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Brand announces support for MEChA grape boycott

By Jolie Andrade
Emerald Reporter

The University will cease all purchase of table grapes grown in the United States in accordance with a letter written by President Myles Brand stating his support for MEChA's grape boycott.

"I did give it a lot of thought," Brand said in a personal interview. "In the end I was convinced of the decision MEChA made."

Brand said he discussed the information MEChA gave him during their last meeting with other University officials and community members before sending a letter to MEChA on Feb. 14. Brand said MEChA's concerns were valid and their recommendations were reasonable.

MEChA, the Chicano/Latino student union, urged the University to ban grapes grown in the U.S. because the pesticides used have caused cancer and other illnesses in workers and consumers.

"The University would be well-served to support the view of MEChA to stop the serving of American grapes," Brand said, adding that it was not only an issue of health but also one of support for the concerns MEChA has expressed.

Brand said he applauds MEChA's efforts to conduct a consumer educational campaign to keep students aware of the poisonous pesticides being used and the damaging consequences.

"I give MEChA a great deal of credit for raising the issue a reasonable way and undertaking an educational effort," Brand said. "That's the best approach they could take."

Eddie Beanes, MEChA director, said he was pleased with Brand's decision to support the boycott on campus and that he will continue to make sure that the food services abide by the president's

ruling.

MEChA is currently continuing to educate students about the dangers of pesticide use by setting up information tables in the EMU.

"Many students have been approaching us with questions about the grape boycott," Beanes said.

Beanes said MEChA will be working with Dennis Carr, food service manager, to distribute leaflets in the EMU cafeteria explaining the danger of pesticides on grapes and other fruits. They will also bring in speakers and show films, Beanes said.

Dolores Huerta, vice-president of the United Farm Workers, will be speaking at the University on April 28 to inform students of the UFW's activities and concerns.

MEChA now plans to confront the city of Eugene and major businesses that serve grapes. Several businesses, such as Sacred Heart Hospital, will be invited to attend and participate in a discussion and film presentation on the hazards of grapes during the first week of March, Beanes said.

Although Brand's statement does not apply to the EMU food services, he recommended that the EMU Board take the same position as the University administration.

Adell McMillan, EMU director, said she will be waiting for the EMU Board to meet and discuss the president's recommendation.

"In cases like this, we would not react at all without their recommendation," she said.

Meanwhile, McMillan said she has asked the food services to not purchase grapes grown in the United States. The EMU Board is scheduled to review the proposal on March 7 and discuss their suggestions to the EMU.



Outdoor school

Instructor Li-Cheng Gu puts yesterday's glimpse of spring to productive use by taking his third-year Chinese class to the steps of Chapman Hall to bask in the glowing rays of sunshine. Of course spring is still two months away.

Photo by Mark Ylen

Library construction waits for building plans

Groundbreaking pushed back

By Peter Cogswell
Emerald Reporter

The Knight library expansion project currently is waiting for construction designs from two architectural firms before establishing a date for the construction to begin, said George Shipman, University librarian.

The groundbreaking originally was scheduled to take place this term, but many factors have pushed the date back.

"The schedule has been a moving target all along," Shipman said. "Because of the nature of the project, it takes a lot of time to get people on the same wavelength. We are a lot closer to being on schedule than people give us credit for."

Current plans call for a 132,000 square foot expansion to the library to the west, toward Kincaid Street, and to the

south, toward the Education Building. In addition, a new floor will be added to the building.

"We want to restore the original dignity of the original building and make what currently exists exist as one, both functionally and aesthetically," Shipman said.

The original library building was constructed in 1937 and was designed by Ellis Lawrence, the first dean of the College of Architecture and Allied Arts. Two other major additions were made to the library in 1950 and in 1966.

Shipman said he wants to change the feeling within the space of the building to make it more inviting. Five thousand people use the library each day, and Shipman expects this number to double, or even triple, at



Photo by Mark Ylen

University librarian George Shipman discusses the \$27.4 million plans for library expansion, which will add another floor to the existing building.

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