

# Police arrest 8 students as shanties fall

## Dickson: action ensures full access to Oval

By Thomas T. Huang  
Michael J. Garrison  
and Julian West

The MIT Campus Police, assisted by the Cambridge police, arrested eight members of the MIT Coalition Against Apartheid early Friday morning as the students resisted the demolition of their shantytown on the muddy Kresge Oval.

With crowbars and three dump-trucks, about 20 physical plant workers, under Institute orders, tore down Alexandra Township in the early morning light. The coalition had built the shantytown on March 2 to protest apartheid and MIT's investment policies in South Africa.

The students began to chant: "MIT, out of Alexandra."

When the students refused to leave the shantytown site, the police arrested them. The students include: Arnold Contreras '86; Alex B. Rosen '88; Kevin T. Christopher '88; Jonathan A. Garen '88; Seth D. Goldstein '86; Lawrence K. Kolodney G.; and Michael Levine '87. Stephen P. Fernandez '86 did not register as a student this term.

The police charged the students with "trespass after notice," according to Chief James Olivieri. Cambridge court arraigned them later that afternoon.

Senior Vice President William R. Dickson '56 oversaw the operation, while Lt. Anne P. Glavin and Lt. James F. Mahoney guided the Campus Police officers, who were approximately 12 strong.

Dickson issued this statement yesterday: "The MIT administration supports, without reservation, the right of the Coalition Against Apartheid to freely express its views.

"The Coalition Against Apartheid, however, has been the sole occupant for 12 days of one of the most heavily used public spaces on the MIT campus. MIT removed the shanties today, Friday, March 14, to ensure that other groups and individuals can also continue to have full access to Kresge plaza."

At approximately 6:40 am, the physical plant workers began removing the wooden planks and iron nails of the construction. By 7 am, only one shanty stood on the lawn. Six

students then climbed on top of the remaining structure.

"There is a clear danger to the students," shouted Contreras as the workers approached the shanty. After a moment, the physical plant workers backed away from the shanty, and Campus Police officers loosely surrounded it.

"Why is it that MIT administrators won't get their hands dirty?" asked Contreras. "They make their workers do all the dirty work."

Dickson walked up to the coalition members and stated: "You have been asked to leave this site. You have five minutes to get off or you will be trespassing and subject to arrest."

Rosen replied from the roof: "Why don't you do this in front of the students? Why don't you do this in the middle of the day?"

"This is not the end," said Rosen. "I know," replied Dickson.

Rosen, who had a bullhorn, then asked Dickson about MIT's concerns about the safety of students sleeping overnight in the shanties. "Are you concerned about safety or your corporate image?" he asked.

MIT had requested that no students sleep in the shanties, said Stephen D. Immerman, West Campus director of facilities, last week.

"What is the problem?" Rosen yelled. "We see no reason for this. Dickson won't tell us anything."

Dickson did not reply at the time, but has since released the press statement. Soon afterwards, three Campus Police officers restrained Contreras. After a short struggle, the officers put handcuffs on him and led him toward a waiting Cambridge Police Department truck.

A few officers then climbed up onto the roof and began arresting the protesters. The demonstrators were led in handcuffs into the police van.

As the van left, Steven D. Penn G, a member of the coalition steering committee who was not arrested, asked Dickson why MIT had decided to take down the shantytown.

"Kresge Oval is a place for all of MIT," Dickson told Penn. He said he had not spoken to any other group desiring the oval space.

Judge Arthur Sherman tried the eight MIT students that afternoon at

the Middlesex County Courthouse in East Cambridge. Thomas Bagley, the Clerk of the Courts, said that all were charged with the crime of trespass. Since they were charged with violating a state law, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was the moving party in the case.

Two students, Contreras and Kolodney, had their cases voluntarily continued for trial April 21. They will return to court on that day.

The other six admitted to sufficient facts for the court to impose costs. The cases of four students were continued without a finding of guilt until May, 1987. The other two, Goldstein and Fernandez, both seniors, will be continued only until this May.

Although the students have not been found guilty, they are on a type of informal probation until that time.

The court imposed court costs in the amount of \$72 per defendant, and a further victim witness fee of \$15. At the end of the probationary period, the records will be wiped clean, according to Rosen.

As the courts were running late on Friday, the court records were locked away immediately after the end of the session. They are in a safe which cannot be opened until Monday morning.

## Protesters describe prison, court process

By Michael J. Garrison  
and Harold A. Stern

The shantytown protesters who were arrested yesterday "understood that there was a good chance [the shantytown] would be taken down either Thursday or Friday," said Alex B. Rosen '88, a member of the MIT Coalition Against Apartheid. When the Institute remained quiet Thursday, "we kind of relaxed a little bit," he said.

But on Friday, MIT removed the shantytown buildings from Kresge Oval. The MIT Campus Police arrested eight students, including Rosen, for trespassing. MIT "came at seven in the morning," Rosen said. "They never told us there was a problem. They never informed us of a reason."

The police took the demonstrators to the Cambridge City Jail and placed them in two cells for about three and a half hours, said Seth D. Goldstein '86.

"We had discussed the possibility of arrest," Rosen said. "We tried to keep our sense of humor." The Coalition members had previously considered the importance of having some members who do not get arrested, Rosen added. "It was past one before we were able to make a phone call."

Steven P. Fernandez '86 explained: "They said they didn't have a phone in the building." A local television station had previously scheduled the coalition for an interview Friday afternoon.

The arraignment cases came up in the afternoon session of court, after 2 pm. "We had options," said Rosen.



Tech photo by Steven Kishi

Campus Police officers arresting Arnold Contreras '86.

"We could ask for a bench trial [with one judge and an opportunity to appeal to jury], a jury trial, or we . . . had the option of pleading guilty."

The eight students were declared indigent by the court, Rosen said; a court-appointed public defender represented all of the students. Each student met separately with the attorney. The judge offered to grant a continuance without finding, Rosen said. "They wanted us to confirm there was enough evidence" to prove guilt, he explained. The demonstrators also had to guarantee they "would not get into any trouble with the law" over the intervening period.

"Not all of us chose this deal," Rosen added. "Not all of us are students, [Fernandez is not registered this term] . . . and our cases had very different circumstances." Arnold Contreras '86 and Lawrence K. Kolodney G opted for a bench trial because they were not on top of the shanties at the time of their arrest, Rosen said.

Contreras was "going for help to the students in the library," to protect the shanties. Campus Police officers overheard, and "one of the cops threw a body-block [and knocked him] into the mud."

"The reason I am choosing a court case is because I think we need a political trial. . . to turn the trial against MIT," Contreras said. Calling the arrests a violation of their First Amend-

ment right to protest, he explained that "if we allow the administration to get away with this, then we are essentially sacrificing, conceding the right to protest on this campus."

"It was not my intention to get arrested," Kolodney said. He was at the Oval to take pictures of the removal of the shanties, he said. "I was just going to record it. . . I made sure I did not disobey any orders of the Campus Police."

"I personally was hesitant [to guarantee that he would not get into further legal trouble] because I felt that the current situation on the MIT campus" may require further action, Rosen admitted. But he decided, "If I were to go to trial and be found guilty, this conviction could be used against me."

The judge originally told the group that they could face up to 30 days in prison and a \$100 fine if the court found them guilty, Rosen said. Rosen thought the judge had possibly "intimidated" them into accepting his solution.

"After our few hours in prison, we realized that that [would not be] such a great thing to happen to us," he added.

The judge also informed the students that if they were arrested again before their probationary period had ended, he would sentence them to ten days mandatory in a correctional institution, Rosen said.

## Coalition responds to arrests, claims protests will escalate

By Michael J. Garrison  
and Andrew L. Fish

"They said, 'Take it down,'" recounted Steven D. Penn G, a member of the MIT Coalition Against Apartheid. "We said, 'Why should we take it down?'"

Penn was one of about ten bystanders who witnessed the demolition of the Alexandra Township in the Kresge Oval early Friday morning.

In the aftermath of the eight arrests, Senior Vice President William R. Dickson '56 informed Penn that the decision to remove the shanties was not related to MIT Hillel's reservation of the Oval.

Hillel had requested to use Kresge Oval for an Israeli dance festival on Sunday, said Alex B. Rosen '88.

But Rabbi Daniel Shevitz had agreed to share the Oval with the Coalition, according to Miriam Rosenbloom, program director of the festival.

"He [Dickson] said, 'We have our reasons,' but he refused to name it," Penn said. "Top executives" who donate large sums of money to MIT are meeting in Kresge Auditorium next week, Penn claimed. Dickson refused to comment to the students on the connection, he added.

The removal of the shantytown was a "despicable action by the administration," said Andrew E. Tauber G. Administration members are "mistaken if they think it will stifle protest," he claimed.

"We will continue the education on campus — not necessarily with a shantytown," Tauber said. The arrests showed that people have "a deep conviction to the cause."

"It was very cowardly what they did," said Shiva Ayyadurai '86. "There's going to be a polarization on this campus," Ayyadurai predicted. "It's about time people choose sides."

### Dickson statement on shantytown

(Editor's note: Senior Vice President William R. Dickson '56 released the following statement concerning the removal of five shanties from Kresge Oval yesterday.)

On March 2, the MIT Coalition Against Apartheid built several shanties on the Kresge Oval as a sign of its opposition to apartheid in South Africa. The MIT administration supports, without reservation, the right of the Coalition Against Apartheid to freely express its views.

The Coalition Against Apartheid, however, has been the sole occupant for 12 days of one of the most heavily used public spaces on the MIT campus. MIT removed the shanties today, Friday, March 14, to ensure that other groups and individuals can also continue to have full access to Kresge plaza.



Tech photo by Steven Kishi