

By Jessie, Chris and Steven

Last April hundreds of angry demonstrators chased Harvard President Derek Bok across Harvard Yard out onto Massachusetts Ave., shouting "Bullshit! Bullshit!" and "Harvard out of South Africa!" Bok was rescued by Cambridge police, but the student anti-apartheid movement that has been calling for universities like Harvard to sell their stock in corporations profiting from apartheid has continued to grow. After Bok's escape 300 protesters blockaded and shut down the Harvard Administration building in a day-long demonstration which ended that night with a candlelight march of over 3,500.

#### CAMPUS PROTESTS

The Harvard demos were part of a whole campaign in the Northeast that included several sit-ins—by 30 hours by 210 Princeton students, for 90 hours by 100 Wesleyan protesters, for one hour by several hundred at Amherst—as well as a 300-person blockade of the Cornell trustees' executive meeting, a vigil at Williams College of over 600, and mass protests at a dozen other schools.

These actions were part of the coordinated protest called by the first conference of the Northeast Coalition for the Liberation of South Africa (NCLSA). Such regional coalitions and conferences are developing across the U.S., signaling the rapid expansion of the 2-year old campus anti-apartheid movement. Regional groups are being formed in the Southwest (centred in Austin, Texas) and in the South (centred around the collective at Duke University). Over thirty Midwestern schools are considering a fall conference to coincide with scheduled meetings in the East, South and Southwest.

The strongest region is California, however, where the student coalition of Campuses United Against

# Bringing South Africa to its knees



Students rallying against apartheid.

Apartheid (CUAA) has played a key role in developing a West Coast Southern Africa Coalition (WCSAC). WCSAC includes not only the over 20 campuses of CUAA, but a growing number of churches, religious groups, community organizations and labour unions. In the San Francisco

Bay area, labour has taken a strong interest in U.S. economic ties to South Africa. Led by the International Longshoreman and Warehouseman's Union (ILWU), 65 locals have formed a committee to take action against apartheid.

The movement's primary focus is the dominant role of

multinational corporations in South Africa's economy. IBM sells computers to the police, the military, the nuclear industry, and the corporations that form the core of South Africa's economic infrastructure; Bank of America, Chase Manhattan, and Citibank

make the loans, GM and Ford sell them autos, Firestone and Goodyear rubber, the list goes on and on. Demonstrations have either been directly against these companies, as when 100 University of California / Santa Cruz students literally ordered the IBM recruiter off campus and then showed him the way, or—more often—the target has been the millions of dollars of stock that American universities hold in these corporations. The students (often with strong support from campus workers and sometimes from faculty) say "Sell the stock. No profits from apartheid."

But the OR cannot exist as another commodity magazine. Its survival depends on the active participation of its readers, as much as on the core collective. Read it, discuss it, pass it around, bring it to bookstores. Send us your comments and criticisms. Keep us in touch with what you're doing, with what you'd like to see written. Send us articles (3 typed pages is a good length). We may not write back immediately, as we're quite over-worked. But if you send whatever you can afford, as often as you can afford it, then together we can try to

#### GROWING CAMPAIGNS

Secondary forces include campaigning against the Krugrand, raising material aid for liberation groups in Southern Africa, and demonstrating directly against South Africa airlines, information offices, and consulates. Of increasing importance are both the expanding campaign against U.S. banks which loan to South Africa and the growing critique of U.S. foreign policy.

There have been some victories: six schools have sold all or part of their stock; others now support shareholder proxy resolutions that demand "that management terminate operations in South Africa, several banks have promised not to make loans directly to the government.

But the chief response has been to dodge the real issue of U.S. economic support for apartheid, for the false issue of corporate employment practices. Scores of U.S. corporations have signed the "Sullivan Principles", a set of affirmative action guidelines proposed by the Rev. Leon Sullivan, a black GM Board member. Yet the South African government does not oppose the Sullivan Principles; companies which signed them have increased their sales of computers, oil, and technology to the white regime and have made the new investments and loans that are so vital to the apartheid economy.

#### DISPARATE POLITICS

The campus anti-apartheid movement eludes classification: its supporters come from the entire liberal-to-radical political spectrum, and include workers, faculty, students and church groups. Organizing patterns are local, regional and national; actions are coordinated regionally; nationwide communication is maintained through the American Committee on Africa (ACOA), a longstanding research and lobbying collective based in New York, and also through the West Coast and East Coast South Africa Catalyst Projects, which publish a national newsletter, a campus organizer's guide, and a booklet on U.S. investments in South Africa. But the movement's strength derives mainly from a common organization theme: the nonauthoritarian, democratic collective.

An example will illustrate this strength. The CUAA this spring, at the University of California at Santa Barbara planned a demonstration in late winter against the local Bank of America. After a CUAA rally 120 demonstrators marched to the nearby branch. The original plan was for a silent march to circle the bank. But when they reached the bank, the angry protesters sallied right into the bank, where they held a second rally. The B of A decided not to bust, hoping to minimize the publicity—but this meant that the same policy would apply to all other branches.

#### BANK TAKE-OVERS

At the next CUAA meeting this information was passed to the other schools, who saw the advantage of tandem demonstrations for the spring. That April four more bank take-overs occurred, and three after school picketed a B of A branches. These actions in turn prompted students at the nine U of California campuses to coordinate 4 sit-ins and three demonstrations calling for (and getting) a special Regent meeting on South Africa investments. Only a month before, the Regents had refused to even discuss such a meeting.

CUAA can't order its members to adopt any action or policy; individual members can only urge particular lines of action. While the process disturbs student leaders, it has one advantage: it works. The collective approach precludes control by any "party line," allowing politically diverse

continued on p. 14

## On the Road

We've introduced some changes in this issue: 16 pages instead of 20, a lighter weight cover, and a slightly altered format. Why? As a result of our continuing financial crisis we had to cut costs, while trying not to sacrifice graphic quality and an attractive layout.

Our costs have shot up 33% in the past year, while our income, the bulk of which comes from readers' donations, remains the same.

We still remain committed to the ideal of sending OR free to anyone who asks for it. And we continue to receive a lot of requests from people who have no money such as prisoners (about a quarter of our mailing list), students and the unemployed. But since it costs about \$3 a year to send someone the OR, donations from our readership are vital to the paper's existence. We urge anyone who can to send us a donation of an hour's wages (more if you can) on some sort of regular basis, like annually, or even

better, each time you receive an issue.

If you want OR to continue, we desperately need a financial support system out there that we can count on. If this financial base doesn't develop soon this could be the last issue of OR. Please consider our appeal on page 15 this issue.

It's been a long time since we explained who we are and what we see ourselves doing here. The OR is produced by a collective of eight women and men in Vancouver, B.C. None of us are paid to work on the OR. Those of us who work kick in a percentage of our salaries to help keep the paper afloat. We all see ourselves as anarchists or anarcho-feminists and are all politically active outside the paper.

The OR has no formal principles of unity. Within the collective we hold varying points of view on a number of questions. We differ on the role of armed struggle, pacifism, punk, feminism,

the working class, the counter culture and personal politics.

We think this diversity can be a strength of the paper. The OR is not affiliated with any organization, and values its autonomy to report on news as we see it.

We strongly believe that a broadly-based anti-authoritarian struggle is emerging across the world. The forms and labels used vary widely, with only a minority of participants calling themselves "anarchists." But all these struggles reflect deeply-held anti-authoritarian attitudes, analyses, and forms of organization.

We believe that people learn by sharing their experiences and that it is important to report on the variety of ways people are trying to make a social revolution. We try to strike a

balance each issue of news and review, actions and organizations, local and international, "personal" and "political."

But the OR cannot exist as another commodity magazine. Its survival depends on the active participation of its readers, as much as on the core collective. Read it, discuss it, pass it around, bring it to bookstores. Send us your comments and criticisms. Keep us in touch with what you're doing, with what you'd like to see written. Send us articles (3 typed pages is a good length). We may not write back immediately, as we're quite over-worked. But if you send whatever you can afford, as often as you can afford it, then together we can try to

We will send Open Road to anyone who requests it.

We have no subscription rates and depend on readers' donations.

Address all requests,

correspondence, and contributions to:

The Open Road

Box 8135, Station G

Vancouver, B.C. V6R 4G5 Canada