

Editorial

Divestment started but not completed

The Oregon Investment Council approved rules for the divestment of state funds in South Africa on Thursday. Now, after nearly 10 years of legislative fighting, Oregon will begin to remove funds over a four-year period from companies doing business in South Africa.

This action is a long-awaited, symbolic step to demonstrate that Oregon does not support the racial policies of apartheid in South Africa. The determination by legislators to pass the bill and the support it received in the House and Senate shows the need for a speedy divestment process. Oregon has waited too long already, and in the process has supported the country's policies.

A divestment bill has been considered in every legislature since 1979. The Oregon Legislature only meets every other year, but each year the bill gained support. In 1985 the bill passed the legislature, but then-Governor Victor Atiyeh vetoed it. It passed again in 1987 by an overwhelming majority — 51-9 in the House and 22-8 in the Senate.

The rules approved by the Oregon Investment Council require the state to sell stocks in companies conducting 10 percent or more of their business in South Africa. But Roger Kirchner, a special assistant to the treasurer, says the restriction is not defined specifically and can be interpreted in different ways.

A "prudent person" rule also forbids the state treasurer to enter deals that will not be advantageous and profitable for Oregon. Because the stock is in large profitable companies, it may take more time to find comparable investments.

These rules will make it awkward for a speedy pull-out, but they should not stop the process. Legislators and Oregon citizens should emphasize the importance of the new law.

Indictment shows faults; resignation best option

Arizona Gov. Evan Mecham's actions have caught up with him. Mecham was indicted Friday on charges of fraud and perjury for not reporting a campaign loan. In the wake of a strong impeachment petition last year, this news does not foresee a long political future for the governor. Under the circumstances, the best option would be for him to resign his post.

The charges claim Mecham knowingly omitted a \$350,000 loan in his campaign finance disclosure report. The loan also was not reported on two personal finance disclosure reports. Signing a false statement constitutes perjury. Mecham, however, says it was all an "honest mistake."

Mecham is the first Arizona governor indicted while still in office. The governor also was criticized early last year for making racial slurs and refusing to recognize Martin Luther King Day as a holiday.

The news of his indictment prompted requests for his resignation. This is probably the best action to take in Mecham's case. He has become a political embarrassment to the Republican Party as well as an ineffective leader.

He is no longer a representative of the people of Arizona as the impeachment petition demonstrated. If Mecham wants to save face he should follow the wishes of his constituents and resign.



FRONT-RUNNER HART

Commentary

College Republicans dispels myths

Editor's Note: The following commentary is in response to Oregon Daily Emerald letters to the editor critical of the College Republicans. Its intent is to provide a medium for response.

Commentary by
Timothy A. Cushing

MYTH: College Republicans is a conservative organization.

FACT: The University College Republicans is the campus affiliate of the Republican Party, and the only requirement for membership is to be a registered Republican. Currently, the College Republicans includes approximately the same number of moderates as conservatives, and has a few liberal Republicans on its Executive Board.

MYTH: But College Republicans work only on campaigns for conservative candidates, such as Ronald Reagan and Bruce Long.

FACT: A large number of the

College Republicans' members worked on Norma Paulus' campaign as well as Mark Hatfield's and Bob Packwood's. Three points need to be made. First, this organization does not endorse candidates until after the primaries. Second, this organization backs all Republican candidates after the primaries. Third, any individual in our organization is allowed to work on any campaign at any time, as long as this work is not associated with our organization.

MYTH: College Republicans is an organization opposed to many of the other groups on campus.

FACT: Although individuals within our organization may be personally against certain other groups on campus, College Republicans has no interest in any of the other groups other than peacefully coexisting with them and possibly working together with some on projects. There is, however, one exception: The University Democrats. We welcome the appearance of the University Democrats and look forward to working with the group on debates and opposing its candidates during the elections.

QUESTION: What about the negative image the College Republicans suffer from member's activities in the past?

ANSWER: It is true that we are suffering from an image carried over from members in the past. Our organization was controlled by some very conservative individuals in the past;

however, this problem was rectified by more involvement from other Republican students on campus.

MYTH: College Republicans takes stands on issues.

FACT: College Republicans is not permitted to take a stand on any issue whatsoever. The only issues that our organization endorses are the republican principles and the party platform. Any individuals may, however, express their views and opinions about any issue within our organization. We believe in the right to express an opinion in public. We recently had an ongoing debate within our organization about Judge Robert Bork and currently a few of our members are concerned about the effects of Nuclear Free Zone legislation. But again, this organization does not endorse any views or opinions on issues.

QUESTION: So what is the purpose of College Republicans, and what does the organization do?

ANSWER: Again, we are the campus affiliate of the Republican Party. We help get Republican candidates elected (all candidates, whether liberal, moderate, or conservative), we register voters, hold debates and sponsor speakers, attend regular Republican functions and conventions and educate our members about politics.

We hope this will clarify the misconceptions about the College Republicans held by some individuals on campus. We believe the majority of students on this campus understand the American political system, and that we are one of the two major political parties encompassing individuals from all walks of life — liberal, moderate or conservative.

Timothy Cushing is chairman of the University College Republicans.

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