

Robert C. Casad Jr.
West Quad
Univ. of Mich.
Ann Arbor

Dear Regent, *Nederlander*

I came to the University of Michigan to seek knowledge. I came seeking truth - searching for a rock upon which to build my life and my career.

Please prove me wrong. Please show me that the University of Michigan DOES promote integrity. Please reassure me that the concept of higher education is a noble one; that this institution of higher education has some higher goal, some ideal, something to offer society and humanity, something more than a good football team and a fantastic windfall for local merchants and property owners.

Each and every one of us, I hope, can look at the social situation in South Africa and see a wrong. As Americans we are presumably dedicated to the concept of democracy, freedom and equality.

My question is: How can a purportedly noble institution, the purpose of which is purportedly to train the future citizens of this great nation, possibly teach a doctrine of honesty and ideals to its students, when it PROFITS by hate, social injustice and lies?

None of us really believes that divestiture of companies with South African interests is going to solve the problem or even seriously affect it. But we do know that hate is hate, lies are lies, and this institution implicitly supports apartheid. The guilt of the University of Michigan is precisely synonymous to the guilt of German citizens during WWII - CLOSED EYES ARE NO EXCUSE AND DO NOT PARDON EITHER FROM GUILT IN GENOCIDE OR

APARTHEID.

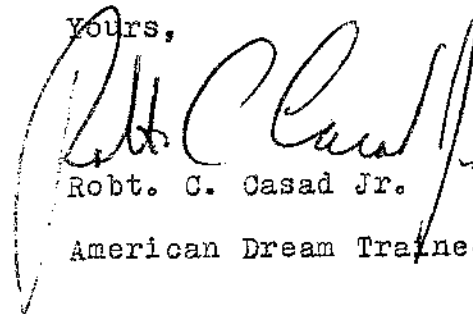
Do not convince yourself that divestiture is political while holding and preserving the status quo is a-political. And even if you believe that, consider this: if men had sought to preserve the status quo in 1776, where and what would we be now?

I am not angry at you. If you choose to hold onto the South African interests, I will be sickened, but not angry. For then I will know as true that which I have fought so hard to deny. Then I will know that the last bastion of truth and knowledge in this nation is consumed in the hateful passion of greed; that the once noble institution of higher education is now no more than the ominous, mocking shadow of Jay Gould and the robber barons.

I hope and pray that some vestige of the search for truth and integrity, that I know you once knew just as I know now, is able to overcome the absurd politics of profit and reelection that now governs your mind.

My prayers go with you.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. C. Casad Jr.", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

Robt. C. Casad Jr.

American Dream Trainee