

UNIVERSITY



Photo by Eric Evans

About 100 students and community members turned out at the Oregon football game Saturday to protest the University's ban of the Grateful Dead from playing in Autzen Stadium.

Group boycotts Grateful Dead ban

By Daralyn Trappe
Emerald Reporter

About 100 students and community members boycotted the Homecoming football game and rallied outside Autzen Stadium Saturday as part of an ongoing effort to persuade the University administration to reverse their decision to ban the Grateful Dead from performing next summer.

The band was banned because the University administration was concerned about the public perception of drug use at the concerts. Several protesters said they believe the decision is hypocritical.

"Are they going to ban U of O football games because they have drugs, booze and obnoxious behavior?" asked John Vance of the Environmental Party.

"It's unfair that they can ban one band and say others can come," said University senior Jodi Randall. "So some people can enjoy their entertainment but we can't enjoy ours."

Rich Gold of Eugene Peaceworks said he was concerned about the way the decision was reached.

"It was just an arbitrary decision," he said. "We need a sound policy for making decisions."

Who's next? Who are they going to ban next for what reason?

"This decision is like the tip of the iceberg," he said. "Right now, it's only the Grateful Dead, but what happens in the future if someone in the administration thinks someone shouldn't come here."

University graduate students Phil Nebergall and Bo Adan said they think the protests will persuade the administration to reverse its decision.

"We think it will make a difference because we know we're right," Nebergall said. "It was out of line with the established policy of decision making."

Both plan to attend a talk by Dan Williams, vice president for administration, who will discuss the issue Monday at noon in Room 100, Hendricks Hall.

Adan and Nebergall said they will continue to protest and gather signatures on a petition in hopes of resolving the matter in a mutually acceptable way. But they said if the decision is not reversed soon, they will consider legal action.

"We want to solve it as amicably as possible," Adan said. "There is talk of legal action, but we want to exhaust all other possibilities first. Legal action would be a last resort."

For Marie Bell.



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