

UNIVERSITY

No change in Grateful Dead ban

Administration decision firm despite protests

By Daralyn Trappe
Emerald Reporter

Protests continue against the University administration for its decision to ban the Grateful Dead from playing at Autzen Stadium next summer, but University Vice President Dan Williams said the protesters are having no effect.

Williams made the decision to deny a request from the band to play at Autzen next summer, saying that several community members objected to drug use they perceived to be prevalent among the band's followers.

Since the announcement was made in late October, Williams' office has been inundated with letters and telephone calls from students and area residents urging him to reverse his decision.

But Williams said there are no current plans for review or change.

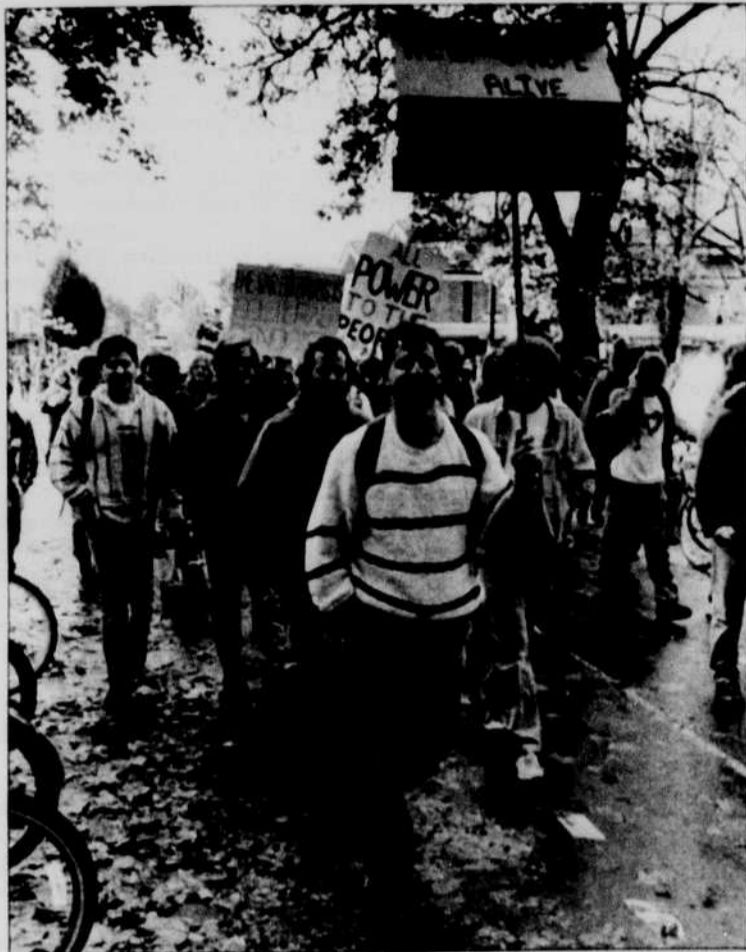
"The decision has been made for this year, and we don't expect it to change," he said.

Williams said the Grateful Dead has been denied only its request to play next summer and has not been banned forever. The band will be allowed to return "if the reasons for which we denied them go away," Williams said.

Despite Williams' resoluteness, members of the recently-formed Grateful For the Dead Committee said they plan to continue petitioning and protesting.

The committee members — students and area residents who oppose the University decision — are gathering signatures throughout the state to persuade Williams to change his stance.

"Contrary to Dan Williams' perception, there is widespread public support for having the



File photo

Despite protests, University Vice-President Dan Williams says there will be no change in the Grateful Dead ban from Autzen Stadium.

Grateful Dead back to Autzen Stadium," said committee member Phil Nebergall, a graduate student in public affairs.

Nebergall said he does not believe people are losing interest in the topic.

"The initial reaction sparked a lot of visible protest, but I don't think the issue is dying," he said. "We're just trying to figure out the most effective way of getting the decision overturned."

David Leiken of Double Tee Promotions, the firm that promotes the Dead's performances at Autzen, said legal action is possible if all other avenues of protest are exhausted.

Although he said it was too early to discuss that option, Leiken said he plans to pursue it after the first of the year if the administration has not reversed its decision.

The grounds for legal action are "pretty straightforward," said Leiken, who has been promoting the band in Oregon since 1972.

Williams' decision may be unconstitutional, he said, and may be discriminatory because other bands are still allowed to perform at Autzen.

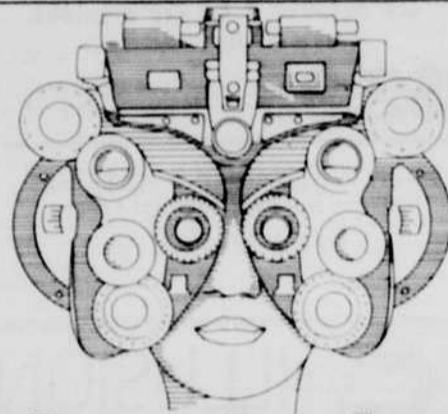
Williams declined to comment on any possible litigation. "I have nothing to say until something happens," he said.

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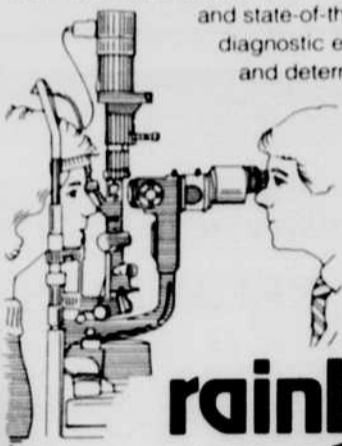
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