

*movement*  
**STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD —

Singing and dancing to the end, 294 persons were arrested at Stanford Monday and Tuesday, May 9-10, during a 16 hour sit-in at the Old Union protesting U.S. investments in South Africa.

The arrest total was the highest in campus history.

One Molotov cocktail was thrown near a sheriff's bus, but otherwise the protest was basically nonviolent. Strongly reminiscent of the civil rights movement in the early 1960s, it was highly organized and constantly self-monitored.

The demonstrators, mainly Stanford students, were charged with trespassing, failure to disperse, and similar misdemeanors. Nearly 60 signed citations and were released. Many refused to signed the citations and were taken to the Elmwood jail farm in Milpitas, then released on their own recognizance. A handful returned to the Old Union, gaining entry through upstairs windows, and were rearrested.

A team of 20 campus police, 16 Santa Clara County sheriff's deputies, and 10 jailers handled the building security, arrests, and booking. The demonstrators were arrested in groups of four, starting at 6:45 p.m. and ending at 4 a.m. Overtime costs alone may exceed \$12,000, a preliminary estimate indicated.

Throughout the night most sat on the floor of the Old Union lobby, singing, hugging, occasionally getting up for a dance, and patiently waiting their turn to be arrested. Half the original crowd of 500 outside stayed with them to the end, cheering each group before it boarded the sheriff's shuttle.

Campus Police Chief Marvin Herrington described the tone of the protest as "very peaceful." While there were "isolated instances of vandalism," he added, "for the number of people and spectators there was very little property damage."

Noting the willingness of the demonstrators to accept arrest without complaint, he said this was the first time he'd seen true civil disobedience since the early 1960s. In the past, several Stanford demonstrations which began in a relatively peaceful manner degenerated over time.

Kim McCall, one of seven protesters who went to the Board of Trustees office in San Francisco Monday, was invited to discuss the demonstrators' views with the Trustee Committee on Investments. Where the protest sought Stanford backing for a stockholder proposal that Ford Motor Company close its operations in South Africa, the Committee reaffirmed the trustee's previous position of abstaining on this issue.

But it agreed to publication of letters sent by Board President Peter Bing to seven firms and the companies' replies in *The Stanford Daily*, an independent newspaper.

The Investment Committee also agreed to the protesters' call for a cost-benefit study on divestment of stocks of firms in South Africa, setting a target date of October for its completion.

The Committee also agreed that three trustees, including University President Richard W. Lyman, would meet with a small group from the Stanford Committee for a Responsible Investment Policy in the next few weeks. SCRIP formulated the basic demands backed by the protest.

Whether the Commission on Investment Responsibility, a student-faculty-alumni advisory group to the vice-president for business and finance, would be reviewed or modified remained somewhat unclear.

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Trustee President Bing, meeting informally outside the Old Union with a small crowd of protesters, said there was "no disagreement about (opposing) apartheid" but differences remained about how this could be done most effectively.

Questioned about possible amnesty for the protesters, he noted that the credibility of civil disobedience rested in part on the willingness of its followers to accept the consequences of their action.

Before moving from White Plaza into the Old Union during the lunch hour, speakers invoked the memory of Ghandi and Martin Luther King on an audience of 700. During the afternoon discussion of tactics to follow after 5 p.m., the normal closing time for most campus buildings, one speaker mentioned that 60 persons had agreed last week to sit in and face arrest. Support for this view mushroomed rapidly.

Before police barred further entry to the building, a crowd of more than 200 said they would stay. Several protest leaders then met briefly with Herrington. "We're not here to resist officers making arrests," Chris Coleman declared. When the arrests began, only a few decided to go limp, offering no other resistance.

In a brief appearance before the protest group, former Student Body President David Harris said: "The University needs to be taught that it can give its money some morals."

As the final debate on tactics drew to a close, one young voice boomed out: "How do I get home from jail?" After the final deadline passed, the crowd settled down with several choruses of "We shall overcome" and other songs of the early '60s movements as the long count of arrests began.

The previous high of 205 came in 1972 during a quick police sweep near the intersection of El Camino and Galvez, following a roving series of incidents. Many innocent bystanders were caught in the sweep.

Those arrested Monday and Tuesday included two members of the newly elected Associated Students Council of Presidents, Glenn Jordan and Anne Heckels, together with at least one *Stanford Daily* reporter who returned in time to write an account of the demonstrators' mood and the legal process.

Shortly after 2 a.m., as the protesters continued their song while a large dog lay fast asleep, one policeman said smilingly, "This crowd just won't go down." Another laughingly suggested that those singing off key be sent to "The Gong Show."

As the last bus pulled out of the Stanford Police Station, the protesters chorused "Thank you, officers. . . call in sick today."

Another demonstration has been planned for noon Tuesday in White Plaza.