

UNC students want scholarships for S. Africans

By The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL -- A University of North Carolina student group which opposes apartheid wants to raise \$100,000 in the next few years to start a scholarship fund for South African students, hoping to instigate change through education.

Unlike some other students, 22 of whom were arrested last month, the group has not taken a stand on whether the university should withdraw investments in companies with ties to South Africa.

"We are against apartheid," member Daniel H. Kress said. "There are some of us who are pro-divestment -- there are some of us who are not. We're trying to shift the focus away from that."

"When the change does come in South Africa, it will be easier for it to be a non-violent change if there are educated people to step into the shoes of the present government. It's something

positive, as opposed to merely reactive."

W. Travis Porter is a UNC-CH trustee and a member of the university's board of endowment, which has opted against total divestiture by the university, a position he shares.

"It's much easier to knock a house down than to build a house up," he said. "I like the idea of helping people in South Africa and giving them the means to help themselves."

The idea for the South Africa Scholarship Fund came when two students went to South Africa as part of a 1985 summer internship. While there, Richard Hoile and Francesa N. Varcoe worked with the Institute of Race Relations, one of the few anti-apartheid voices allowed to exist by the South African government. When they asked about the needs of black South Africans, education was mentioned first, Kress said.

To help, the group wants to

raise money to establish an endowment with the university, which would invest that money with its own funds, Kress said. Interest earned in the venture would be given to the Institute of Race Relations for scholarships -- for use wherever the students are accepted.

Kress said the money would not be invested in firms doing business in South Africa.

Ms. Varcoe said the group's goal was to raise \$100,000 in the next few years and that the university's board of trustees had promised to match whatever the group raised, up to \$100,00.

Scholarships for black South Africans are in great need, she said.

"The school system in South Africa is totally segregated," she said. "Black students have to pay for books and uniforms, which a lot of them have a hard time doing. Few actually apply to universities, and they still have to pay for books, accommodations and

expenses. White students have to pay too, but they come from backgrounds where that's not a problem."

Kress said the group had raised about \$1,000 so far by selling T-shirts and soliciting business donations. The group sent letters seeking contributions in about 50 businesses that invested in South African firms. But Kress said only three had responded, each negatively.

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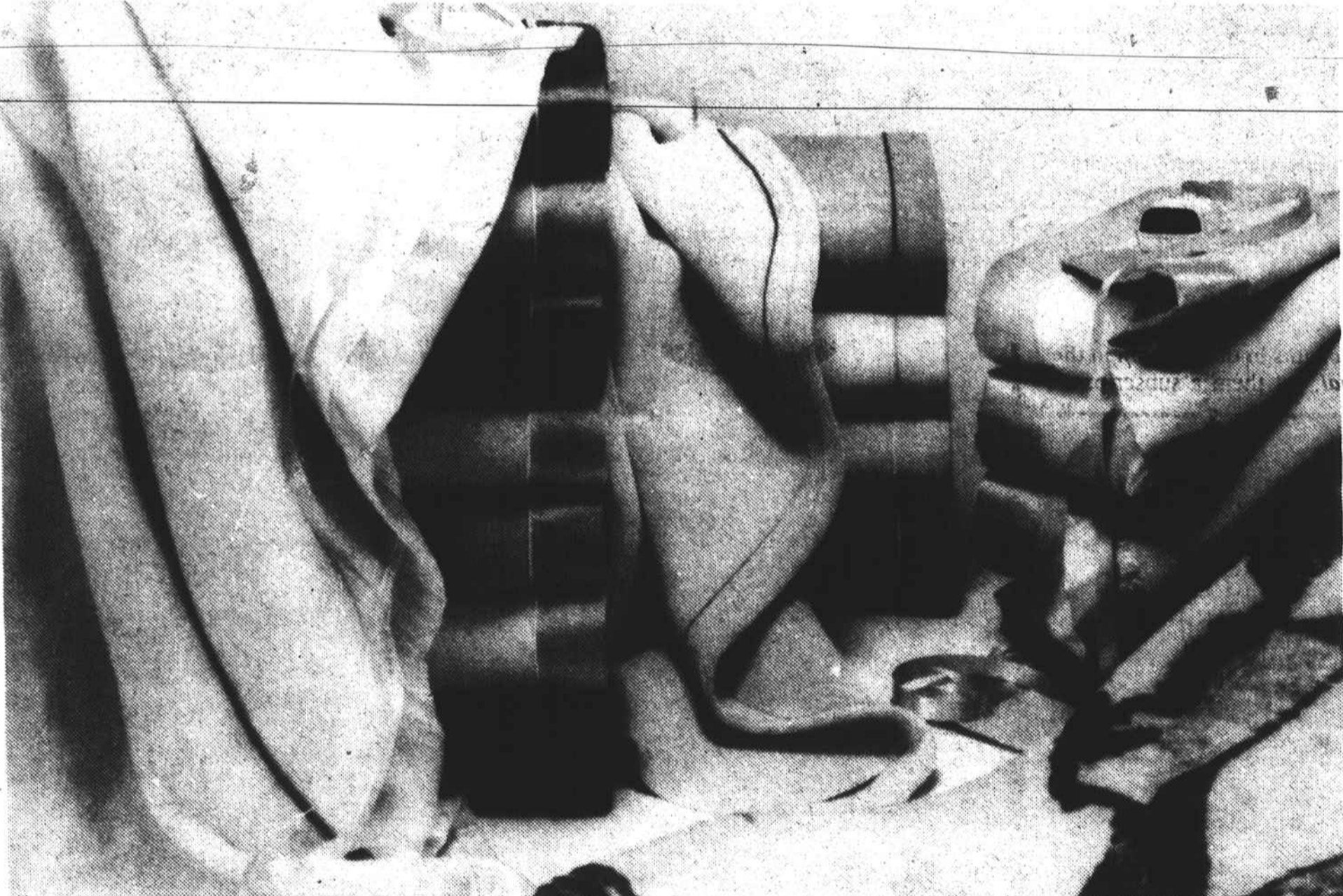
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