, immoral and secondly, inconsistent with fundamental American Democratic principles and with UNC's equal opportunity policies for education... This university states in the Undergraduate Bulletin that UNC is committed to the principles of equal opportunity. It is the policy of this university not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, or handicap with regard to it's students, employees, or applicants.*

*However, in South Africa, education, is separate and unequal... Because UNC supports a system which allows such facts to be realized the Black Student Movement calls for the divestment of student funds from the Board of Trustees Endowment Fund and reinvest in socially responsible investments companies. And that is the first step.*

The BSM's campaign to divest UNC monies from South Africa is by no means the first attempt by a student organization to fight the issue. A report issued by the UNC Public Interest Research Group in Nov., 1982 revealed that UNC has \$90,000 invested in Control Data, \$557,000 in IBM and \$651,000 in General Motors. UNC's investments in South Africa total over \$1.9 million dollars!

The Campus Governing Council, which has \$12,000 in the Endowment Fund, issued a request for the Board to withdraw student fees from it's trust. Though students passed a divestment referendum in Feb., 1983 by a 2:1 margin, the board refused to make changes in their economic policy with regard to South Africa.

So what is it about the BSM threat will allow them to be successful with the issue of Apartheid. According to Banks, "In the BSM we enjoy the luxury of having a bond between us (the Central committee and the general body) that might serve will for a movement of this kind... What we have to do is to build a sense of identify in the students, and I think we can do that."

It is clear that the BSM has begun a campaign which will call for a great commitment of time and resources from the BSM Central Committee and the general body. However, they will not be alone. The Black Greek Council and People Against Racism have both voiced strong support of the cause.

Tanya Smith, a member of the Black Greek Council says the it was a good move for the BSM and the BGC to unite on the issue of Apartheid. "BGC is made of many Black Campus leaders whose input will prove beneficial to the BSM." says Smith.

Smith also believes that the two organization share a common racial interest in the issue. She states the "the issue affects us more directly than other organizations. We can attack the issue with more passion and commitment than other organizations can."

Sibby Anderson, Chairperson of PAR believes that her organizations involvement with the BSM an offer an informative resource for the student body. Anderson says threat "Apartheid is an institutionalized form of racism. I believe that it pertains to all of us. However the majority of students are not as informed as they should be on this issue."

During the news conference the BSM and its supporters were confronted with the issue of the economic loss that UNC would incur were it to divest monies from South Africa. The response that Banks gave seemed to convey the greatest strength in the organizations arguments for divestment-"We do not see the issue as a matter of dollars and cents, we see the issue as a matter of what's right and what's wrong. What we will gain in moral standards will more than compensate for any possible loss in profits to UNC."



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