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Wake students petition From Page A1

ministrations to divest their holdings in firms doing business in South Africa. Petitions from the students and a resolution from Wake's faculty urging divestment have been sent to the school's trustees for their consideration. The trustees will not meet until December.

In addition to that, said student Addie Harris, students must take other positive action.

"We should be prompted to send support without being prompted by Michael Jackson or Bruce Springsteen," Harris said.

Not only are students ignorant of the South African situation, most Americans are, the Rev. Carlton A.G. Eversley told the students.

"The issue is simple," said Eversley, pastor of Dellabrook Presbyterian Church. "The question is, 'Does it make sense to invest in slavery?' If you answer no, then the next question is, 'What will I do to change the racist policies of Wake Forest University in helping South Africa?' "

The answer, said Wake Forest religion professor Dr. Macleod Bryan, will require a little sacrifice from everybody.

"Eighty percent of all diamonds come from South Africa," said Bryan. "Most people don't know that when they go to buy diamond rings.

"The issue is not a tender issue or a polite issue. The issue is, where does America stand?

"One day you will have to fight for America, and America will be on the side of the white South African regime. Then the question will be, 'Will I be a loyal American and fight for the system?' "

The one question most students wanted to ask was, "If businesses disinvest in South Africa, will that make life harder on the blacks?"

Less than 1 percent of the black South African work force is employed by American businesses, said Eversley.

"The issue is not full employment," he said. "We had full employment during slavery. The question is justice. It's profitable to do business because we make a heck of a lot of money in South Africa.

"I've never seen any concern for black people in America from Ford or IBM like I see now for the blacks in South Africa."

Wake professor Herman Eure asked the students to commit themselves to the South African question and not to consider the issue simply because it's the "fashionable" thing to do.

"Make sure you are here for the right reasons," said Eure. "This, young people, is your Vietnam. Make the right choices. Take a stand."

Bryan said he remembers the last time a group of Wake Forest students got together to fight for a cause. They opposed the fact that Wake Forest had no black students -- so they decided that they would raise the money to pay the tuition for a black student to attend Wake. After they raised the money, the administration still refused for a year to let the student enter. However, the student eventually was admitted,

graduated with honors and went on to Harvard University, said Bryan.

The same thing can be done now, he said.

"You can raise money on this night and bring the child of a (South African) black leader to Wake Forest," said Bryan. "And then, instead of listening to Jerry Falwell when you have questions about South Africa, you can go to this student."

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Who'll be mayor pro tem?

With 17 percent of the electorate voting, Frye unofficially totaled 611 votes to Mrs. Wilson's 494 in the South Ward's Democratic primary runoff. Mrs. Wilson beat Frye by only 37 votes in September's primary.

Frye will face Republican Gregory B. Fountaine in November.

Meanwhile, the mayor says' he'll have to wait and see what will happen then before he considers Mrs. Wilson's successor as mayor pro tem.

"The election ain't over yet," said Corpening. "I haven't had a chance to talk to people to see what they want to do."

There are no hard and fast rules as to how the mayor pro tem or committee chairmanships are determined. Corpening simply makes a recommendation to the aldermen and they have the option of accepting or rejecting his recommendations. Corpening said the normal procedure he follows when selecting the mayor pro tem or the board's four committee chairmen is to talk to each alderman and see what he or see wants to do.

"Then politics comes into play. Anything you do has some politics in it."

Corpening said one thing he considers is tenure on the board. Mrs. Newell, Mrs. Burke and Robert H. Northington all became aldermen in December 1977. Newell is chairman of the city's Finance Committee and Burke is chairman of the Public Safety Committee. Northington, the only Republican on the eightmember board, serves as vice chairman of the Finance Committee.

Mrs. Burke said she isn't willing to give up her chairmanship to be mayor pro tem.

"Mayor pro tem in this city is no big deal," she said. "The

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tem.

In addition, said Mrs. Burke, the Democrats on the board are not likely to support Northington for mayor pro tem.

It is possible, said Corpening, for a person to hold a chairmanship and be mayor pro tem, as Mrs. Wilson did before 1981. But the black aldermen have fought against that.

"That's the same thing we opposed," said Mrs. Burke. "Now to go back on that is inconsistent."

With North Ward Alderman Larry D. Little's decision not to seek re-election, the chairmanship of the Public Works Committee will also be open. Southeast Ward Alderman Larry

ceremonial, like ribbon cuttings or proclamations. It's prestigious but it doesn't carry a whole lot of actual authority.

"When you are a chairman, you are in control. You are the head. You are speaking as the chair."

mayor pro tem.

"Most of the duties are

Provided they win November's election, aldermen Lynne Harpe, who chairs the city's General Committee, and Martha S. Wood will be two-term incumbents. Either could possibly be named

Since the winners of the South and North Ward aldermanic races will be newcomers, neither will probably be given a chairmanship or appointed mayor pro

"Then you have to balance the committees," said Corpening.

Were

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mayor can call on any of us to represent him. The only time being mayor pro tem might be a big deal is if something happens to him (Corpening)."

A chairmanship, said Mrs. Burke, has more power. "Nobody is willing to give up a chairmanship," she said.

Mrs. Newell could not be reached for comment but Mrs. Burke said she doubts that Mrs. Newell would trade her chairmanship to become mayor pro

Womble, who faces no tem. Republican opposition in November, is vice chairman of that committee.

If tradition is followed, Womble said, and he becomes chairman of the Public Works Committee, he also is not interested in becoming mayor pro tem.

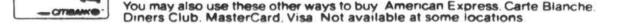
"Mayor pro tem is less of an active role," said Womble.



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