

Divestiture lawsuit legally, morally right

The Emerald applauds the ASUO in its efforts to renew the lawsuit demanding the State Board of Higher Education divest itself of investments in corporations located in or doing business with South Africa.

The lawsuit has had only spotty progress since its initial success in 1978. The divestiture lawsuit is one of those in which the legalities are in agreement with the morality. Add to this public support and the inaction on the lawsuit is all but criminal.

South Africa has a longstanding policy of apartheid — legalized racial segregation. South African blacks, the majority population, are denied education, employment and participation in the government by the white minority.

The lawsuit has a history of success. In 1977 the State Board voted to cease its investments in any corporation that conducts business with, or in, South Africa. The vote showed a clear majority favoring divestiture.

Six months after the State Board voted to divest its investments the attorney general ruled they did not have the "statutory authority" to make the decision regarding divestment. The attorney general said the Oregon Investment Council, whose officer is the State Treasurer possessed the authority over investments in the state.

The State Treasurer has not made any requests to end investments of state funds to corporations dealing with South Africa.

It seems a case of the state standing pat by dodging behind a bulwark of bureaucracy.

However, the ASUO has won two significant judgements in favor of its case since the attorney general's ruling.

Now the case is mired among the slush of briefs, motions and other unfinished court business. And those investments have more than doubled from the \$11.75 million in 1977 to \$25.4 million in 1982.

The key point in the ASUO lawsuit asks whether the State Board or the Investment Council controls higher education investments. This point refutes the attorney general's ruling.

The point has been successful in Circuit Court. On two occasions the ASUO won a ruling stating the State Board, not the Investment Council, controlled the higher education purse-strings.

The last ruling was in 1981. There's been no progress since. ASUO Pres. Mary Hotchkiss intends to ask the Incidental Fee Committee to help fund the lawsuit. Hotchkiss calls the divestiture case "A suit that's half won."

She's right. We urge the IFC to help the ASUO with the divestiture lawsuit — if not for the legal merits of the case than for the moral imperative.

Autzen alcohol ban only for the have nots

The alcohol ban in Autzen Stadium is a farce — at least if you're inside the cushy confines of the Don Barker Stadium Club.

The stadium club is a private club, funded by private money. Donors pay \$10,000 each year for two seats. And money doesn't just talk in the east end zone — it makes up the game and all the rules.

While students and most spectators are being thoroughly searched at the gates for bottles of alcohol, the elite of the stadium club are munching at the catered buffet, drinking beer, wine and mixed drinks from the bar.

The way they ignore the ban on alcohol sales at University athletic facilities is the claim the stadium club is a private club. We wonder about the legality of a private club on property that is publicly owned.

That not much has been said about the stadium club drinking must be owing to the fact that among the corporations donating \$10,000 a year are nearly all the television and radio stations in Eugene and Portland.

When University Pres. Paul Olum reinstated (after briefly lifting) the alcohol ban at University athletic facilities he said alcohol shouldn't be served in Autzen Stadium, that it isn't a proper place to buy beer or wine.

We wonder if Olum was speaking while inside the stadium club. Apparently it's permissible for \$10,000 donors to buy beer or wine, but not for students who pay as much in order to attend the University.



letters

Quiet, please

Who is responsible for allowing the marching band to practice on the field directly behind the library? Will you please reconsider and find them a practice field farther from the University's main resource facility? Thank you.

Doug Emmerich
senior, LSS

Insulting

Occasionally an issue of the Emerald makes me feel like I am somewhere other than at a place of education and critical thinking. I refer to the appearance of the comic strip "Oliver" in the Oct. 3 issue. It is insulting both to women and to male professors.

There is nothing funny about the objectification of women; the allusion to grades for sex, and the allusion to absence of a woman's intelligence. Making light of sexual harassment of students by professors further legitimizes a problem which has proved devastating to those involved. The cartoon illustrates and perpetuates the myth that women are responsible for sexual harassment by virtue of their appearance.

I am disappointed that the Emerald editors do not carry their sense of journalistic questioning into the "lighter" content of the paper and consider what is or is not an appropriate portrayal of women and men.

Annie Vrijmoet

War is... war

It seems that open acts of military aggression by the Soviet Union never arouse response from our usual peace activists. When the Russians invaded Afghanistan, waging gas warfare on the helpless, Soviet intrusion here was parallel to our "imperialism" in Vietnam, why

didn't Jane Fonda and Tom Hayden speak out against this act of war? Why the double standard? War is war, whether it is caused by Communists or free nations.

This summer, Russia massacred 269 American and South Korean citizens on board an unarmed passenger airliner. Yet our very own student government, obviously peace-oriented, does not publicly voice this as a violation of peace or human rights? Why the double standard? War is war whether by downing civilian jet liners or "covert military aggression" in Central America.

Eugene peace activists, where are you, now? We need to be told again the importance of peace. Or are you all really so engrossed in Leninist principles that you ignore wrongdoing by the Reds? A person truly devoted to a peaceful world denounces violence even by nations of his or her own political preference. Those that don't must be catering to the Soviet cause and not that of peace.

Randy Shepard

Free speech

I reflect on the story "Sermon on the EMU Mount" on Oct. 5 with much sadness and disappointment. To be sure, we have a separation of church and state in addition to the right of free speech. I don't doubt the Marantha Christian Center member's right to speak to the University community. I only wish there was some way to ensure that those who do exercise their right to free speech do so in a mature, intellectual manner.

Members of the Marantha Christian Center didn't analyze their pro-abortion argument very well; unfortunately they displayed photos that were inappropriate for the point they were trying to make. It seems to me the ultimate issue regarding abortion has to do

with one's religious philosophy regarding the moment in which a fetus becomes conscious and thereby a human being. Their religion obviously argues consciousness occurs with conception. Can photos prove the state of consciousness of this mass? Words might help prove their point, photos cannot.

Since the Marantha members feel the need to preach to the University community, I suggest they first analyze and study the issue in a mature and intellectual manner. Superficial arguments that use photos for proof of an unobservable state of being will not find a home in the minds of intellectual University students.

Deborah Peterson

Good Copy

I first started reading the Emerald when Grattan Kerans — now Speaker of the House — was editor. It has always been good fun, if only for that day's "Doonesbury." For the past two weeks, it has been good reading, too. Debbie Howlett's reports from Central America and Joan Herman's series on the Unification Church were especially literate, balanced and informative. Keep the good copy coming.

Bill Korns

Sexist

The "Oliver" cartoon in the Oct. 3 Emerald was definitely sexist and degrading, both to women and to professors. I am not only appalled, I am embarrassed that the newspaper at this University which I have chosen to attend has learned nothing about fairness and sensitivity, let alone equality, in the last 10 years.

If this example of cliched bad taste is the norm for this comic strip, I can only hope its life span in your paper is extremely short.

Barbara Keller
architecture

letters policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content.

"Your Turn" is an Emerald opinion feature submitted by members of the university community. "Your Turn" columns must be limited to 500 words and typed.

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