

Oppose Apartheid

This Friday, the Oregon State Board of Higher Education will have an opportunity to speak out against the racist policies of South Africa, Rhodesia and Namibia. The board will hear, and should pass, a resolution outlining alternatives to University of Oregon holdings in corporations which have investments in these countries.

The proposal is weaker than one which was scheduled to be before the board. That proposal was to divest all investments in corporations which profit from the countries; the amended proposal merely asks the Board to "consider" whether or not it is appropriate for the University to have such investments, whether it should voice its concerns as a shareholder, or whether an endowment fund for needy and worthy students from the African countries should be funded by the University's profits from the corporations.

The Board is in a position to add the voice of the Oregon State System of Higher Education to the voices already speaking out against the policy of apartheid. The students have already approved a measure to divest holdings in corporations profiting from apartheid policy. For the state board to ignore this call for a change in University investments would be to ignore the students and the immorality of blatantly racist countries.

The board would not be voicing a loud voice, and it won't immediately force corporations to change their practices in other countries. But it will be an example, one which, if joined by other universities, other states, will bring enough pressure on the multinational corporations to bring economic pressure on the governments of Africa to end racist policies.

It is appropriate that the board should add its voice and whatever power it has to the call for an end of minority rule, which depends largely on American corporation dollars to remain in power. For the students and the board to say "no" to involvement in the minority rule is a choice which can only add to the dignity of an institution which should be a leader in the cry for human principles.

Of the alternatives presented in the proposal, divestment or an endowment fund would be far better than the relatively weak voice the State Board would have as a shareholder in the multinational corporations. The best idea is to divest holdings and take the strongest stand possible against apartheid.

With the weakening of the proposal before the board, the board members seem willing to take only a cautious look at University investments in corporations. It is to be hoped that the board members do not turn their backs on the issue completely for the sake of profit no matter where it comes from.

The issue is clear. There is no doubt that the nations practice policies which oppress a specific class. The proposal before the board this week is not the best one possible. But it is a step in the right direction: it opens the door for consideration of breaking the ties between the University and corporations working in Africa. The board members must, if they believe in democracy and representative government, use every ounce of power they can muster to support principles that we as a nation must maintain.



Chalmers no surprise

We report on page 1 today that Don Chalmers was rehired to his position as Director of the Office of Student Advocacy (OSA). To many observers, myself included, that was not a big surprise, as Chalmers helped create the office in the first place and was its director in its first year. And much has been made of Chalmers' "close personal relationship" with his boss, ASUO Pres. Gary Feldman.

So it seemed very probable that Feldman would simply "rubber stamp" Chalmers' contract and keep him on for another year. Indeed, that did seem how things would go when the hiring procedure for the directorship began. Feldman said he would make the decision by himself, and had ignored several facets of the ASUO's own Affirmative Action Plan he said he wasn't aware of.

Feldman is to be commended for complying with those rules once they were pointed out to him, although it's surprising to me that he didn't know about them in the first place. Following those guidelines kept him out of hot water; indeed, IFC member Jeff Warren was in the process of compiling a complaint to the ASUO Constitution Committee condemning Feldman's hiring procedure. Feldman's compliance also lent an air of legitimacy and fairness to the hiring process, and, in turn, to the final selection. There is no doubt that Feldman would have been slapped with an affirmative action complaint by either an applicant for the job or an outside party like Warren had he not complied with the rule.

True, the process of hiring a director took longer than Feldman expected (about a month and a half), but the time was well worth it for as important an office as this one. The OSA is one of the most valuable services offered by the ASUO; it technically will handle any problem a student may bring in. The yearly salary of \$12,500 plus \$500 in benefits further indicates the importance of the office.

The time was also worthwhile if all the applicants felt they had been given a fair shot. I am not the one to judge that, as I was not an applicant and did not sit in on the 12 hours of interviews. Rather, that will be borne out by the actions of those applicants not hired. My guess is he'll have no trouble.

Feldman further showed good sense when he de-

cided to have others help him in the selection process, abandoning his first wish to make the decision himself. Given Feldman's and Chalmers' relationship, had Feldman chosen Chalmers on his own his fairness would rightfully have been questioned. Probably realizing this, Feldman asked his two vice-presidents, Keli Osborn and Molly Devlin, to assist him and also extended invitations to temporary IFC chair Paul Bartel and several Student University Affairs Board members. Unfortunately, only Osborn and Devlin accepted the offer, and sat in on the 12 one-hour interviews with applicants for the position.

After the interviewing, Feldman asked Osborn and Devlin to submit written recommendations to him as to their choices for the job. They independently arrived at the same conclusion Feldman had: hire Don Chalmers.

As I said, whether Chalmers was, indeed, the most qualified person for the job is not for me to say. What I can say is that Feldman has carried out the process well and I hope Chalmers was the right choice. His experience with the OSA is certainly a point in his favor, and he has acted as student advocate numerous times at State Board meetings and with different offices of the University bureaucracy. And, as he said himself in June, he has had many satisfied customers come through his office this past year.

But all is not rosy with Chalmers' qualifications. The fact remains that he did flunk the entrance exams to the Oregon State Bar three times, making me wonder whether he has much useful legal training (one of Feldman's hiring criteria) and would be the best person to go to with possible legal problems.

And, like it or not, Chalmers' close relationship with Feldman has to be considered. The opportunity is too great for Chalmers, a long-time participant in ASUO politics, to exert undue influence on Feldman; in effect tell him, "This is the way things are done around here." Feldman needs the freedom to do his job, and the presence of someone with much previous experience could be restrictive to Feldman doing things his own way. Feldman says Chalmers has "no more input than any student" into Suite IV politics. Both Feldman and Chalmers should be sure that is the case.

Letters

Get with it

Even a junior in broadcast journalism should be sure of his facts before mouthing off. It is to be hoped that Jock Hatfield will learn something in his last year at the University.

At no time has this station used Emerald photos to illustrate our stories and we would not without asking permission. We do not read stories from the Emerald or any other newspaper. The pictures used to illustrate a recent woodcarver story were taken by

our cameraman at the exhibit itself.

Come on Jock, get with the program.

John Doyle
Director of News and
Public Affairs
KVAL-TV

Special interest

Recent editorials in the Register-Guard and the Oregonian have called for a bridge in Portland to be named the "Jackson Bridge" in tribute to Glenn L. Jackson: "A man who exemplifies all that is best in volunteer citizen

participation in government."

I find all this a little hard to stomach. As chairman of the Transportation Commission and one of the powers in Pacific Power and Light, Jackson represents the worst case of special interest influence in state government. Overpaid executives of greedy corporations should not hold sensitive posts in state government.

It might be these two papers' generally conservative slant that accounts for their editorials, but the way Jackson has been buying up small town newspapers, maybe they think they're next!

David McTeague
Senior, Political Science

I GIVE A
STRONG
TALK ON
THE EN-
VIRON-
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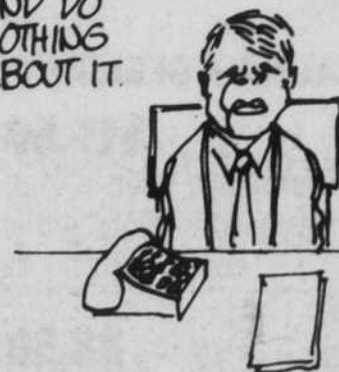
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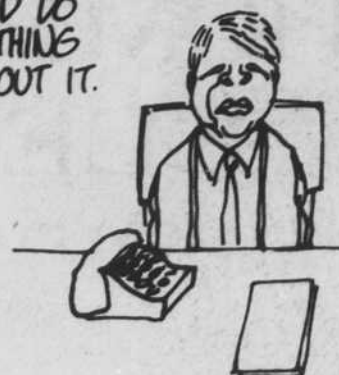
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I MAY NOT
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A PRESIDENT.



BUT I AM A
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POLITICAL
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