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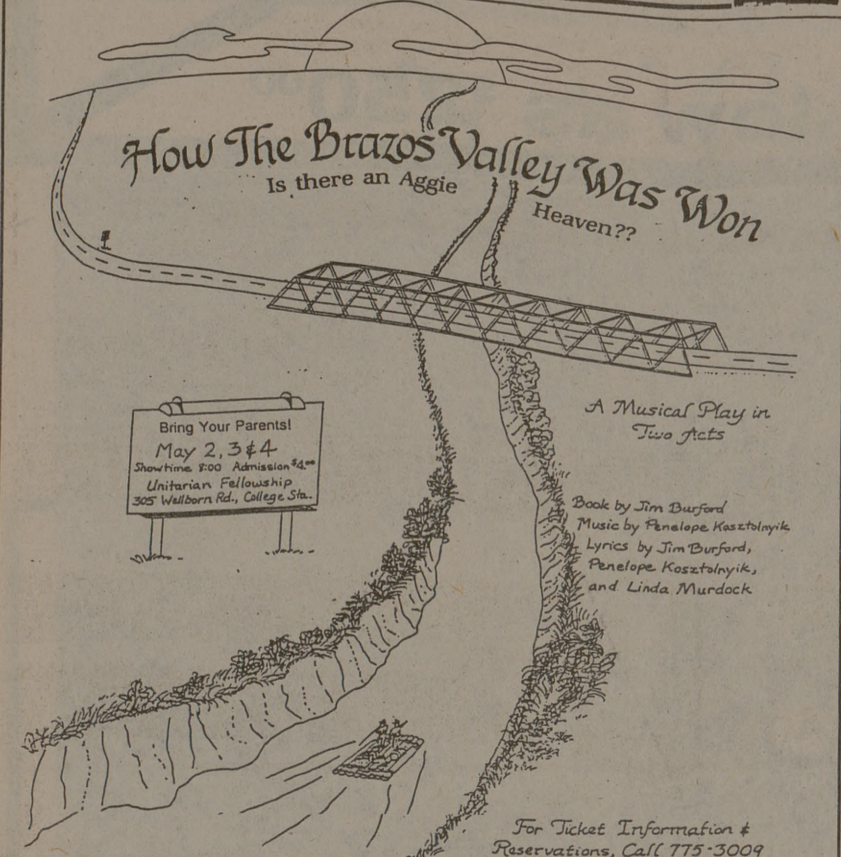
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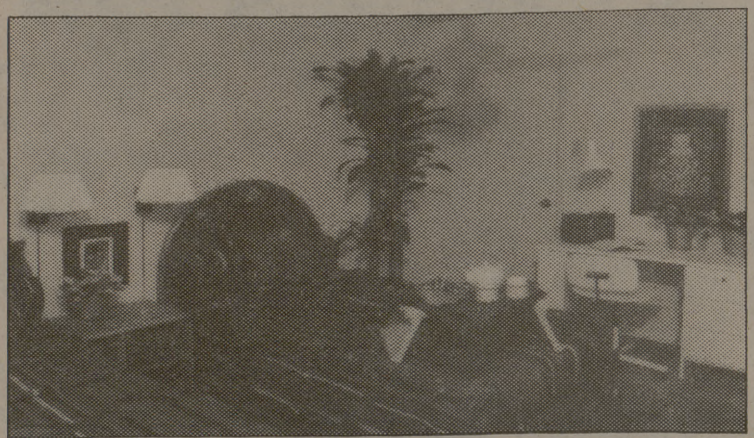


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Apartheid

*Divestiture encouraged
by A&M student group*

By MEG CADIGAN

Reporter

The Nelson Mandela Committee, a new student group at Texas A&M, was organized Thursday to encourage divestiture of university investments in corporations who support the apartheid policies of the South African government.

Apartheid is an official policy of racial segregation practiced in the Republic of South Africa.

Nita Heimann organized this first meeting and said the committee intends to educate the A&M community about apartheid.

She said Nelson Mandela, for whom the committee is named, is a leader of the African National Congress and has been in prison for the past 20 years.

Heimann, a junior chemical engineering major, said she hopes to get the group organized during the summer and build membership this fall.

"There is a broad base for anti-apartheid action on campus," Heimann said. "It's past time that we had some sort of organization like this on-campus."

Several anti-apartheid demonstrations have taken place recently at other universities around the country. The largest demonstrations were held at Columbia University and the University of California at Berkeley.

The Steve Biko committee at the University of Texas at Austin is working to get the University of Texas Board of Regents to divest itself of investments in companies with ties to the South African government. Biko was a prominent leader in the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa until his death.

Texas A&M System Comptroller Bill Wasson said that the elimination of A&M investments in companies that might be doing large amounts of business in South Africa would not be in the best financial interests of A&M.

"A&M's position (on this matter) as a state agency is that students are asking for a policy decision that needs to be made at a state or federal level that says, 'We will not invest in these companies,'" Wasson said.

Wasson said he believes this type of policy decision "cannot be decentralized down to individual institutions, such as A&M or Columbia."

A bill calling for divestment for all Texas state schools is being considered in the Texas House of Representatives.

Two A&M students, Mike Cook and Dave McAlpin, recently attended an anti-apartheid sit-in at the University of California at Berkeley.

Cook said, "What really struck me was when I got back (to A&M) and told people about the trip, nobody knew what apartheid was."

Heimann said apathy was a concern of the committee. Another member of the group, Hugh Stearns, said, "It's not easy to wake students on this campus out of their comatose state."

The committee plans to distribute anti-apartheid literature during summer registration.

"This issue could gather a lot of support at A&M," Cook said.

The Nelson Mandela committee is not recognized by the University, but plans to go through the recognition process soon.

The group's next meeting will be June 12 at 7:30 p.m.

U.S. House group votes for sanctions against apartheid

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Democratic-controlled House Foreign Affairs Committee voted 26-6 on Thursday to impose new economic sanctions against South Africa and its system of racial apartheid.

The legislation — opposed by the Reagan administration — would prohibit new U.S. investment and loans in South Africa.

It would also suspend the sale of American computers to South Africa and shut off imports to the United States of an estimated \$600 million in South African gold coins called Krugerrands.

All six "no" votes came from Republicans who argued that rather than encourage improved race relations in South Africa, the sanctions would worsen conditions for the black majority there.

A watered-down Republican version condemning apartheid and setting up a commission to investigate conditions in South Africa was rejected 19-4.

The Democratic measure now goes to the House floor.

Similar legislation is pending in

the Republican-controlled Senate, which is likely to debate the issue by mid-summer.

The United States has previously cut off military sales to South Africa, and the country is ineligible for loans from the Export-Import Bank.

But the recent violence and increasing racial tensions in South Africa have made it more likely that Congress will enact tougher measures this year.

Rep. Stephen Solarz, D-N.Y., said the sanctions are needed because the Reagan administration's policy of quiet diplomatic pressure has failed to get the South African government to share political and economic power with blacks.

Solarz and other Democrats contrasted Reagan's total trade embargo against Nicaragua announced Wednesday with the administration's opposition to sanctions against South Africa.

"How can the United States stand up for democracy and pluralism in Central America while we stand still for racism and repression in Southern Africa?" he said.

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