



For Immediate Release

Nov. 9, 2000

UW Students and WI Citizens Demand That Regents Adhere To Their Own Socially Responsible Investment Policies

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Madison, WI - Nov. 9, 2000 - 3:30 pm - Socially Responsible Investment Forum
UW BusinessSchool, Rm. 4151, 975 University Ave.

Members of the ASM Student Rights Campaign, UW Alliance for Democracy, the UW Greens, WISPIRG, Chingari, East Timor Action Network (ETAN), Colombia Support Network (CSN), and other campus and community organizations will be berating the UW Board of Regents once again for investing in corporations that violate their own socially responsible investment (SRI) policies.

Supposedly there are three SRI policies now in effect and guiding the Regents in selecting UW TrustFund investments. These policies include:

- 1) 74-3(a) adopted 3/8/74 related to corporate commitment to environmental protection and pollution control standards
- 2) 78-1 adopted 2/10/78 related to corporate non-discrimination upon the basis of race, religion, color, sex, and creed
- 3) 97-1 adopted 3/7/97 related to corporations that are implicated in causing substantial social injury

Unfortunately, beyond exercising its proxy power on certain shareholder resolutions, the UW Board of Regents have yet to implement these policies in screening out irresponsible corporate investments. Despite years of public protest, the UW Trust Fund continues to profit from corporations involved in supporting dictatorships, operating sweatshops, manufacturing weapons, peddling tobacco and alcohol, dumping toxics, clearcutting rainforests, busting unions, and discriminating against people of color, to name but a few.

Some of the more outrageous UW Trust Fund investments include:

- Chevron - \$619, 131 human rights abuses in Nigeria, invested in Burma
- Coca-Cola - \$149, 337 subject of a class action discrimination lawsuit
- Disney - \$751,821 sweatshop operator worldwide
- General Motors - \$127,737 military contractor, invested in Burma
- Occidental - \$113,737 human rights abuses in Colombia
- Philip-Morris tobacco/alcohol marketing to children, dairy price fixing
- Playboy - \$128,106 exploits women, promotes gender violence
- Raytheon - \$679, 071 military contractor, landmine maker
- Sara Lee - \$224,025 sweatshop operator worldwide
- WalMart - \$1,319,612 sweatshop operator worldwide

According to UW Greens member, John E. Peck, "The mission statement of the university specifically declares our commitment to 'improving the human condition,' yet our Board of Regents has decided to continue investing in disreputable companies that profit from human misery. What happened to the WI Idea? Citizens of the state need to hold these public officials accountable to their own socially responsible investment policies."

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