

“Universities might as well sell drugs”

South African investment criminal

MONTREAL (CUP) — Universities that invest in companies involved in South Africa should also consider investing in organized crime, says an anti-apartheid activist.

“The immorality would be the same,” said Dennis Brutus. “If they want profitable investments maybe they should be selling drugs, setting up bordellos or getting into pornographic films.”

Brutus, an exile professor at Northwestern University in Illinois and a prominent figure in the fight for the deracialization of sports in South Africa, made the statement in response to the argument, cited by many university trustees, that the sole obligation of a board of governors is to guarantee the best return rate on investments without considering political issues.

of a strike,” he said.

Brutus warned McGill students involved in the divestment campaign that administrations will often procrastinate: “At Northwestern we would meet the administration which would respond by saying they might form a committee on social responsibility and maybe even a joint committee with student and faculty representation. We soon found

struggle come sooner and be perhaps less messy in the long term. But there is no doubt we will win.

“And there is no doubt we will have to suffer as 1,000 students suffered in the ghettos in June 1976.”

Brutus called upon students to educate others as to the realities of apartheid.

“People watching the evening news seem so baffled, they cannot understand why people in Iran are so mad at the United States. But on the 31st of December 1978 there was Jimmy Carter in Tehran, toasting the Shah as the best friend of the Americans in the area,” said Brutus.

“People don’t want to be reminded of this complicity in

oppression. Very soon they’ll be watching South Africans rising up against apartheid and tossing it into the dustbin of history. Will they misunderstand that too? There’s another area to work in.”

During the question period Brutus was quizzed on the boycott of the Moscow Summer Olympics. He saw no analogy with the African nation’s boycott at Montreal in protest of New Zealand’s participation in sporting contests with racially-segregated South African teams. Brutus had helped organize the protest.

“We didn’t go into the Olympic arena asking for South Africa to end its policies in schools, in factories or in ghettos. We opposed them introducing their politics into the

sports field. The International Olympic Committee has no power over internal matters; it can only enforce its charter, which South Africa was violating by bringing its racist structures into the Games.”

“In 1976, the United States accused us of mixing sports and politics. They’re standing that axiom on its head. Now they are taking action not because of sports but because of Afghanistan,” said Brutus.

“I say you should not seek redress for political grievances in the Olympic Games. Any violations of the charter can be handled by the commission. I don’t think you should be bringing in issues over which the Olympic community has no control.”



Brutus was speaking at McGill University during the student-organized South Africa Solidarity Week.

Brutus said he could not comprehend how universities which pride themselves on being “bastions of morality whose goal is the search for truth and knowledge” could have financial holdings in corporations and lending institutions linked to the racist regime.

“It’s a society where blacks are voiceless and voteless, with no right to strike or to even talk

ourselves trapped in a vicious circle, running from one meeting to another.”

“You must expect these difficulties, especially if you see who runs universities,” said Brutus.

“What I ask of you is to help us remove this enormous octopus that strangles us and of which at least one tentacle comes from your country.

“You can help us make the



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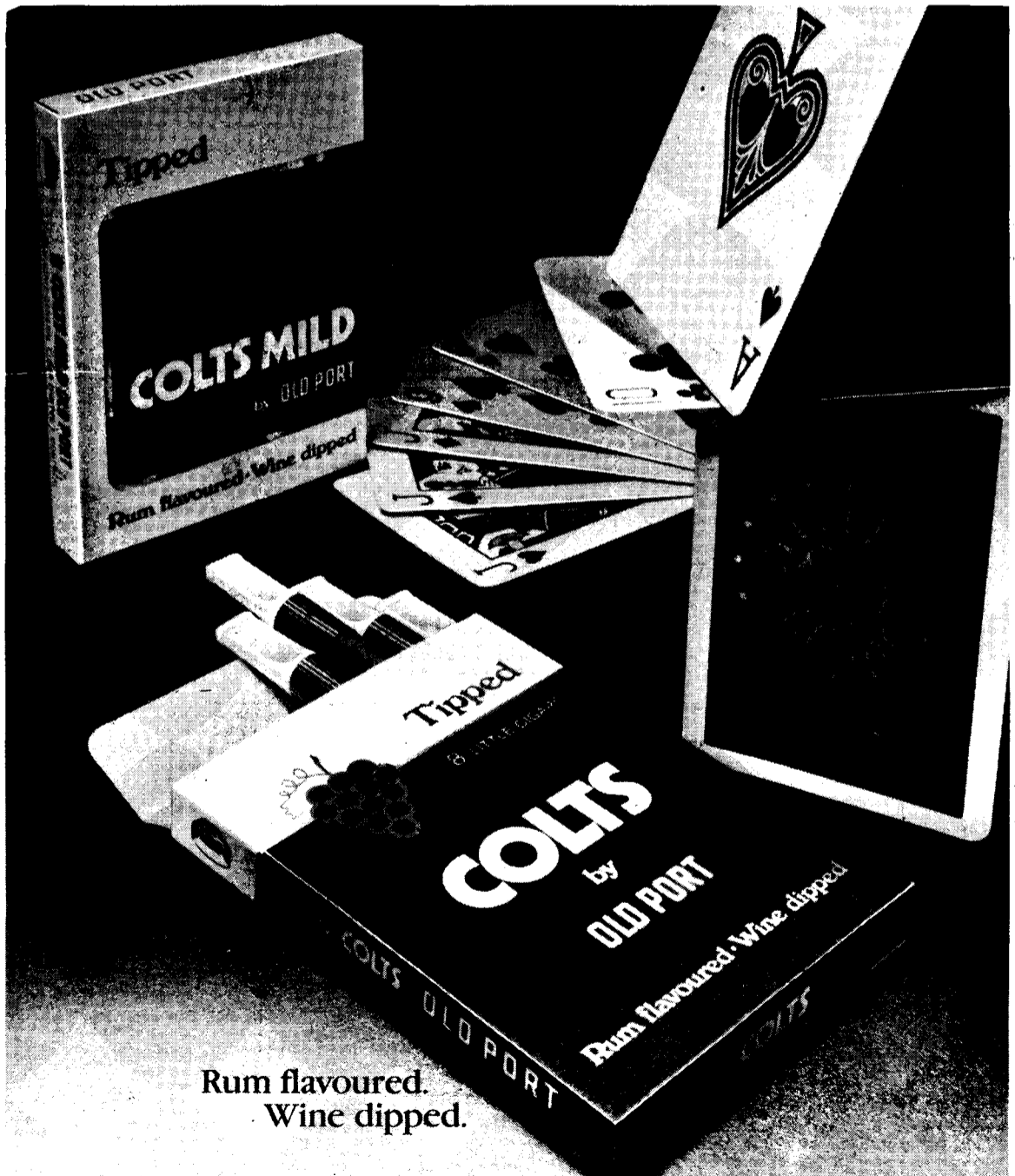
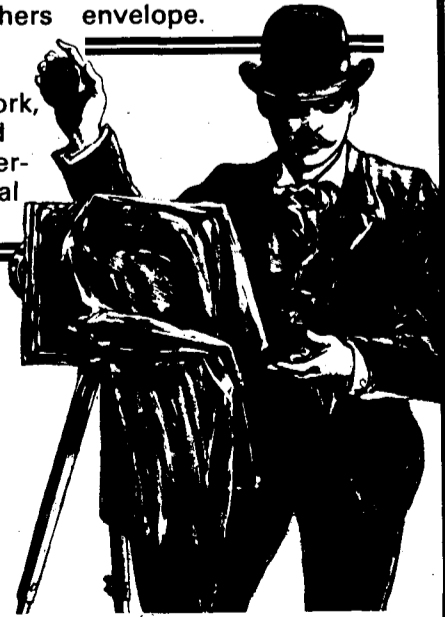
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