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the U.S. invasion of Panama, but "we weren't expecting them to pass it," Wright said.

"It was just to get them to talk about something because they sit around and pat each other on the butt about stuff," Wright said.

Surprisingly, the DPLC passed the resolution, and "the University Democrats influenced the changing political direction of Lane County," said

Robert C. Kenneth, the former chairman of the organization and author of the resolution.

"What we're trying to do is to show students that there are mechanisms and there are ways to plug their ideas into a system," Kenneth said.

The University Democrats, which restructured its organization and rewrote its bylaws this year, promotes an "activist" ideology.

"We're committed to social and economic justice and equality, social, political and economic activism," Kenneth said.

"We decided the University Democrats will no longer simply sit around and hold meetings once a month, but actually get out there and participate in what's going on on campus and in the community," Kenneth said.

**Burning issues**

In April University Democrats will schedule a flag-burning issue event on campus, Wright said.

"We are not going to burn the American flag," she said. "We decided a better way to effect change and make people listen to us, instead of get all upset at us, is to have white pieces of cloth ... with words on them representing those as-

pects of American society that we are very much opposed against."

Speakers will discuss these issues and propose possible solutions, Wright said. No date has been set for this yet.

In addition, University Democrats members have joined in rallies protesting campus CIA recruitment and the U.S. government's involvement in El Salvador. But they also strive to bring students into local concerns.

The Morgan-Nicolai workers' strike has been one of these situations.

"Students first and foremost need to understand the primacy of the economic and social injustice that the strike over at Morgan-Nicolai illustrates," Kenneth said. "Students need to feel some connection with that."

To show their support, once a month University Democrats participate in a community picket with the strikers.

"I feel almost compelled to go, because I'm here because my dad got decent wages through his labor union," Wright said. "I couldn't attend the University of Oregon without that, and I think a lot of students are in that boat."

"We, in essence, owe to the unions and to our parents and to the community to go out and say 'We think what you're doing is wrong and we want it to stop because we care,'" she said.

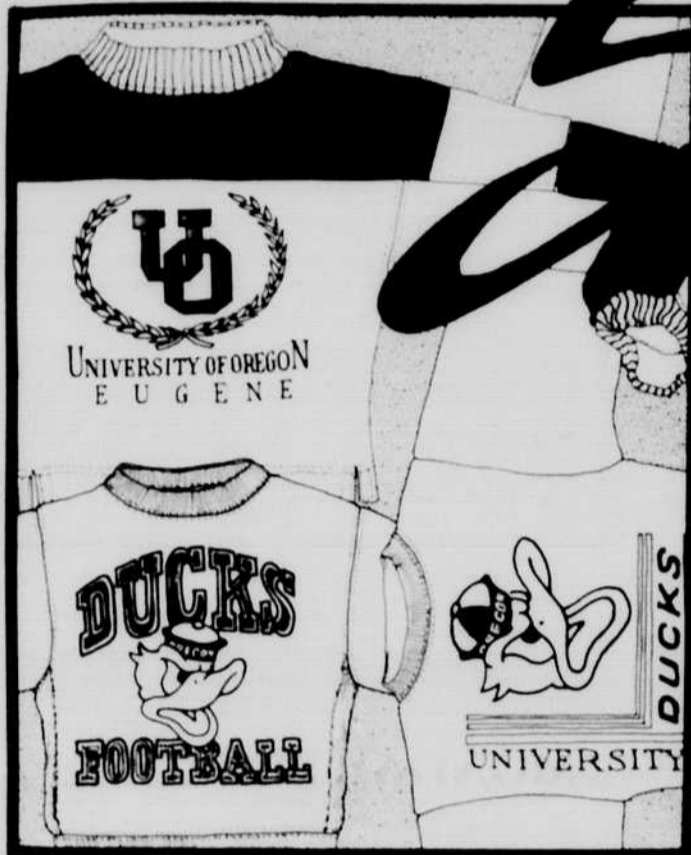
**Back to the roots**

Kenneth said the University Democrats are trying to go back to the roots of the party's principles.

"The Democratic Party from way back was the party for the working people, the party for the underprivileged, for the non-majorities, people of color, for women's issues, for civil rights issues, all the way down the line," he said.

With this in mind, the group is also planning on volunteering to work in an emergency

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