

Divestiture already decided by people

The Oregon Student Lobby will be in Salem today for what hopefully won't be a futile attempt to prevent the weakening of the Oregon South Africa divestiture statute.

A broad coalition of Democrats and Republicans in both houses of the 1987 legislature approved a bill that required the state, by Feb. 15, 1992, to divest itself of any stocks and bonds of American business entities that directly invest in South Africa or Namibia.

But State Treasurer Tony Meeker is now asking the legislature to delete the 1992 cut-off date — which would conveniently remove the burden of divestiture from Meeker's hands, while turning the responsibility over to other legislators or business managers to oversee divestment.

Meeker also has expressed concern that he may not be able to purchase South Africa-free stocks and bonds that have as high a return as those of companies doing business in South Africa or Namibia. He has proposed allowing state employees decide for themselves whether or not they wish to have their potential retirement funds in South Africa-free investments.

Meeker's concern evidently lies in the wrong place. Many other states (some with shorter divestiture times than Oregon) have successfully divested without a loss of income, and without dividing state workers on matters of investment policy. Meeker hasn't done his homework. And he's showing a blatant disregard for the moral reasoning behind Oregon's current divestiture law.

State law already opposes the apartheid policies of South Africa and Namibia, and calls for divestiture because apartheid enforces "a social, political and economic structure which institutionalizes inequality solely based on race."

Because state lawmakers already have found investment in South Africa and Namibia as "fiscally imprudent" and "inconsistent with the moral and political values of the people of Oregon," they should reject Meeker's proposal to delete the 1992 cut-off date, and avoid pitting state workers against each other over an investment policy.

As far as we're concerned, there shouldn't be any investment policy, and divestiture should be reached long before 1992. With any luck, the OSL is carrying this message to the legislature, and the legislature will hold to its previous laws and not back down to Meeker.

One man's unscrupulous behavior should not speak for those Oregonians who oppose the immoral and indefensible system of apartheid.



"Castro will give us a medal for this! I caught this troublemaker proposing economic reforms, military cuts, elections..."

Council ignoring 'free zone' concerns

The City Council decided Monday, once again, to delay action that would resolve the position of Eugene's nuclear free zone law. And given the angry tone and demonstrations of the meeting, we see others are as angry as we that the council keeps choosing to ignore the issue.

All hell broke loose when Councilor Emily Schue moved to table the issue until all proposals could be considered. Indeed, the issue was tabled — but with strong opposition from council members Shawn Boles, Bobby Green and Debra Ehrman (and most of those assembled). At least we have three representatives in touch with their constituencies.

In 1986, city voters approved a nuclear free zone (NFZ) ordinance prohibiting the generation of nuclear power, the transport of nuclear materials and the disposal of nuclear waste in Eugene.

However, upon finding these activities to be regulated by federal agencies, the council amended the NFZ to require prior approval of such actions from the appropriate agencies. Ever since then, the council has dragged its heels on the issue, and has ignored public outrage at the amendment.

Boles and Green selected Monday evening to bring forth the issue — for what was hoped would be the last time — in order to place it on a May 1989 ballot. The council's much-too-suspicious delay eliminates this possibility, because the elections division would have had to have been notified by today.

Instead, the council now has the opportunity to drag this meaningless debate even further into the future. A nuclear free zone initiative will appear on the May 1990 ballot to make the zone part of the city charter that cannot be changed by the council, but by a city-wide vote. It's unfortunate we have to wait until 1990 to prevent the council from repeated changing on a whim.

The city's voters, however, made their feelings known long-ago in November 1986: they approved the measure by 59 percent.

Today, the same feelings hold true, as evidenced by the near-riot at Monday's council meeting. We don't approve of the council ignoring the overwhelming needs and wants of its constituencies. And we don't approve of their latest ridiculous delay on the nuclear free zone ordinance.

Letters

Distressing

Joe Kaniewski and I would like to express our regret that some unknown person has attempted to ruin the ASUO presidential race through the posting of unsigned propaganda that attempts to hurt the campaign of one of our opponents. We view this matter as particularly distressing because the person did not identify him/herself, which is not allowed under ASUO election guidelines. We hope students will ignore the notice. Thank you.

Earl McRae
ASUO vice-presidential candidate

Grand wizard

For three years I've watched Tim Hughes (past co-director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance) chastise and lie to student groups — Greek community included — with which he dis-

agrees. So I find it interesting that Hughes rushed to defend the Greek community in the Emerald (ODE, April 7). Why the sudden change?

Hughes, who is trying to become ASUO student body president, knows the power of the Greek endorsement. So every year when elections roll around, Hughes undergoes political plastic surgery and turns into a political pussycat, tells the Greeks what they want to hear, and thereby turning them into a collective pawn.

"Where's the proof?" you say.

Last year, during the Greek endorsement meeting for the Incidental Fee Committee, Hughes said he would fund organizations he ideologically disagreed with. Thus, the Greeks helped vote him into office.

Yet when in office, Hughes voted against funding the Federalists' Society, not because it didn't meet all the criteria for a fundable organization, but because of its ideology.

And on Feb. 22, Hughes decided not to fund an organization he publicly stated during the IFC meeting that he disagreed with, *The Oregon Commentator*.

The point: He lied to the Greeks before, he'll do it again, and if this sort of behavior from an elected official doesn't scare you spineless, it should.

Hughes is the Grand Wizard of political-correctness on this campus, and if he were elected to office, equal representation for Greeks and others would be an idea hoped for, but never seen.

Paul Coughlin
Journalism

Titles

Foremost among the benefits shared as members of the University community is the opportunity to learn from one another. Old habits, often learned mindlessly in our early years, persist until the community in-

forms us otherwise.

One mindless habit that needs to be examined is the predisposition to assume that academic titles such as Doctor or Professor are carried by the Y chromosome. (What image comes to mind when you hear, "The professor worked long hours on the new edition of the dictionary?")

Some assume that any male instructor must be "Doctor" or "Professor," whereas any female instructor (especially youthful appearing women) are "Miss," "Mrs.," or "Ms."

Academic titles may vary with departments and schools in the University. In the Department of Psychology, all faculty members have earned a Ph.D. degree, which entitles them to be called "Doctor." To assume that a woman in that department, perhaps like one's

grade or high school teachers, is to be called "Miss" or "Mrs.," is incorrect.

The University catalog is a good place to learn about your instructor, his or her degree, and what academic rank he or she currently holds. If all else fails, ask them directly what their title is.

Since most people are trying to be respectful anyway when they use the "Miss" or "Mrs." appellations, why not be respectful and correct? We may not yet have royalty, but we do recognize one another's major accomplishments, often in small but significant ways. Mindless perpetuating a non-gender difference is poor form.

Robert L. Weiss
Ph.D., psychology

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor must be limited to no more than 250 words, legible, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified.