

Rally: Protesters call for increased student activism

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for both the students and the administration to stand up and address these issues.

"Students have to stand up for justice. There is no neutrality on the issue of GardenBurger... And this administration needs to stand up for justice," Tobin said.

Alex Berwick, an ASUO multicultural issues advocate, said the rally was in response to Frohnmayer's lack of support for students.

"We're not going to allow him to ignore us anymore," Berwick said. "We're used to Frohnmayer ignoring our needs and the voice of the students. But we're here to address that."

Speakers at the rally encouraged passing students to stop and

listen to what was being said. Berwick said beyond the demands being made to Frohnmayer, the rally was an effort to get students tuned in to major campus concerns.

"That was the hope of the rally — to get students to hear what is going on," she said. "Students walk around in a daze and aren't aware that the University is being bought by corporations. We're hoping the rally will get the word out in terms of educating the students."

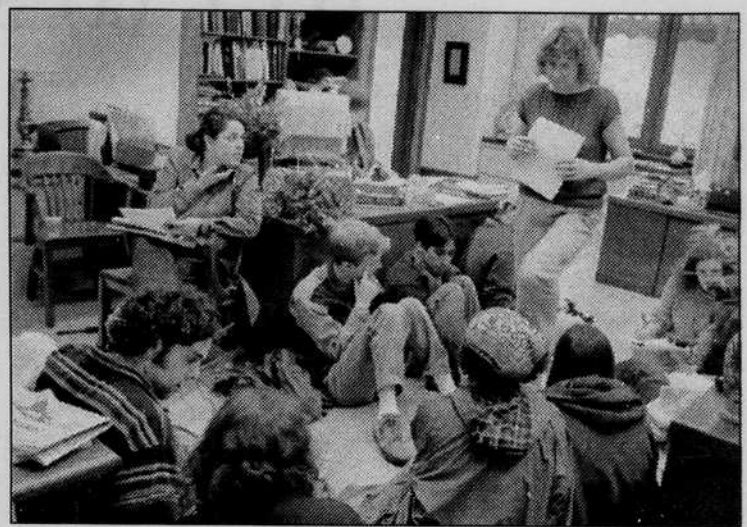
Angelica Romero, a coordinator of the event, said, "This is not an issue for students of color. These are all basic issues that we have dealt with all year, and we've been shut out."

"We need to address issues like

corporations such as Nike that exploit their workers [in Third World countries], and the whole issue of corporate sponsorship, and NORPAC and Wholesome and Hearty [the GardenBurger distributor] that are major institutions that exploit their workers, whether it be here or in another country."

Romero also said the rally brought these issues to light for some students.

"For one, we were in the faces of everyone. And second of all, I think we were able to get across to a lot of people because a lot of what we had to say — although it may not be new to us — it was new for them," she said. "If we don't critically address issues of the labor struggle then how are people supposed to know?"



CHAD PATTESON/Emerald
An administrative staff member wades through protesters waiting for President Frohnmayer to hear their demands.

Frohnmayer: GardenBurgers focus of debate in president's office

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one [on the list]," Frohnmayer said about the demand for the University to stop purchasing products from NORPAC and Flav-R-Pac in support of the GardenBurger boycott.

MEChA is calling for the boycott due to "deplorable" conditions for farm workers in fields owned by NORPAC.

Members of MEChA accused Frohnmayer of lying to them and leading them to believe that the University would pull the GardenBurger from its menu if consumption levels dropped. The President rejected the idea that he lied or that he strung MEChA members along.

Dave Hubin, executive assistant to the president said the administration never gave MEChA a consumption goal to work for. "What we were proposing was a group ... to meet and look at the question of what is a market responsive decision point ... not a political point," Hubin said.

Protesters cited the actions of former

University President Myles Brand, who pulled grapes from the cafeterias for similar human rights concerns.



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Frohnmayer said he does not want to follow the precedent set by Brand. Myles' decision was out of line with the history of University actions, Frohnmayer said.

The protesters said the GardenBurger boycott is about civil rights — not marketing. Students proposed conducting a survey throughout the residence halls to determine if the majority of students want GardenBurger off of the campus.

Frohnmayer said this issue is not only about what the majority wants.

"If a majority of the students on this campus said, 'We don't want the voices of a mi-

nority to be heard,' should I follow that mandate? ... No, of course not," Frohnmayer said. But protesters said the conditions for farm workers must be changed whether or not the majority of the students support the boycott.

"We are talking about human rights; we are talking about our families," Eloina Gonzalez explained.

After the meeting the administration refused to pull the GardenBurger from the campus. Frohnmayer said he plans to meet with the protesters again on Wednesday to discuss the boycott.

"I feel like they've been meeting with us all year, and it's just another tactic to string us along until the end of the year without making a commitment," MEChA co-director Emily Lerma said.

Protesters also expressed concerns about corporate funding of the University. Protesters said that the administration should hold a public forum to get input from the

University community about the decision to accept large amounts of money from private or corporate donations.

Frohnmayer agreed to look into creating a process for University input with large corporate donations.

Many criticized Frohnmayer for accepting the \$20,000 raise of his salary from a donation by Nike owner Phil Knight, which was made earlier this year.

The protesters oppose the donation because they said Nike employs Third World labor that includes children. Protesters say they don't want sponsorships from corporations who employ people for very low wages in "deplorable" working conditions.

Overall, the protesters expressed frustration from their talk with Frohnmayer.

"We are striving for action and the administration refuses to even commit to the process of taking action on any of these demands," Lerma said.

— Laura Baker contributed to this story

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