

State board stock rule in legal limbo

By RICHARD SEVEN
Of the Emerald

Two months after the State Board of Higher Education's unprecedented decision to sell its stock in corporations doing direct business in South Africa, the divestment procedures are still hovering in a sort of legal limbo.

After the board voted for divestment the Oregon Investment Council (OIC) questioned its right to make such a decision.

At its Dec. 16 meeting, the board decided to draft a series of questions for Atty. General Jim Redden to consider in his determination of which body has the authority to make investment decisions for higher education.

However, Redden is still waiting to receive the board's official written request.

Ed Branchfield, chief counsel for the State System of Higher Education, says the draft is taking longer than expected because of the number of complicated legal questions that must be considered.

Once the official draft is sent to Salem, the attorney general's review process should take about two weeks, according to Mark Nelson, assistant to the attorney general.

Nelson says once the draft is sent Salem, it must be reviewed by about five different assistants to Redden before the attorney general himself can make a ruling.

In 1975, the OIC was given control of Higher education investments under House Bill 293. However the controversy concerns the extent of the OIC control — whether its role is advisory or policy-making.

If the attorney general decides that the OIC, consisting of himself, State Secretary Clay Myers and three private citizens, has control of the board's investment policies, the board would have to decide whether to recommend divestment to the OIC or not.

Meanwhile, the Southern African Liberation Support Committee is planning a demonstration on the EMU Terrace and in front of Johnson Hall, Wednesday, Jan. 25. The committee urges students to attend the state board meeting in Monmouth, Friday, Jan. 27.

"We'll make the board deal with the issue," says John Lanier, committee spokesman. "The board is using legal maneuverings in order to stall divestment indefinitely while they search for a way to get out of it all together."

New GPA head develops plans

Peer counseling, education to be targets

By CAROLYN BEAVER
Of the Emerald

As new director of the Gay People's Alliance ((GPA), Carol Queen has several activities planned for the next two terms to help those who have "come out" and to give confidence to those who aren't sure of their sexuality.



Photo by Adrienne Salinger

Carol Queen: New Gay People's Alliance director

Queen, replacing Will Roscoe who is doing a CSPA placement in Berkeley, plans a workshop in peer counseling. "If someone calls up and is crying, some of us wouldn't be sure how to handle it. She says a lot of us haven't had any real training but I think counseling is one of the most important things our office can do."

Last term Queen conducted a survey of how various Eugene psychologists and counseling programs felt about dealing with gay persons. She plans to compile a list of the most appropriate counselors.

Queen thinks a seminar to "educate Eugene professionals" might be helpful. "Unless they deal with gays from day to day, it's difficult for them to deal effectively with their problems," she says.

Continuing efforts for the GPA include plans to work against the anti-Eugene City Council sexual orientation amendment referendum and to continue the weekly "Gay Rap" sessions.

Sign-up sheets for speakers opposing the referendum will be posted in the GPA office, says Queen. Speakers for other activities, such as classes, will also be taken.

"Gay Rap" has changed locations this term to 906 W. 4th Ave. Sessions start at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Queen says they will be more structured this term, having specific topic each week.

Another project for Queen will be to educate gays about a classified ad from men professing to be "gay confidential counselors." She asserts that, "These men are actually Christians trying to show gays the way out."

Queen says the GPA's biggest problem is that "people are pretty nervous. That's why our telephone is so important. A certain amount of fear has always been here. Sometimes it's surprising to me because of our supportive atmosphere," Queen says.

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