

Toronto divests S. African investments

by Chris Backen
TORONTO (CUP) — Canada's largest university voted to divest its \$1.26 million shares in companies doing business with South Africa, January 21.

The Governing Council of the University of Toronto passed the motion, calling for the liquidation of its investments in companies that have holdings in South Africa by a margin of 30 for and 12 against.

"I was a little surprised the vote was as decisive as it was," said Rachel Barney, the undergraduate representative who made the divestment motion. "I think it will have a significant impact on this campus."

History Professor Michael Marrus, who seconded the motion, said the university could not ignore the divestment issue.

"There were reasoned and humane arguments to be made on both sides of the issue," he said. "I think we chose a path that shows our university's abhorrence of apartheid."

But according to Mark Warner of the Anti-Apartheid Network, the divestment battle is far from over at U of T. Warner, who also represents the African and Caribbean Students Association, is a graduate student who took part in the successful drive for divestment at McGill in 1985.

He pointed out that companies like Ford and IBM sold their South African plants but licensed South African companies to make their products. Thus, he said, they still profit from apartheid and have not really divested.

"There's a lot more to be done on the divestment front," he said. "We've reached the status quo of 1985 (but) we haven't captured the licensing agreements."

U of T President George Connell led the battle against divestment.

"I do not believe that the university as a corporate entity should commit itself to a course of action the intention of which is to bring about change in the political, social or economic structures and policies of this country or any other," he said in a prepared statement.

"I was a strong supporter of the conditional divestment policy that has been in place for several years," he later told a press conference.

That policy allowed investment in companies which follow the Canadian Government's Code of Conduct for businesses with holdings on South Africa.

"Members of council who support the motion are sending a signal... that the University may be used by special interest groups as a means of achieving their goals," Connell said.

During the debate, Warner argued that U of T cannot divorce itself from politics.

"The University has always taken a role in political and moral issues," he said. "There is a role for the University as keeper of common values to take a stand on issues like apartheid. We're talking about what we think of racism."

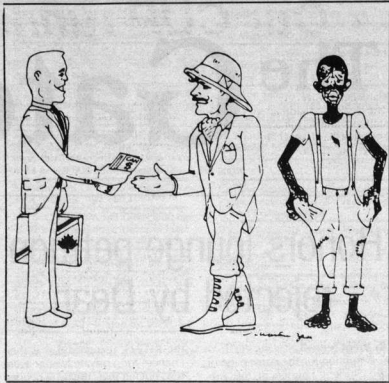
According to Barney, while universities should not take political stands often, "apartheid is a very special, very unique issue."

"We (U of T) can take action on apartheid because we have a policy against racism," she said.

Council members debated whether or not full divestment is a more effective sanction against the South African regime than conditional divestment.

Burnett Tull, a government appointee to the Council, said the conditional divestment policy helps corporations make improvements in South Africa.

"I think the present policy is not a neutral one, and that it is a satisfactory one. In the long run divestment



Graphic: The Mariner

will make matters worse and not better," he said.

Government appointee Annamaria Castrilli responded that U of T has little influence with companies which do business in South Africa.

"I would be hard pressed to

think that at a shareholders' meeting the U of T could have much clout given the size of its holdings," she told the Council.

U of T's investments in companies with affiliates in South Africa comprise 0.4 per cent of U of T's total investments.

Bogus sex study revealed

by Alex Rowls of the *Silhouette* and Gateway staff

The Sexual Education Centre of McMaster University is concerned that a bogus sex researcher may be trying to work a black eye.

According to Jana Roth, Coordinator of the Centre, male students at McMaster are being telephoned by female(s) falsely claiming to be conducting a survey for the Sex-Ed Centre. The questions they ask are personal and of an intimate sexual nature.

"There were a couple of reports before Christmas," said Roth. Two men checked with the Sex-Ed Centre after they had been questioned to find out if the female caller actually represented the Sex-Ed

Centre as she claimed. A third incident was reported to the Centre January 15. In this, the student was contacted by telephone and a meeting was arranged.

At this meeting, according to the student's report to the Sex-Ed Centre, the supposed surveyor measured the student's penis for both length and circumference. She then questioned him about the fantasies he masturbated to, and finally requested a semen sample. It was after this encounter that the student contacted the Sex-Ed Centre.

Roth described the victim of this interview as "perturbed".

"We would never do anything like that," Roth explained. "The

Sex-Ed Centre is not conducting any surveys now, and when we do, it would be with questionnaires so as to maintain anonymity (of the respondents)."

When asked if she thought that the incidents were simply some sort of practical joke, Roth responded, "It's too much. It's obviously not a prank."

In a similar incident at McMaster earlier this year, a female student complained to the Psychology Office that a male caller tried to conduct a similar 'survey' over the phone. Cathy Steele of the Psychology Office pointed out that "we don't do over-the-phone type interviews," and that no studies are being conducted in this field.



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