

Anti-apartheid protest halted

by Tom Baker

Anti-apartheid demonstrators at the Victoria Park cricket pitch were forcibly removed by Edmonton's finest on Sat. afternoon.

Forty police officers, complete with paddy wagons, were called in to arrest 61 protestors who were sitting on the field trying to stop a match between the Edmonton cricket team and the "Robbins 11" team from England.

The sit-in followed several hours of slogan chanting and singing. Slogans included, "Free South Africa," "Don't play with

racists," and "Out of the wicket, into the picket."

Saturday's action, sponsored by Free South Africa Committee (FSAC) was the culmination of a week's protests in Edmonton which centered on Canada's sporting, economic and political links with the Vorster government in South Africa. This government has recently come under heavy international criticism for its violent dealings with demonstrating black students.

The focus of Edmonton criticism and opposition was the visit of the "Derek Robbins 11" cricket team. The team is financed by an English millionaire

sports enthusiast, who lives part of the year in South Africa. Robbins' teams, mostly multi-racial, compete frequently in South Africa.

The arrested protestors were taken to the municipal jail and charged with "assault by trespass" and "obstruction of police officers in carrying out their duties." Each charge carries a maximum sentence of two years in jail or a \$500 fine. They were photographed by police photographers while being arrested and later had mugshots and fingerprints taken.

Over a period of 10 hours during the night all 61 arrested were released on bail. Although

the Crown prosecutor Ernie Reid, asked that bail be denied totally, the protestors were told to stay away from Victoria Park or pay a \$650 fine. FSAC supporters gathered at the courthouse during the night and held a 3 a.m. meeting to decide on future action.

Despite attempts by the police and courts to prevent a repetition at Saturday's cricket match, about 120 new people showed up to protest. A very spirited demonstration raised similar demands to the day before, but new signs read "Drop the charges and free the Edmonton 61." No occupation of the playing field took place and legal

aid offered advice to the Sunday demonstrators.

Monday morning, preliminary arraignment took place. While a group of picketers outside chartered "Soweto - Let them go," the judge remanded the accused one week until a trial date will be set. All those arrested pleaded guilty. The trial is not expected to take place before December.

FSAC will sponsor a public meeting Wed. at 7:30 p.m. in the lounge of Tory 13 to discuss the present legal situation of the accused. It is expected that a broad public defense campaign for the "Edmonton 61" will be launched.

One person's story

by Keith Miller

I arrived at the Victoria Park cricket grounds around 1:00 p.m. Sat. with intentions of both protesting apartheid, as represented by the Robbins 11 team, and reporting the demonstration. After doing my reporter bit, investigating both the positions of the cricket players and the protestors, I sat in on the mid-field lunch break of the protestors, where the decision was made to remain on the pitch, direct action to stop the game. At 3:00 p.m. we were asked to leave the field and were told by a police officer that, if we did not remove ourselves from the field, then we would face charges of disrupting public functions and trespassing.

Within the hour, forty or so police officers arrived and, two to a protestor, escorted us off the field into the paddy-wagons. While waiting to get in we had the opportunity to view police dogs - big police dogs - in the background, have our pictures taken by police photographers, and have most of our questions ignored regarding formal charges and personal rights. Presumably due to traffic conditions, we found ourselves jolted about the interior of the van as we ran red lights down Jasper Avenue with the help of flashers and sirens.

We arrived at jail at 4:00 p.m., were separated as to sex and directed into the "tank." Your local drunk tank comes off as three puke-green cement walls with a scratched-up plexiglass window at one end. There was wire grating over it on the other side, but the view was only a closed room. The fourth wall is metal. It makes the cell a cage. There is a drain in the middle of the floor. When we asked about toilet facilities we found out why the drain is there.

"We" were the first five, soon joined by seven other protestors in our 8' by 5' space. We were not cramped but we could no longer pace freely. Conditions prompted one of our number to comment, "Did you ever see the wolves at the Game Farm? That's what I feel like."

I have to admit I was surprised by the graffiti. Previous prisoners tended to inscribe their names and dates of imprisonment, rather than mere vulgarities. It only breaks the monotony of the ~~floor~~ with the blarney of cement.

Most of our light came from the cell block although there were fluorescent lights at either end of the tank. The ceiling was an empty darkness made impossible to reach into by mesh over iron-work.

Keith Miller, a Gateway photographer, was at Saturday afternoon's anti-apartheid demonstration in Victoria Park. When the Edmonton City Police began rounding up the protestors, Miller was among them and was carried away with the rest of the "Edmonton 61." Here, he describes his own feelings about becoming involved with the "Robbins 11" protest and subsequently spending the night in the Edmonton municipal jail for the conviction of his beliefs.

After an hour and a half we were all moved to another room. It was smaller and afforded no view whatsoever of what might be termed the "outside." We joined people here so we were even more crowded than before than before. Relief from these conditions took quite some time and we left one by one for search relative to the varying impetuses of the call of nature.

Search included losing all personal articles to the police except clothes. I had to take off my clothes or drop to the floor so that I would be unencumbered when I made my endeavor to touch my toes.

Preceding my discussion with counsel I was allowed to make the "phone call"! I would like to have seen counsel before the phone call as I still had no real information on formal charges and consequences. By the time I got around to telling my party the news I was cut-off by the police. Phoning privileges do not last forever.

The group joked inter-

mittently, and was able to revive spirits as individuals kept being brought into the closed environment. We even stood up and clapped for them.

One man, I presume he was a regular inmate was left out to clean-up. I could not help but notice that he carried out his task meticulously, cleaning all the metalwork of the tables as well as the eating and sitting surfaces. No one wants back in the cells.

Spirits are settling down some and most of the guys are settling down.

News of bail came around 10:00 and the block was full of chatter again. Bail release forms did not arrive until 12:00. Each previous action by the police had once meant to me the possibility of fairly immediate release. At that point that hope had dissipated substantially. The new chatter subsided quicker this time around as well.

I was processed at 4:15 and entered the hall of freedom at 4:30.

FEES DUE By September 30

The last day for payment of fees is September 30th. If a student is paying by instalments (terms), the amount of the first instalment is the First Term assessment and the last day for payment is September 30th; the amount of the second instalment is the Second Term assessment plus a \$5.00 instalment charge and the last day for payment is January 17th.

A penalty of \$15.00 will be charged on any payment made or postmarked after these dates. If payment has not been made by October 15 for First Term fees and by January 31st for Second Term fees, registration will be subject to cancellation and the student to exclusion from classes.

If fees are to be paid from some form of student assistance, please refer to Section F of the Registration Procedures booklet or the calendar entitled "University Regulations and Information for Students".

Students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research are reminded that their fees are to be paid by the date indicated on their fee assessment notice which is to be mailed to them.

Grievances

Grievances of the whole Edmonton incarceration system were issued by the "Edmonton 61" as well as their initial stand on apartheid.

-there were cases of women being intruded upon by male officers during the search and during toilet proceedings.

-no medical attention was made available for certain native women who were visibly quite ill.

-the majority of the women were denied phoning privileges.

-certain women had their bail question put as a threat if they became unco-operative verbally.

-women stayed in cells with two sets of metal bunk beds. They had one mattress per cell.

-no meals were served to the women.

The second item needing particular attention is the fact that police released, with the exception of one white, the non-white males last.

Other items of contention with the city are:

-harrassment of the non-whites with questions of their immigration status.

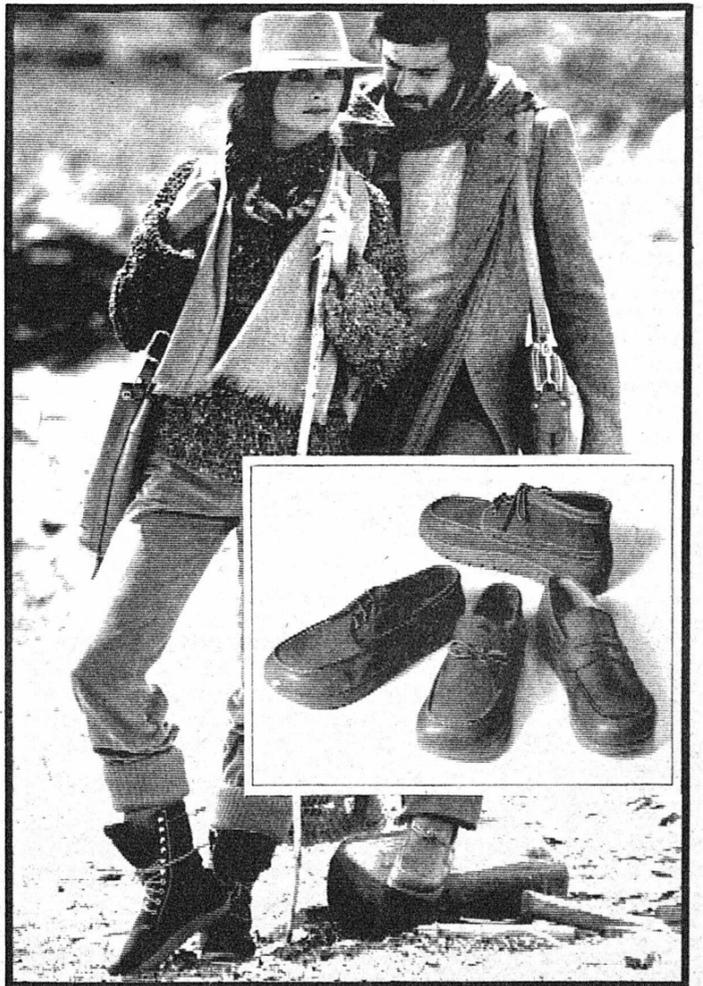
-police took frequent coffee breaks and a long lunch break during the processing while facetiously remarking that they were on double-time anyway.

-processing took over eight hours while arrest had taken only an hour or so by a well-prepared staff of forty to fifty police officers.

-verbal harrassment was frequent with one of the elderly protestors being asked how he would feel if his daughter was *expletive* by a nigger.

-police were seen having refreshments with the cricketers after the removal.

-placards were burned by the police after the removal of the protestors.



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