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To Mrs. Kathrin Day Lassila
Editor
editor@valealumnimagazine.com

I am writing to you in response to your article published in July -August 2018 about the controversy over retraction of Yale Honorary Degrees to Stephan Schmidheiny and Bill Cosby.

I am the Mayor of the community that has been most grievously affected because of the operation of Mr Schmidheiny's giant asbestos factory in our town in Italy.

The city of Casale Monferrato, symbol of the struggle against asbestos in Italy and in the world, asks the University of Yale to rescind the honorary degree conferred to Schmidheiny in 1996, having rescinded the one conferred to Bill Crosby.

In fact Schmidheiny, twice sentenced in Italy to 18 years jail for permanent wilful environmental disaster, for having knowingly exposed workers and the community to the polluting agent. In fact, this led to the death of over 3000 people in the Casale District; many more continue to be diagnosed – a figure unfortunately on the rise– in Italy and in the world.

Yale's honorary degree damages its prestigious image as a world class university for two reasons: ethically because it rewards murderous behaviour, and academically because by awarding the honour it ignores the established scientific evidence on the correlation between asbestos and mesothelioma, a deadly disease.

Most respectfully

Titti Palazzetti
Mayor of Casale Monferrato

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