

THE COALITION for a FREE SOUTHERN AFRICA, the BLACK STUDENTS' ORGANIZATION, COLUMBIA UNIV. STUDENTS in SOLIDARITY with NICARAGUA, DISTRICT 65 of the UNITED AUTO WORKERS, the GRADUATE STUDENTS ORGANIZATION, and the MORNINGSIDE TENANTS FEDERATION will bring you a

SHANTYTOWN at COLUMBIA:

BUILDING STRUCTURES for a NON-RACIAL SOCIETY IN SOUTH AFRICA, IN OUR COMMUNITIES & AT COLUMBIA

Promoting or tolerating racism: COLUMBIA's ROLE

RACISM AT THE UNIVERSITY

For all of its talking about Affirmative Action in the 1970's, today Columbia has little to show regarding programs of concern to black and other minority students:

- Despite its billion dollar endowment, Columbia recently deemed it necessary to arbitrarily and abruptly shut down the Graduate School of Architecture & Planning's Office of Minority Affairs.
- The Teachers College Office of Minority Affairs may face a similar fate.
- Despite the university's abundant resources, at Columbia there is no black studies program, let alone department.
- Inadequate amounts of money are allocated for the recruitment and retention of black students (this despite the fact that Columbia is located in Harlem Heights in New York, a neighborhood and a city full of academically talented black youth).
- Columbia is absolutely uncommitted to bolstering the dismal number of black faculty—who number only five out of a few thousand faculty members.
- That Columbia has few black students, almost no black faculty and no Third World Cultural Center, speaks clearly to the black student of how his or her existence is consistently denied. Indeed, Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man has materialized at the university.

RACISM IN ITS INVESTMENT POLICY

Despite a unanimous vote in the University Senate three years ago for full and immediate divestment, a widely supported public campaign climaxed by the longest non-violent civil disobedience action in American History last spring, and the full-divestment resolution of the University Trustees last October, President Sovern has admitted that the Columbia still holds over \$20 million in stocks in companies bolstering the racist apartheid regime in South Africa.

- Despite public promises, the administration has not released an accounting of Columbia's present holdings in South Africa related stock. What are the Trustees trying to hide?
- By what criteria is Columbia including or discluding corporations in determining what is or is not a South African related stock?
- In the past Columbia has said they will not consider divesting those South African-tainted investments given by alumni. Columbia could use such a restriction to encourage alumni to donate stock in U.S. multinationals based in South Africa—especially those stocks tied to the Trustees' own personal interests.
- It is known that close to 75% of the University Trustees have extensive connections to the very same corporations that should be targeted for divestment.
- The university has attempted to justify continuing certain investments because according to them some stock has become too lucrative to sell. Columbia has also decided to hold onto stocks in corporations that they deem will be leaving South Africa "soon."
- Over the past year, Columbia's South African related investments have decreased by only a net total of \$4 million over the past year while institutions like the United Nations have divested close to one billion dollars in less than four months.

HISTORICAL EFFECTS OF RACISM IN HARLEM/MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS

In the last three decades, Columbia has presided over the removal of 90% of the minority population from Morningside/Harlem Heights, the area bounded by Morningside Park, 125th Street, Riverside Park and 110th Street.

- This massive displacement has been accomplished by demolitions, evictions, and, as hispanics and black families leave, a policy of renting only to Columbia affiliates, a population that largely excludes minorities.
- Due to Columbia policy Harlem/Morningside Heights lost 5,000 housing units from 1960 to 1980 and 15,000 people were displaced. Most were elderly, poor, women and minorities.
- What exists now is the University waging class warfare to harass and displace the few blacks and hispanics that remain, women, and people unable to launch political or legal campaigns to defend their homes.

RACISM IN THE WORKPLACE

On October 17, 1985, the Columbia Local of District 65 United Auto Workers went on strike for a fair contract. Despite months of "good faith" bargaining, the university has still not offered an acceptable contract. Why?

- The bargaining unit, made up of clerical and support staff is 75% female and 49% black. Not surprisingly, this work force constitutes the lowest paid workers at the university.
- Even within the bargaining unit, minority workers are disproportionately concentrated at the bottom of the pay scale. Thus grade 3, is 80% minority, while grade 9 is only 20% minority.
- Those Columbia employees in the very highest grades of employment, i.e. mostly white-male employees, are eligible for university housing while other employees are not.
- Although minority clerical workers average six months longer length of service, they earn \$1,000 per year less than their non-minority colleagues.
- Blacks, Hispanics and women are employed mostly as low-level clerical workers, cafeteria staff, low-level maintenance workers, building custodians—generally speaking, in jobs in which they are in some way subservient to others.