Alexandria Township, the protest on the Oval: a photo essay

Candidates back protestors (Continued from page 1)

Students are not only "raising consciousness on this campus ... about the significance of the struggle in South Africa, but [just] as important, the struggle right here in the United States to get ... equality for people of color, for women, for the disabled, [people discriminated against] because of their sexual preference," King said.

Yet "it is frustrating to take on the administration of a university as rich and powerful as MIT," Gallagher said. He experienced this same frustration when he participated in MIT's "November Actions" in 1969 while a student at Boston College. This anti-Vietnam war protest focused on the MIT Instrumentation Labs (since divested and renamed Draper Laboratory) as a major center of advanced military research.

Gallagher said it seemed he had come full circle since he had camped out in the Student Center as a part of that protest, which attracted over 800 people.

"There is no overestimating the importance of being a thorn in the side of those in power," Gallagher continued. As a result of protests in the 1960s, he said, the United States withdrew more quickly from Vietnam. "It is protest at home that keeps US troops out of Central America," he aid.

Gallagher agreed that student protests can make a difference. The MIT shantytown has become national news, and part of a national struggle: "Dartmouth, Brandeis, Brown ... at all of those places the movement is taking hold and you know that we are winning."

Stressing the importance of peaceful protests, King reiterated that "We can help, we are helping, we can make a difference."

"They want you on the streets," King said, but "the place for you to be, where you can make a difference, is in the suites. You won't make that difference until you affect those folks that are comfortable."

"Divestiture had a real impact in South Africa," King believed. Businessmen there felt its effects, he explained; they were willing to hold discussions with the African National Congress. Corporations that invest in South Africa are supporters of F.W. Botha's government, and "the blood is on their hands," he added.

Gallagher predicted that South Africa will be free "sooner rather than later," without a bloody civil war. Although the protesters are making demands of MIT, he said that "you are all really after advanced military research."

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Gallagher predicted that South Africa will be free "sooner rather than later," without a bloody civil war. Although the protesters are making demands of MIT, he said that "you are all really after the American government," which wields great power to influence peaceful reform in South Africa. He responded to "our conservative friends or our conservative adversaries, who say they are worried about keeping America strong." It is not in the interests of national security to make friends of a few rulers while alienating the masses, he said.

This alone was enough reason for opposing the South African government, he said, even while declaring that that government "is without moral legitimacy."

"This all does matter," Gallagher concluded. "One day we will be successful. Good luck."