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Scarlet and Black

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Trustees vote for South African divestment

by Kim Eckart

The Grinnell College Board of Trustees approved a resolution to divest college securities in companies conducting business with South Africa. The resolution, based on recommendations from Students to End Apartheid, is an amendment to a 1985 decision and will make the trustee-controlled portion of college investments South Africa-free.

The trustees also approved a proposal to establish six additional full scholarships for black South African students, three attending Grinnell College, and three attending selected South African universities through the Open Society Scholars Fund.

The trustees, in accordance with investment counselors, will divest the one-third of the college portfolio controlled by the Board. The other two-thirds of the investments are managed by the Investor Responsibility Research Center, Inc. This divestment process will occur over a five year period.

According to SEA President Shannon Kelly, students have been pushing for similar divestment resolutions for 19 years. In November 1982, SEA urged trustees to call upon corporations in which the college held shares to sign the Sullivan Accords and cease activities which support Apartheid. The 1985 resolution involved the

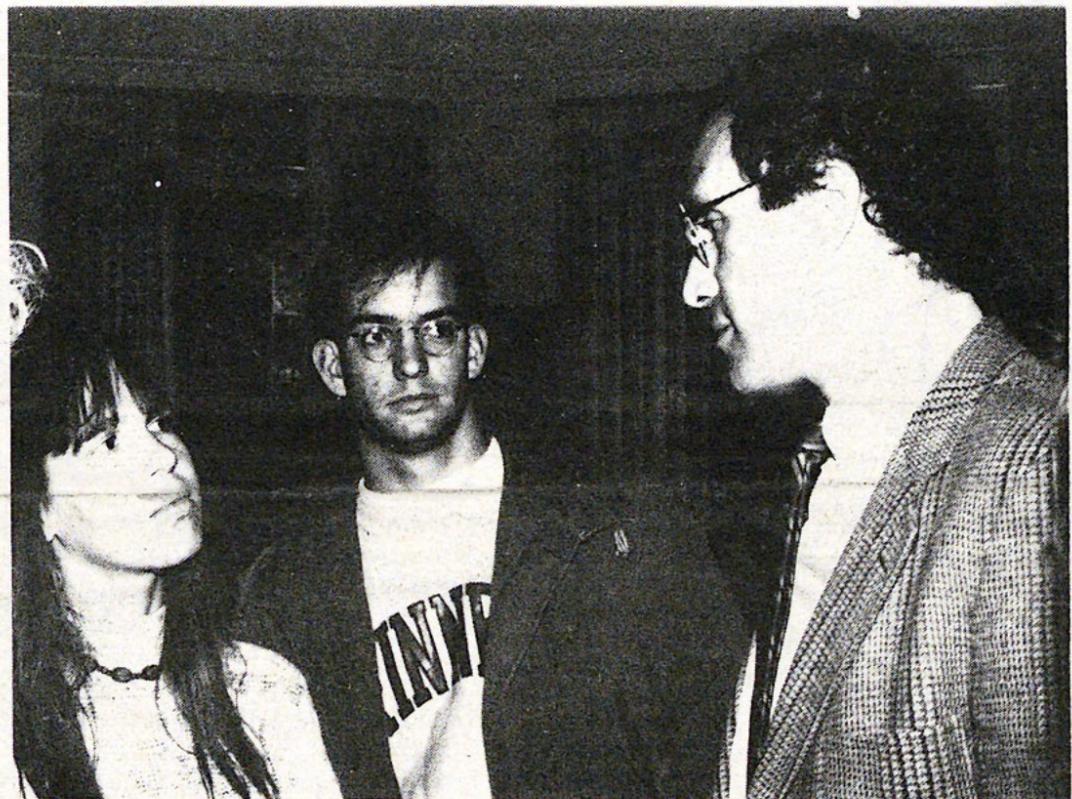
trustees' decision not to invest in corporations which did not comply with the Sullivan Accords or provided the South African government with any support.

Friday's SEA rally emphasized the symbolic and moral reasons for Grinnell College divestment. According to Carol Pilgrim, this type of divestment is unusual; it is one of few resolutions addressing the issue of comprehensive divestment. Traditional divestment involves the party's selling of its stock in a South Africa-related company, but often the company will set up franchises in South Africa, maintaining its business dealings under another name.

One student at the rally argued that America's investment is against American values and the values of Grinnell College. "We show through divestment that we are not living off the oppression of other people," said the student, a member of SEA.

There is a trend among other nations to divest, and since this trend has begun, no new companies have invested in South Africa, Pilgrim said.

President George Drake agrees with the trustees' decision. "Along with our successful program to provide scholarships for black South African students, this action with respect to estab-



Carol Pilgrim and Eric Sandine (middle) discuss the future of Grinnell's investment portfolio with trustee Andrew Loewi '71.

lishing a South Africa-free policy for trustee-controlled investments expresses our profound disagreement with the Apartheid policy of the government of South Africa," Drake said.

Although SEA recognizes that Grinnell College's divestment will not end Apartheid, said Kelly, they will continue to strive for further actions on the part of the college. "We will

continue to pursue the other two-thirds.

We still have a lot to do, but this is a big step. We're happy with the trustees' decision," Kelly said.

Committee plans Spring construction

Student center to break ground

by Leslie Alston

Groundbreaking for the Harris Center, a student social building, will be next spring, possibly as early as April. If construction starts on schedule, the building should be ready for student use by the spring of 1990.

Building plans are under review by the Harris Center Committee. The committee, chaired by Waldo Walker, is composed of administrators and students. Working with an architect, the committee is now making decisions about building detail.

The general structure of the center has already been established. The Harris center will be approximately 20,000 square feet and will house a cinema, a large social space for concerts, dances, and parties, and a permanent concession space. A concession space will allow party hosts to have an area for serving refreshments. Thus, students will no longer have to transport the portable soda fountains to and from the parties. The concession space will not be similar to the Forum Grill; it will simply be space avail-

able to dormitories or campus groups hosting parties. A student lounge and lobby will also be in the building.

The Harris Center will be located behind Cowles and will take up space in the Cowles Parking lot and part of the lawn area next to the PEC and soccer field. To account for the lost parking space near Cowles, a parking lot may be built on the east side of the tennis courts. Landscaping and campus appearance will be considered during the

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Administration prepares for ARH renovation

by Caryn Platt

Next year's renovation of ARH is raising questions about space for classrooms and faculty offices. Administrators propose using dorm lounges, the Forum, Goodnow Hall, and several off-campus houses to compensate for the lost space.

When it was originally built, ARH was designed for strictly lecture classes. However, Grinnell classes are changing and emphasizing student participa-

tion. Because of this, ARH no longer matches the design of other, newer buildings on campus. The Grinnell Administration maintains that it is doing its best to bring the buildings on campus up to the level of buildings at other higher education institutions.

Waldo Walker, executive vice-president of the college and head of the ARH Renovation

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