

## Students win battle on stocks

By ALAN BREZNICK

Though visibly angered by their methods, SUNY Binghamton President Clifford Clark told a group of chanting, sign-carrying students yesterday that he would join them in their fight to get the State University system to divest all its stock in corporations that do business in South Africa.

Confronted in the SUNY Administration Building lobby by more than 70 protesters led by the school's Committee on South Africa in a well-orchestrated demonstration, Clark said he now agreed with the students' position and would deliver a letter showing his support to next Tuesday's meeting of the SUNY Board of Trustees.

Like similar student groups at other universities around the country, the SUNY Binghamton protesters have been demanding that the SUNY system immediately give up its investments in United States businesses that do business or have investments in white-minority-ruled South Africa.

The protesters claim that such investments help prop up the present South African government and add fuel to its apartheid policies, which have been condemned for denying all political rights to that nation's majority black population.

Bowing to similar pressures last month, Columbia University sold \$2.7 million worth of stock it had held in three bank corporations that have dealings with South Africa's apartheid regime, joining at least 10 other universities and colleges around the nation that have done the same.

About 100 minority and white students at Amherst College in Massachusetts conducted a sit-in yesterday at the office of the dean of students to try to get that school to divest all its holdings in corporations that do business in South Africa.

The SUNY Binghamton protesters, mostly white students, claim that the SUNY portfolio contains \$9 million to \$10 million worth of investments in South Africa. The students met with Clark two weeks ago but failed then to persuade him to support their cause.



PHOTO BY JOHN BOLAS JR.

Chanting and carrying signs, student protesters march at SUNY Binghamton yesterday. Sign in back reads 'Abajo el racismo en SUNY' — Spanish for 'Down with racism in SUNY.'

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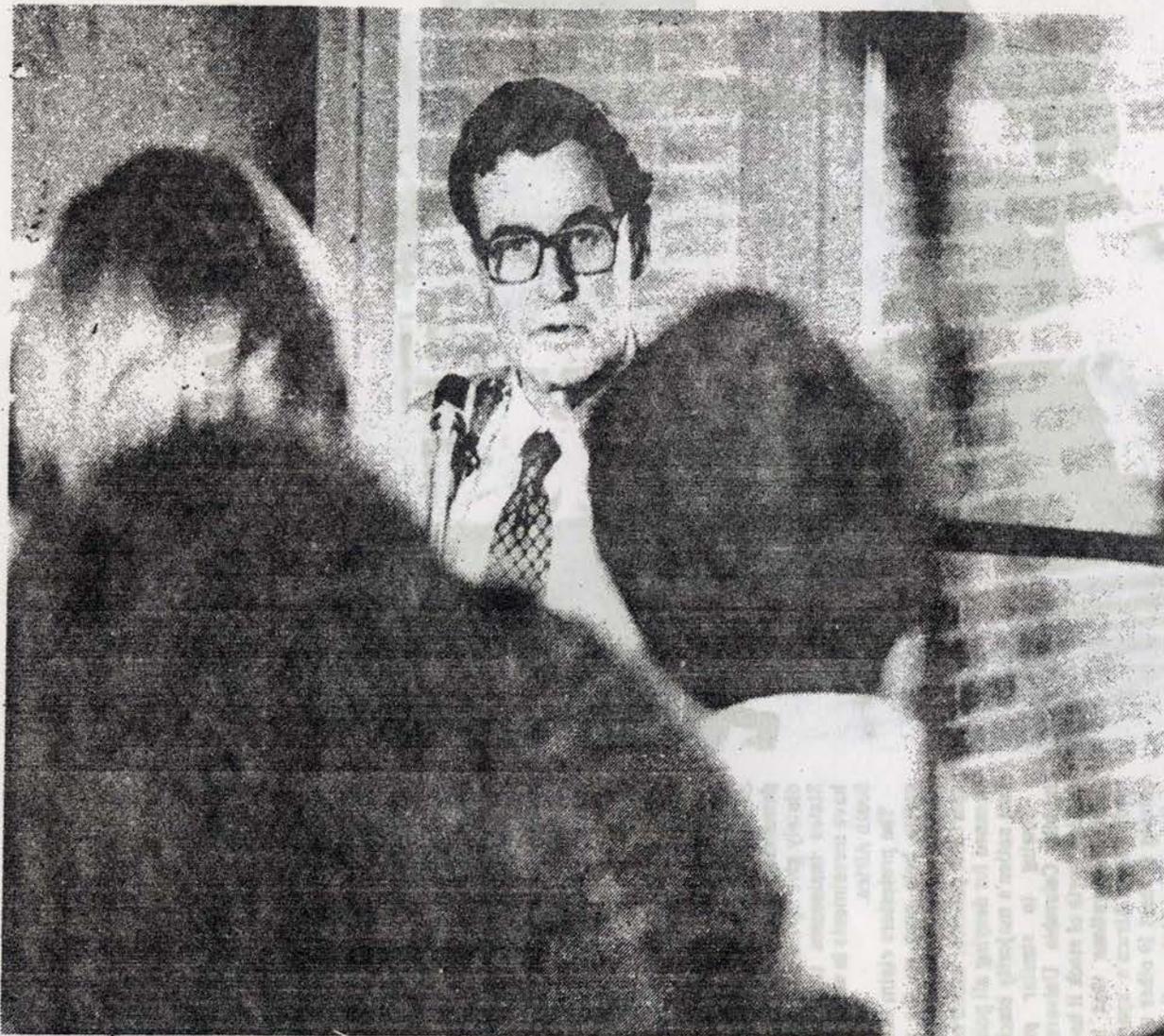


PHOTO BY JOHN BOLAS JR.

SUNY Binghamton President Clifford Clark confronts student protesters at yesterday's demonstration.

## Stocks--

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Clark told the demonstrators yesterday that he had been convinced in the last two weeks, partly by their arguments, that the SUNY Board of Trustees should totally divest itself of the stocks "as expeditiously as possible," which he estimated would take about three years.

But despite student leaders' claims of "total victory," Clark refused to sign the protesters' petitions calling for total SUNY divestment, and he lectured the students on the "do's and don't's" of effective political action.

As some demonstrators hissed and argued with him, Clark told the crowd to "clean up your act" and "straighten out your facts" and suggested that such things as letter-writing campaigns to their congressmen might help them achieve their goals quicker than petition drives will.

A bit angered, the usually mild-mannered university president also told the students that they would improve their credibility if they showed the same degree of attention to their "immediate environment" and problems directly affecting the university.

And though he congratulated the demonstrators twice for their persistence and aims, Clark called on them to "appreciate that each person will approach the problem in a different way" and that "only in the most authoritarian of societies is there only one approach."

"You pursue your way and I'll pursue mine," he said.

Earlier, one student leader had termed SUNY divestment the first step to "massive divestment" by all U.S. companies of holdings they have in South Africa.

# Editorials

MONDAY, April 23, 1979

## SUNY, South Africa and stocks

Students at the State University of New York at Binghamton, like others in SUNY and indeed in universities all over the country, carried signs and chanted protests last week over university investments in business firms doing business in South Africa. The reason, of course, is the white South Africans' one-sided rule over the blacks who outnumber them four-to-one.

Clifford Clark, president of SUNY Binghamton, met his campus protesters Friday and said he agreed that SUNY should divest itself of its \$10 million or so of stock in concerns dealing with South Africa. This was a switch in his position from two weeks earlier, when he also had met with the protesters, headed by a Committee on South Africa. Clark said their arguments helped change his mind.

But while the president said he would send a letter of support to tomorrow's meeting of the SUNY Board of Trustees, he refused to sign a petition calling for total SUNY divestiture of such stocks. He also lectured the students on the manners of effective political action.

This is not unreasonable. Protest marches are a sign of disorder on a campus, and a university administra-

tor cannot relish even the appearance of being forced to change his mind.

And yet protest marches are also a sign of vitality, both in the head and in the heart. And a university administrator, perhaps more than any other kind of executive, should appreciate and cherish this.

For those young people marching, and they were predominantly white at the Harpur campus, winning Clark's support was only part of their project.

It was important to them to be seen demonstrating, flourishing their message. They contemplated the persisting structured injustice in South Africa, and felt they had to do something about it.

The fact that they felt such feelings, and acted upon them, is to us fully as important as Clark's acquiescence in an action which, if it won't much hurt, at least won't help the institutionalized racists in Cape Town.

# Clark takes stand on South African divestiture

by Stuart Goldstein

"Come on, Clark, Take a stand! Companies out is our demand!" chanted approximately 250 students protesting for divestment in South Africa.

When confronted by SUNY students during a demonstration on April 6th, President Clifford D. Clark, refused to sign a petition being circulated by the Committee on Southern Africa for divestment in South Africa.

The petition called for the SUNY Board of Trustees to "immediately divest itself of all SUNY stocks and bonds in corporations doing business in South Africa and immediately withdraw all SUNY funds from banks making loans to S.A. as a step towards ending U.S. support for apartheid."

Again, on Friday April 20th, the Committee on South Africa gathered in front of the Union at 12:00 noon to ask President Clark to reconsider and sign the petition.

The Committee accompanied by a large group of followers marched to the Administration building to meet with Clark. Clark read from a prepared speech. He said, "I have become convinced that divestiture is a legitimate and possibly an effective means of attacking racial repression in South Africa."

He continued, "I no longer believe the SUNY Board of Trustees should consider adherence to the Sullivan Principles sufficient reason for continuing to invest in a corporation doing business in South Africa."

President Clark seemed to stray from the issue of divestment and began to discuss CIA involvement at SUNY. Clark was heckled by the audience several times during his speech.

Despite his refusal to sign the petition, Clark said, "I remain convinced however that divestiture is not the most effective way for Americans to seek the elimination of the racist government of South Africa. I would prefer that we exert direct political pressure to secure a world-wide boycott of South Africa under United Nations auspices with the full support of the U.S. government."

Clark promised to recommend to the Board of Trustees that they "divest their portfolio of

securities of all corporations who invest in South African operations."

SUNY's investment in corporations dealing with South Africa is now being uncovered. The SUNY investment portfolio is valued at \$56 million of which at least \$9 million is invested in corporations that do business in South Africa.

The protesters said that such investments perpetuate the South African government and its apartheid policies.



John Urusky

Students protest against SUNY's investments in South Africa.