

Commentary

Divestment task must continue

Nine years have passed since students on this campus decided that their university would not invest in South Africa. Why so long?

The April issue of Newsweek On Campus briefly describes the history: "In 1977 students at the University of Oregon voted for the complete divestiture of \$20 million in stocks with a South African connection. The state board of higher education agreed, but the Oregon Investment Council vetoed the decision — and the students sued."

Nine years the controversy has raged and our position has not changed. A state circuit court decided in December of 1984 that divestment violates the prudent investor rule. The fear that divestment would be a substantial cost does not seem to conform to the reality.

Eighty-four schools across the country have at least partially removed their apartheid-connected investments. Some, among them Columbia and Michigan State, saw the rate of return on their portfolios increase after divestment.

Another "prudent investor" concern is the safety of the funds in question. The need for diversification in a portfolio is understandable. However, one must wonder when the basis for that diversity remains investment in a patently unstable political and economic system.

The students have appealed and the case now awaits decision by the Court of Appeals.

Why so long? We have been opposed not only by the courts and the Oregon Investment Council, but also by some within our University system. Even though the Board of Higher Education and our University President support us, the Chancellor's office has restricted our ability to continue the suit.

They decided that student fees could not be used for political purposes — we cannot pay our lawyers! We are thus unable to either remove our



money from South African holdings or use our money to oppose them.

Why so long? Perhaps we should stop asking ourselves this question and address the task at hand. The Chancellor's office must understand that if we want to use our money to fight for divestment, then we have a right to do so.

The Court of Appeals must know that we will not be silent. Judges read the newspapers, and they remember the headlines when they decide cases. For them to hear us requires a concerted effort. We must rally together and let them know that nine years is too long. FULL DIVESTMENT IS LONG OVERDUE!

Chris Green
Eugene Free South Africa Movement

I have heard the standard of American universities is not the highest in the world. If you cannot make up your mind to pay foreign GTFs a salary they can live on, the standard of Americans' proficiency in foreign languages is not going to improve. If GTFs in general are forced to work besides their job at the University, the quality of teaching is going to deteriorate.

Jedwig Fraunhofer
GTF, Comparative Literature

Quite creative

I found the Emerald editorial on student activism to be quite, er, creative.

What, may I ask, ever possessed you to include the Commentator in an editorial commending the nationwide student campaign for divestment?

Please don't insult our intelligence.

Roscoe Caron
Education

Regain interest

Lets hear it for the new ASUO administration! What? Where is all the applause for the winners? You mean only seven percent of the eligible voters voted for Steve Nelson and Caitlin Cameron?

This letter is a plea to the student government to raise student awareness. I have been at the University for three years. And to my knowledge, voter turnout has not been any better in any of those years. Could it be students don't care what their student government does, because as far as the students know, the government does little to affect their lives here at the University.

It is apparent to me that students don't vote because they don't care who gets elected. I believe this is because the current party in power has spent too much time fighting among themselves and expending effort and money on things the student body see as unimportant or irrelevant to them.

I think the newly elected

ASUO government must remember why they were elected, to serve the students and the university, not just to use their office as an extension of their political and moral views. You're losing the students' interest and you have to fight an uphill battle to get it back.

Steve and Caitlin, I wish you the best of luck in 1986-87. You'll need it considering you have to govern a student body in which 93 percent either don't agree with you or don't care what you do.

Michael E. Magee
Management, Finance

Sexist also

In response to Leah Juniper and Judy C. Finch and other lesbians on campus. I believe a few attitudes need to be discussed.

I am just what Leah and Judy would consider a "white, heterosexual, able-bodied rich kid". On the other hand, work very hard at realizing and trying to change my sexist attitudes built through my upbringing. I also have absolutely nothing against any gays or lesbians, but have become alarmed when my attempts to socially interact with these people (especially lesbians) have often been cut off because I'm white and rich (and obviously staunchly sexist).

Although sexism and racism have prevailed throughout the white populations of the world, implying that I or any other white male are not worth dealing with, without actually getting to know us, is also sexist. Judging others by their physical being or mental attributes is wrong in any sense!

People are people and should try to work together to solve the problems of sexism, racism and other judgmental abuses. These problems are not a one-way street, and alienating any group only hinders the path toward the equality of everyone.

There are certain groups where this approach might be useless. South Africa, for example. But many of these "white rich kids" just might be more reasonable than many lesbians might think.

Thomas Jacobs
Biology

Letters

Name source

If Christianity is truly what Ronald Rousseve claims — i.e., an "irrational faith" in a myth, then I agree with his conclusion we would be better off without it.

In his letter, however, Prof. Rousseve merely makes assertions about his own point of view, labels them "reality," and neatly dismisses all that doesn't fit his own world view. I suggest that unless Prof. Rousseve has some irrefutable source of verification for his opinions, then all he has done is say "I'm right because I think I am."

The writers of the New Testament documents were eyewitnesses of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. As shown by their writings and those who knew them; they all possessed a degree of moral character that would make exaggeration or falsification of their accounts of Christ's life and teachings unthinkable. The fact most died as martyrs rather than renounce their beliefs shows how they viewed the reality of what they wrote.

The British scholar Brooke Foss Westcott said, "Taking all the evidence together, it is not too much to say that there is no historic incident better or more variously supported than the resurrection of Christ. Nothing but the antecedent assumption that it must be false could have suggested the idea of deficiency in the proof of it."

It has long been acknowledged that Christians' belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ enables them to "die well." I wonder if the same will be said of Ronald Rousseve's beliefs and values.

William Moore
Music School

Support needed

Till Monday, I had been fostering the dim hope the Emerald is a comparatively well-informed newspaper whose aim is to serve the interests of the student community. Monday's article about the GTF rally on Friday, however, was definitely not a piece of journalism that enhanced the student's knowledge of what is really happening on campus.

It is true Chancellor Davis told the crowd his office had contacted other schools. It does not correspond to the facts, however, that those schools are

also withholding taxes on their GTFs' tuition waivers. So far, Ohio State is the only one that does.

GTFs generally do not make \$600 a month. \$500 would be a more adequate estimate. And this is before any taxes are withheld. The current tax policy hits foreigners (like myself) especially hard.

Chancellor Davis also said the University would not be as good as it is now without GTFs. I would state this in a somewhat more blunt manner: Without GTFs, this university would not be able to function at all.

Thursday, May 1: Film Festival

8:00 p.m. 167 EMU; Shorts plus an Australian Film "On Guard"

Friday, May 2: Evening of Literature

4:00 p.m. EMU Forum; Panel of Writers

8:00 p.m. 167 EMU; June Jordan, reception following

Saturday, May 3: Explore the Art:

11:00-11:50 Women in Arts: Past and Present Slide Show; 177 Lawrence

12:00-1:15 Panel: Women in Art; 177 Lawrence

1:20-2:00 Art Therapy: Creativity; 177 Lawrence

2:00-4:00 Afternoon gig with "Righteous Mothers", (co-sponsored with Cultural Forum); EMU Courtyard

4:00 p.m. Women and the Recording Business - Melissa Howden; EMU Forum

5:00 p.m. Women in Theatre Panel; EMU Forum

8:00 p.m. g of Drama and Dance Improv; EMU Forum

Sunday, May 4: Alternatives

1:00 p.m. Big Mountain Support Group Slide Show; EMU Forum

2:00 p.m. "Women in Nicaragua: After the Revolution" Film; EMU Forum

4:00 p.m. Women's Diverse Spirituality; EMU Forum

6:00 p.m. Closing Ceremony; EMU Forum

For more information, call ASUO at 686-3724