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Activism _Continued from Page 1

cally," he said.

Although the significant rise in student interest appears to be a legitimate trend, there is always the danger of confusing the trend with trendiness

Student barricades, rallys and dedication disruptions are making headlines, but are all of the protesters representing a true, strong-felt cause. or are they there because it is apparently trendy and socially acceptable on the campus now? Will those in the back of the picture on page one be there at the weekend meetings or the tedious work projects?

Michael Dawson, president of the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation on campus, looks on the trendy aspect of the resurgence as a positive factor in the overall movement

I really have to believe that a large majority of the campus activism this year is sincere;' Dawson said.

"If it is indeed trendy now, the so-called 'in' thing to do, then we can definitely use that to our advantage. People aren't going to come out unless they're concerned." Dawson said.

So, hopefully, once they make that first step to get involved, and then are exposed to some of the details of the problems facing our world, and that they can actually do something about it, then they will stick with it as much as they can. And I think that is what's going on this year.

Yes, attrition and people fizzling out has always been a problem." Wulfers added

But a lot more people are sticking with it this year. Last year, we had approximately 50 people at a general interest meeting, with almost half dropping out. This year, we had more than 100 people with maybe 5 percent dropping out shortly after. Trendy? I don't know. But we've never had these kinds of numbers.

Some students, however, are voicing their own concerns but don't see increased student activism as a genuine implement to voice those

'I definitely think that there are some obvious, pressing environmental and social issues facing our generation," said Tim Coleman, a ju-

nior anthropology student.

"But I just don't know if all of the crap that's been going on this term is really reflective of how the core of concerned students would go about things. Sure, these people obviously have good intentions and definite concerns, but they just seem so unorganized; nothing good really seems to come of it.

You almost have to wonder if most of the people in the back are just doing it because it's somehow trendy," Coleman said.

The rising interest in student activism has lead to a virtual explosion in the amount of action groups on campus, providing a potluck of causes for today's students to choose from.

More than 60 action groups representing a wide variety of social and environmental concerns now operate on campus, compared with perhaps half that amount five years ago.

The recent resurgence of concern has also brought the inevitable comparisons between the rise of student's sense of social responsibility in

the late '80s to that of the building-burning days of the '60s

Michele Collison, assistant editor of the national Chronicle of Higher Education, who has been studying national trends in student activism, does not see the comparison as a viable one.

'I think that only the people that have been involved in both movements can make those comparisons," said Collison, who visited the campus last week from Washington, D.C. to conduct interviews for her upcoming article in the Chronicle

'Students themselves don't seem to want to be associated with the movement of the '60s; ev ery generation has its own concerns. The general nature of the movements is also very different; many activists from the 60's will tell you that activism hasn't really returned yet, that there's been no significant events or marches. But there does seem to be an awakening on college campuses across the nation.

There has been a lot of concern within the academic world as to when it (student activism) was going to show up again," said Louise Westling, associate professor of English at the University. "But it looks like it is back.

I think that the American public has just been getting tired of the attitude that the Reagan administration imposed at the outset of the dec ade, and now we're seeing a number of infrastructures beginning to break down. The students definitely seem to be reflecting this view.

The University and the Pacific Northwest in general have always been havens for environmental concerns, but this year has seen a significant awakening of the virtually non-existent state of student activism. Events this term may well distinguish fall term of 1989 as the bona fide return of student activism on campus.

But ramifications of the some of the events over the last few months, are leading many university officials and students alike wondering whether the increased student activism is indeed a positive force

The disruption at the science complex dedication, for example, forced both Hatfield and Goldschmidt to temporarily pre-empt their speeches, leading Hatfield to plead, "May I have my free speech, too?'

The ensuing events led University President Myles Brand to publicly criticize the protesters and the Oregon Daily Emerald for its condoning of the action.

'It makes you wonder if they're hurting their own cause," said junior Brad McCarthy, "There's nothing wrong with people expressing their concerns, but some of these guys are choosing the wrong time and place to do their expressing.

But the effects of the recent increase of public awareness are already leading to a new phenome-

non on campus.

There are a lot more young people who have a lot of questions about what's going on in the world but just really don't know what to do,' said Jennifer Diehnel, one of those arrested in the CIA blockade, who is herself a freshman from Hillsboro. "Young people are starting to get angry, and want to start making a difference

