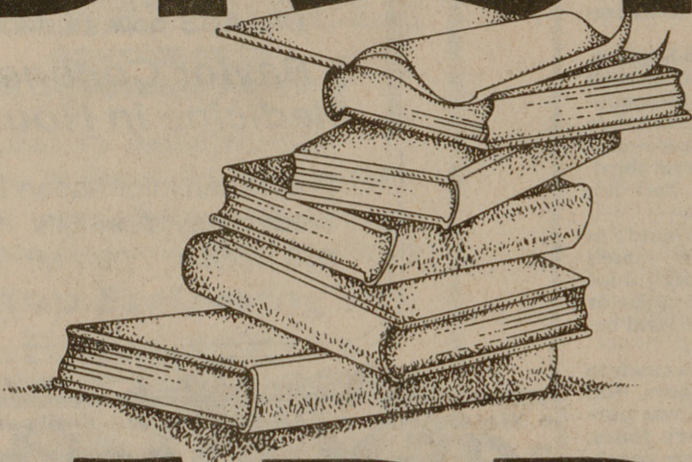
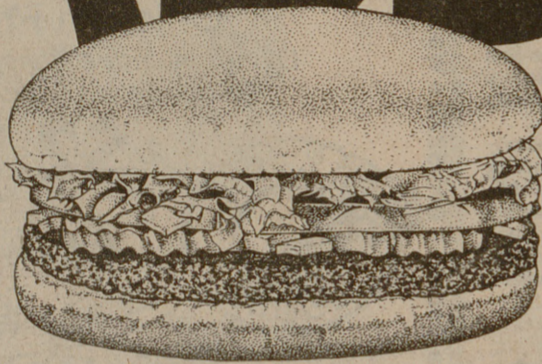


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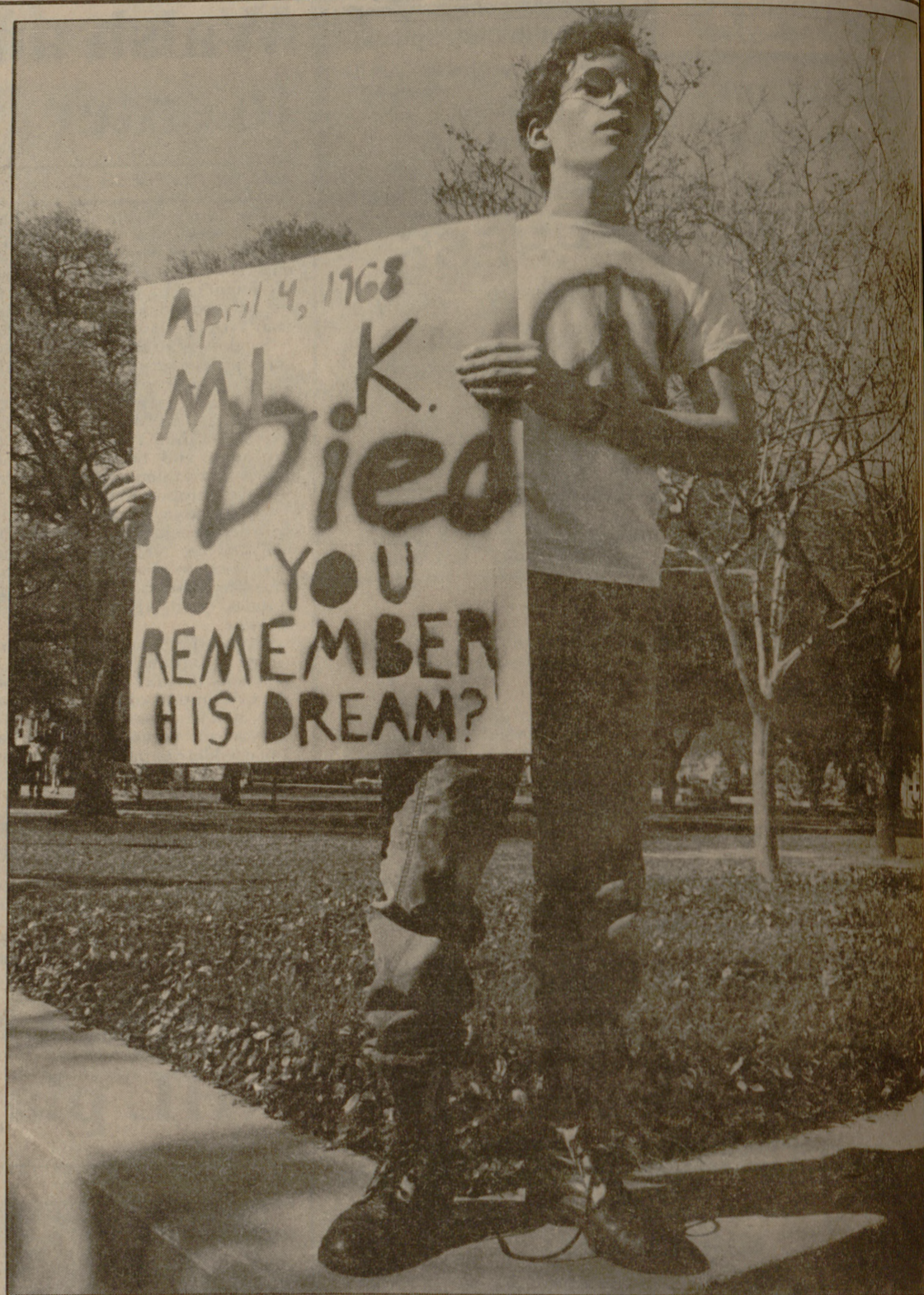
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Sean Dunham, a freshman theater arts major, commemorates the anniversary of the assassina-

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Photo by Bill Collins

South Africa may suspend Namibian independence

OMBALANTU, Namibia (AP) — South Africa said Tuesday the 4-day-old independence process in Namibia is in danger of collapsing because of fierce fighting between security forces and black nationalist guerrillas.

Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha wrote U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Tuesday that South Africa was considering suspending the implementation of independence in the territory.

"Unless active and effective measures are taken within the next few hours to stem the rapid deterioration of the situation, the whole peace process in Namibia is in danger of collapse," said his letter, released in South Africa.

At least 169 guerrillas, 19 police and one South African soldier have been killed since Saturday in clashes across Namibia's northern border with Angola, according to police and military officials.

South Africa accused Sam Nujoma, leader of the South-West Af-

rica People's Organization, of sending 1,200 SWAPO guerrillas from southern Angola into northern Namibia in a deliberate attempt to sabotage the peace process.

A U.N. investigation found the guerrillas had launched a "major incursion" from Angola in violation of the peace plan, according to diplomats in New York who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The United States on Tuesday urged SWAPO guerrillas to pull back into Angola and allow the Namibian independence process to get under way.

State Department spokesman Margaret Tutwiler said Washington does not think the agreement was in danger of unraveling "at this point."

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher also condemned what she called a rebel incursion into Namibia and said the incursion caused the fighting.

Botha wrote, "The South African government cannot be expected to implement its undertakings... while SWAPO continues to act in flagrant violation of the provisions" approved by the United Nations.

Under the U.N. plan, all SWAPO guerrillas are to remain at the bases in Angola at least 100 miles north of Namibia's border until May.

Botha said 4,450 SWAPO fighters now are south of that line. He also said hundreds of Cuban troops in Angola, in tandem with SWAPO fighters, had moved to within 600 yards of the Namibian border.

"In such circumstances, South Africa has the undoubted right to suspend its compliance with its obligations," Botha's letter added.

Fighting broke out Saturday, the day the United Nations began supervising a yearlong independence plan for the territory that South Africa has controlled for 74 years.



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