

# COLUMBIA DAILY SPECTATOR

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FIFTEEN CENTS



SPECTATOR/WILLIAM TEICHNER

MOOT COURT: The University began disciplinary hearings last Friday against blockaders of Hamilton Hall. The first hearing, shown here, was held in the Law School.

## CFSA plans 2nd ceremony

By LESLIE HARRIS

There will be more than one graduation ceremony today says the Coalition for a Free South Africa, which is organizing an alternative for students to express their support for divestment at Columbia.

The Coalition has said the ceremony, which will include prayers and the awarding of an honorary degree, is not meant to be disruptive. The student group has sent out a letter to faculty and students, among others, asking them to participate in the alternative ceremony.

The event is part of a series of demonstrations at Columbia for divestment over the past couple of months, the most dramatic of which was the blockade of Hamilton Hall, Columbia College's main administration and classroom building. But some former blockaders and pro-divestment seniors have expressed reservations about leaving their graduation, saying they only have one opportunity to graduate.

Laird Townsend, a Coalition steering committee member and graduating senior, said "The alternative ceremony is an expression of dissatisfaction with the University's investments policy not an act of heresy against the University itself. I feel strongly about the ideals I learned about at Columbia and the ceremony is an expression of my hope that Columbia is going to live up to its ideals."

Although the blockade ended on April 21, actions and discussions around divestment have continued, including a meeting between the Board of Trustees and the Coalition steering committee on May 6 where the trustees set up a task force to study investments in companies doing business in South Africa.

During the trustee's monthly meeting last week, about two hundred demonstrators gathered on the steps of Low Library, the

See COMMENCE, 5▶

## Some of CU's charges dismissed at hearings

By ANNE KORNHAUSER

In the second round of disciplinary hearings for 67 students identified as having participated in the three-week blockade of Hamilton Hall, the Hearing Officer dismissed Monday a number of University charges against the demonstrators, but refused to grant a motion by the students' lawyers to drop the case completely.

Although three charges were dropped, the Hearing Officer, adjunct professor of law Lewis Kaden, did not dismiss the heart of the University's case, which alleges these students broke rules prohibiting "unimpeded use of a University facility, thus substantially disrupting a University function."

After hearing the University's testimony, Kaden ruled that there was insufficient evidence to show that the blockade produced noise "which substantially hinders others in their normal academic activities" thereby violating University rules.

He also dismissed the charge that the blockade "disrupts a University function or renders its continuation impossible," another rule invoked by the University.

If found to be in violation of the rules, the students could face expulsion, suspension, probation or censure. The rules themselves are also on trial at these hearings as their latest version, as applied to demonstrations, has not yet been used.

Despite emotional appeals by counsel to the students, Kaden refused to make a ruling on their motion to dismiss the case "in the interests of justice." In addition, William Kunstler, an internationally-known civil rights lawyer who came Friday to plead the students' case, asked Kaden to dismiss on the basis that the University was conducting the hearings out of "vindictive

See HEARING, 14▶

## Ad hoc trustees group will study divestment's impact

By ALISON CRAIGLOW

At its most recent meeting, the Board of Trustees decided unanimously to create a special committee to study the economic consequences of divesting Columbia's holdings from companies doing business in South Africa.

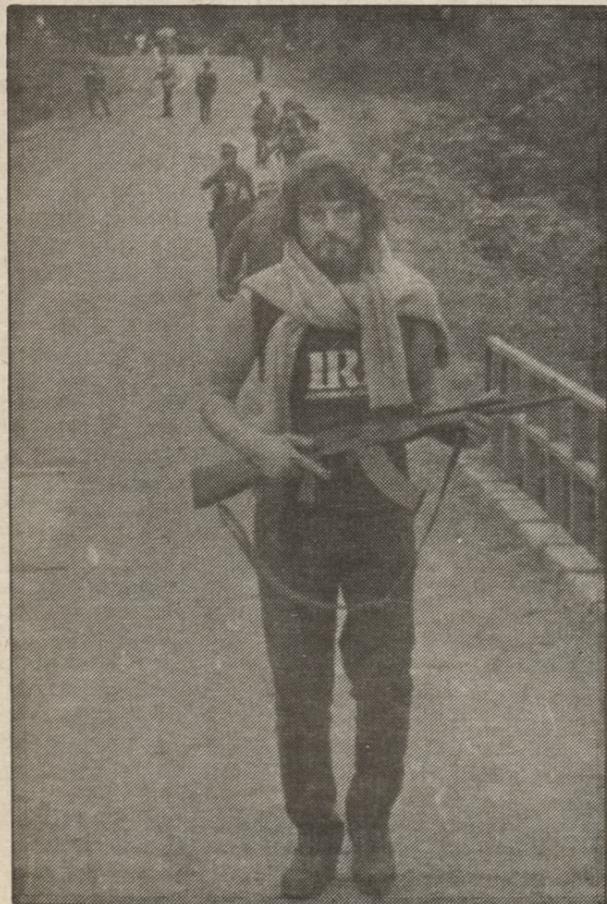
The committee will be comprised of members of the Trustees' Ad Hoc Committee on Investments, three full professors, one assistant professor, and one student, Lori Miller, a university senator from the Business School. At a conference with the Coalition for a Free South Africa's Steering Committee after their recently scheduled meeting, the trustees offered a seat on the ad-hoc committee to the pro-divestment senator. "The mission of the committee is to

examining what the economic consequences would be to the University of partial divestment, total divestment, or no divestment," said Charles Luce, chair of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Meanwhile, the Coalition is setting up its own task force "to come up with a plan as to how Columbia could go about divesting from its South Africa-related stocks and as to how it could reinvest the money" without jeopardizing its financial situation, according to Tony Glover, Coalition steering committee member.

Their task force will include two students, two faculty members, two campus religious leaders, six members of the Board of

See TRUSTEE, 8▶



Courtesy Jon Surgal

LIFE DURING WARTIME: College Columbia senior Jon Surgal carries his AK-47 in the Jinotega province of Nicaragua, near the Honduras border.

## Trouble-maker finally gets his CC sheepskin

By TED KENNEY

Jon Surgal has it on good authority that one day several weeks ago, as he was manning the blockade outside Hamilton Hall, one Columbia College dean inside the building said to another, "I see Surgal is out there having the time of his life. He probably thinks he's having an acid flashback."

Whether drugs have played a role or not, at commencement today Surgal is likely to flash back on a number of vivid memories of Columbia and the things he's done in his college years. He's had enough of them—at 36, Surgal is the oldest senior in Columbia College. He's been a student here on and off since 1966. And, once again, he's gotten in trouble with the administration for carrying the revolution onto campus and setting it down in front of Hamilton Hall.

"Curiously enough—I've made a study of this—there have been four takeovers on the Columbia campus, four political actions of massive scope in 1968, 1969, 1972, and 1985, and I have been a college student during each of those years," he said.

As a sophomore during the 1969 uprisings, Surgal participated in the campus actions but was not part of the force that actually occupied the buildings. He also was involved in the abortive 1969 uprising, but left on a voluntary withdrawal at the end of that year to pursue interests in acting and writing. His play *A Good Day For Pigs* was produced at the National Playwright's Conference. He acted in a couple of films and served as art director for the Theater of the Rocks in Central Park. And, feeling like he'd never fully resolved his relationship with Columbia, Surgal returned to the University just in time for the uprising in the spring of 1972.

See SURGAL, 8▶

## Poll shows 46% pro-divest, 13% at sit-in

By MICHAEL GAT

A poll conducted during the week of April 15 shows that less than half of the student body supports divestment, and that the major effect of the Hamilton Hall blockade was to consolidate people's opinions and force them to take a stand on the issue.

The results of the poll, which was conducted by students in Professor Alan Barton's society and politics class, show that during the first week of the blockade, 46 percent of the student sample supported divestment by the University, 32 percent did not support divestment, and 22 percent were undecided on the issue.

The poll also indicates that a small percentage of the student body was active in the blockade itself. 45 percent said they "stopped by out of curiosity" and 21 percent avoided the blockade entirely. Only 13 percent claimed to have spent at least one night on the steps, and the same percentage claimed to have joined during the day. Eight percent said they participated only in rallies supporting the blockade.

According to responses to the questionnaires, during the first days of the blockade less than half of the student body was firm in their commitment to or against the blockade, with only 40 percent of the respondents saying it was either definitely justified or definitely unjustified. Of those, 18 percent favored the blockade, and 22 percent opposed it. All others said it was either probably justified (26 percent), probably unjustified (12 percent), or that they were undecided on the issue (22 percent).

The greatest effect of the blockade on opinion was to

See POLL, 15▶

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tiveness."

"To have these proceedings just before graduation after a demonstration that has fired up students across the country, I think is vindictive." Kunstler said he had just stepped off a plane from Arizona where he had participated in a landmark case dismissed by the judge for its vindictiveness. "If you're going to be what I think you ought to be, you will stand up and dismiss this case," Kunstler challenged Kaden, who again chose to delay the ruling.

The University's lawyer, Daniel Victor, finished presenting evidence Monday, but Kaden requested that the Rules Administrator Tuesday "recommend to me how we would go about showing individual participation of the 67." This comment evoked rage from the students and their lawyers, who screamed that the pro-divestment demonstrators would be back and that Kaden's ruling was unjustified. Kaden said the lawyers should reconsider their attitude and remember that they are members of the Bar Association.

Randolph Scott-McLaughlin earlier in Tuesday's proceeding had argued that "no individual culpability has been proven," adding that "these students are not being charged with conspiracy." The University's evidence did not mention any of the 67 students by name or attempt to prove their participation in the blockade.

At the conclusion of the University's case Monday, Gerard Lynch assistant law professor and counsel to the demonstrators, rebutted the prosecution, saying it had failed to prove the blocking of access to Hamilton because "anyone who wanted to get into [Hamilton] could get into

it" through underground tunnels.

However, in a series of court cases on the blockade, several judges had ordered the students to disperse because they were illegally blocking the entrance to Hamilton.

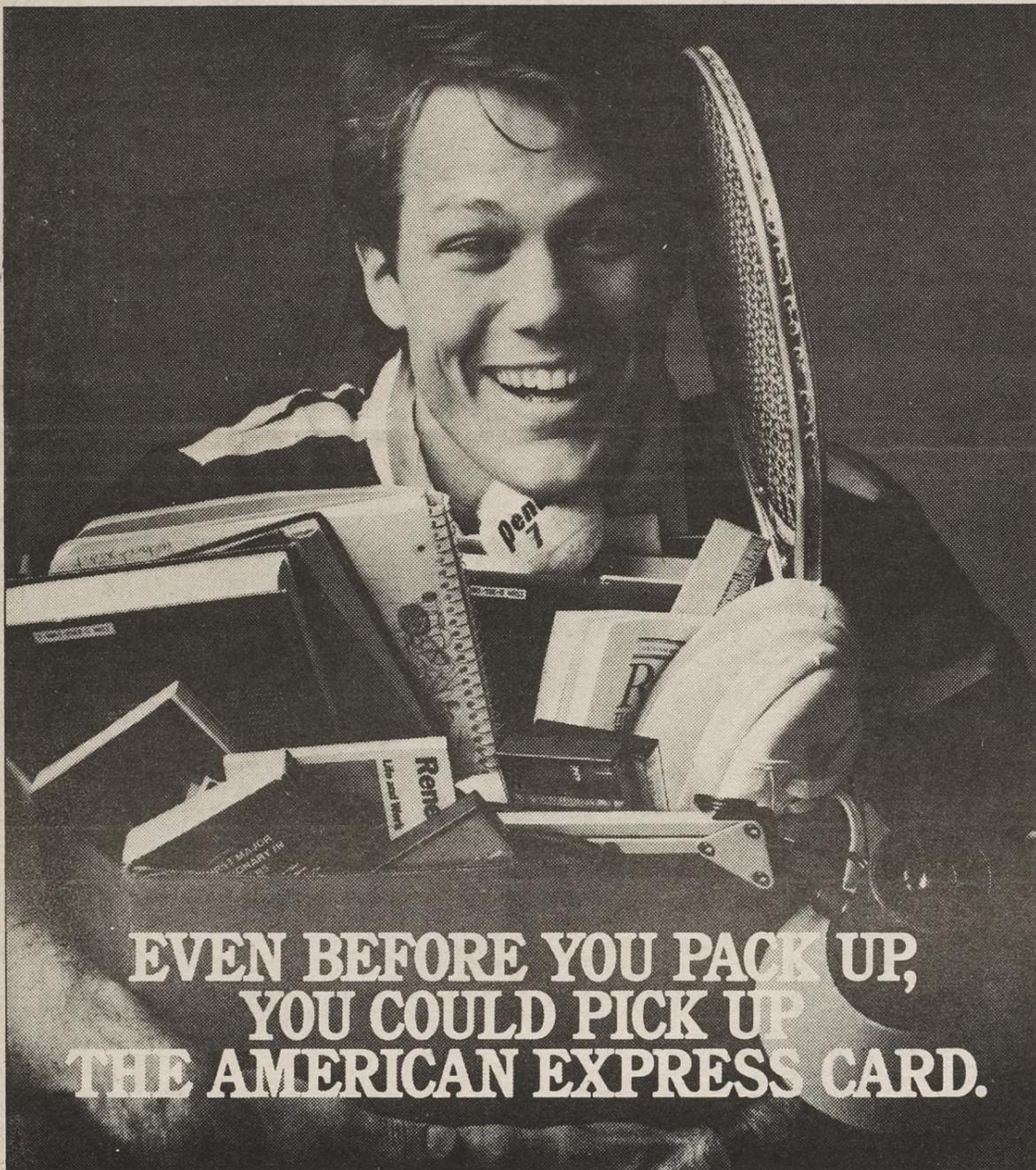
"Essentially there is no case," Lynch said. "Nobody testified there was any extraordinary noise levels." He added that a state supreme court justice had issued a ruling that allowed the students to continue their demonstration without blocking any building, which "could have permitted as much noise." Kaden later agreed that a case for excessive noise had not been made.

Another alleged violation that Kaden did not throw out revolves around the duration of the event, which cannot under the rules, continue "for more than a very short period of time" to impede access. Scott-McLaughlin argued, however, that by failing to call the police, University President Michael Sovern had himself helped to prolong the blockade.

By not calling the police or taking some other action, Sovern had also implied there was no substantial disruption to the University, McLaughlin argued. "By his very inactivity he [Sovern] has shown there was no substantial disruption to this University." McLaughlin filed a motion to drop the case on this basis, but Kaden did not rule on it.

For the University, Associate Dean of Columbia College Michael Rosenthal testified that the tunnels were uncomfortable. The main evidence for substantial disruption

See HEARING, 15▶



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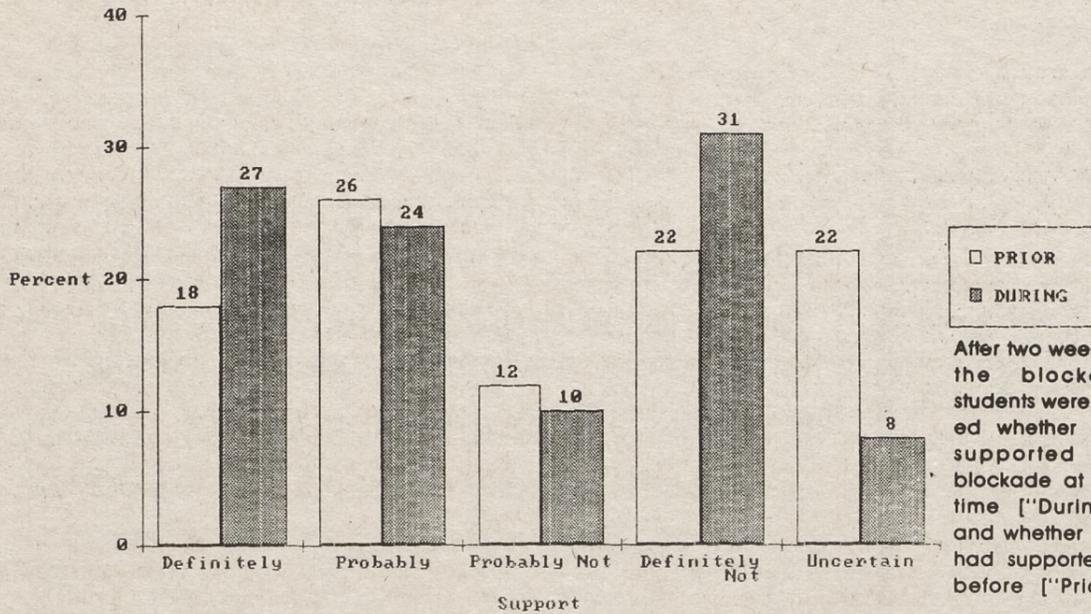
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SUPPORT FOR BLOCKADE



After two weeks of the blockade students were asked whether they supported the blockade at that time ["During"], and whether they had supported it before ["Prior"].

Poll

continued from page one

cause students to move away from the less definite categories to the stronger positions. During the second week of the blockade, when the survey questionnaires were distributed in dormitories, 28 percent of students said they thought the blockade was definitely justified, and 31 percent said it was definitely unjustified. The largest decrease was in the percent undecided, which was down to 7 percent at that time, compared to 22 percent when the blockade started. 24 percent said at the time that the blockade was probably justified, and 10 percent of respondents said it was probably unjustified.

Another question shows that prior to the blockade, even fewer students were at all active on the divestment issue. One percent said they had been very active and seven percent said they had been somewhat active. Other students said they were either supportive of the cause but inactive (49 percent) or completely inactive (43 percent) prior to the blockade.

Responses show that during the blockade, a majority of students opposed using police to remove the blockaders, with 65 percent opposing forcible removal, 21 percent supporting it, and 14 percent undecided.

But students were generally uncertain about whether the University acted in good faith after the blockade began, with 31 percent saying that Columbia had acted in good faith, 44 percent saying it had not, and 25 percent saying they were uncertain.

The poll also showed a split in opinion on President Sovern's role in handling the blockade, with 42 percent saying their opinions of Sovern had declined during the blockade, the same number saying it had remained the same, and 16 percent saying their opinion of Sovern had improved. There was no attempt to determine what students thought of Sovern, only the change in their opinions.

The poll was conducted by leaving questionnaires in mailboxes in River, Carman, East Campus, John Jay, Livingston, Hartley, Brooks, Hewitt and Reid Halls. Of 600 questionnaires distributed, 160 were returned and formed the basis for the poll data.

Past Spectator polls using similar sample sizes have generally had a 3 to 4 percent error factor.

The students who coordinated the poll were Peter Oxman, Henry Glasheen, Lisa Ryan and Beth Roberts. They were aided by Barton and Professor Eric Hirsch.

Hearing

continued from page fourteen

came from the registrar, Zeita-Marion Loble, who testified that on various days during the blockade, only a fraction of the regularly scheduled classes were held in Hamilton. She said that on April 9, for example, only 12 of the 32 classes scheduled at 11:20 were meeting.

But the students' pointed out that no professors had been called to testify that their teaching was disrupted and that most of them had moved their classes to alternative sites provided by the University "out of sympathy" or respect for students' sympathy to the blockade.

At both hearings, marked by long speeches by the students' lawyers and numerous objections to University evidence and lines of questioning, the rules themselves were called into question. Lynch said the rules were unconstitutionally "vague and overbroad" and that the University's case, which referred to the blockade's alleged disruption as "The Noise" had picked up on these generalizations.

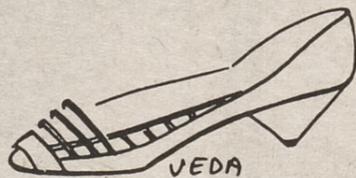
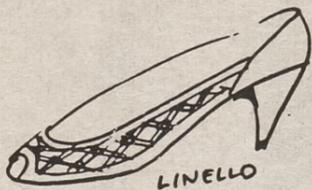
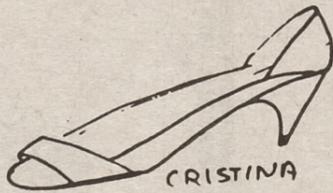
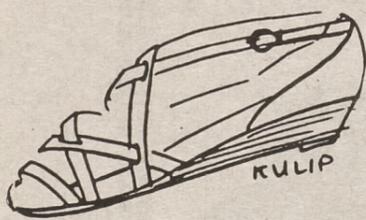
In addition to showing videotapes of the blockade, the University called to the stand, Director of Security Dominick Moro, Loble and Rosenthal. Rosenthal testified that he supports divestment but that he thinks the demonstrators should be put on probation.

To Aaron, Rob, Liz, Rich, Sharon, Naftali, Sam, Tom V., R.J., Ira, Michele, Michael, Charlie, Ian, Jeff, Steve N., Jeremy, Kathy, Julie and everybody else—We don't know how you did it, but congratulations anyway.

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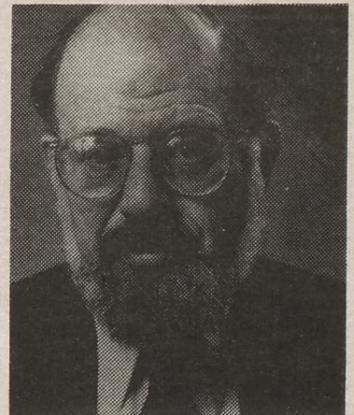
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