

editorial opinion

Complication is an understatement in regards to South Africa's present state. In fact, it is hard to conceive conditions in South Africa from an American viewpoint.

The divestment issue also is of a complicated nature.

To divest or not to divest conjures much controversy in the Penn State System.

(By this time, I hope students are aware of what apartheid (the white minority governing the black majority) and divestment signify.)

Briefly, PSU's status stands with about \$6.6 million invested in companies that operate in South Africa. The University has already divested its holdings in companies that do not comply with the Sullivan Principles (these are guidelines that companies operating in South Africa follow to promote equality in the labor force). Apartheid takes in a small portion of corporate income by way of taxes--as all governing bodies attain income.)

After considerable thought and discussion, I finally believe that divestment is not the answer for the discord in South Africa. I also believe, as Bishop Desmond Tutu described, that apartheid is "one of the most vicious systems in the world".

I'd like to emphasize that opposing divestment does not mean pro-apartheid.

Our investments are not limited to one country. In fact, PSU has investments in other corporations operating out of several countries. These countries also have different governmental systems. So, \$6.6 million invested in companies located in South Africa is no unique circumstance.

Why pull resources out of this country and put it under undue economic stress? Pulling out will not augment the strife in South Africa. In fact, it may enlarge the problem by hampering economic growth.

Divestment would not only slow economic growth, but it would destroy what little stability the country is now experiencing. Perhaps leaving investments will not immediately aide the Blacks situation. However, withdrawal of investments--as far as I can see--would only add to the powder keg.

Penn State has already made a stance. Investments have since been pulled out of companies not complying with the Sullivan Principles. By doing so, the University, in a sense, promotes the principles of equal pay and employment opportunities and promotes confidence within the Black South African population--thereby denouncing apartheid policies.

South Africa's situation remains complex and volatile. I feel divestment could only bring about explosive consequences, lengthening an already tiresome dispute.

Paula Maus
Collegian Editor

reader opinion

DIVESTITURE

Should Penn State divest all of their stocks in South Africa? This subject is the hottest topic on campus at the moment. Many students feel that the University should divest, but very few are willing to support it.

At this very moment Penn State has at least 6.6 million dollars invested in South Africa. Many Africans are willing to live with

divestment even if it means losing their jobs or improving living conditions in their community.

One of the two legislative houses of the Episcopal churches voted to divest itself of its holdings in companies doing business in South Africa. The investment portfolio of the national church is priced at 75 million dollars and that of its pension funds at 700 million.

If one church can take a stand

and refuse to support apartheid why should Penn State sit down and talk about this current situation. If the University decides to divest I'm sure that it will put much pressure on South African government. After all the argument, divestment has in fact begun; in the last four months nearly a tenth of the 2.3 billion dollars in direct U.S. corporate investment in South Africa has been withdrawn.

APARTHEID

In the last issue of the *Collegian* apartheid was defined and many examples were given: I recieved many comments on this topic and letters were written. But problems in South Africa have not improved at all. There has been talk about the end of pass laws for South Africans. According to the New York Times government-

sponsored the abolition of key apartheid legislation. It recommended that the government repeal South Africa's so-called pass laws and other legislation designed to restrict the number of blacks allowed to live in townships.

The laws, know as influx control measures, enforce apartheid by insuring that there are no

blacks in the white-dominated separate residential areas outside the white cities.

Something must be done about this situation and soon. What South Africa's government calls civil rights are causing more violence everyday.

SEND YOUR VIEWS AND LETTER TO TRAVIS IN CARE OF THE COLLEGIAN.

Travis,

After reading the article about the situation concerning South Africa in the last issue of *The Collegian*, I felt compelled to write and state my opinion on what should be done.

I'm not in favor of violence for resolving issues or disagreements. I believe it is one of the more primitive methods of settling

disputes, and we as humans should be capable of better means to achieve our ends. However, the situation in South Africa is different. It is not a disagreement about something trivial, instead, it involves the violation of human rights. Sometimes revolting with violence is the only effective means to an end. I should point out to the people against fighting that the 13 colonies did exactly the same thing before we became the

United States. There are many instances in history where revolution was a very beneficial act.

Should the blacks sit back and hope for the best or should they fight for their rights? I believe they should fight. What about all the blacks that will die because of their revolting? Sometimes it's better to die on one's feet than live on one's knees.

Norm Toth
Third Semester, Accounting

Mr. Toth,

After reading your response, I was encouraged to hear that someone stands up and speaks

against apartheid.

You stated that you believe the blacks should fight, but keep in mind that they have no weapons to fight with.

The points stated in your letter

were moving and encouraging in a very important sense. Sometimes it is better to fight on one's feet, than the live on one's knees.

Yours truly,
Travis

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