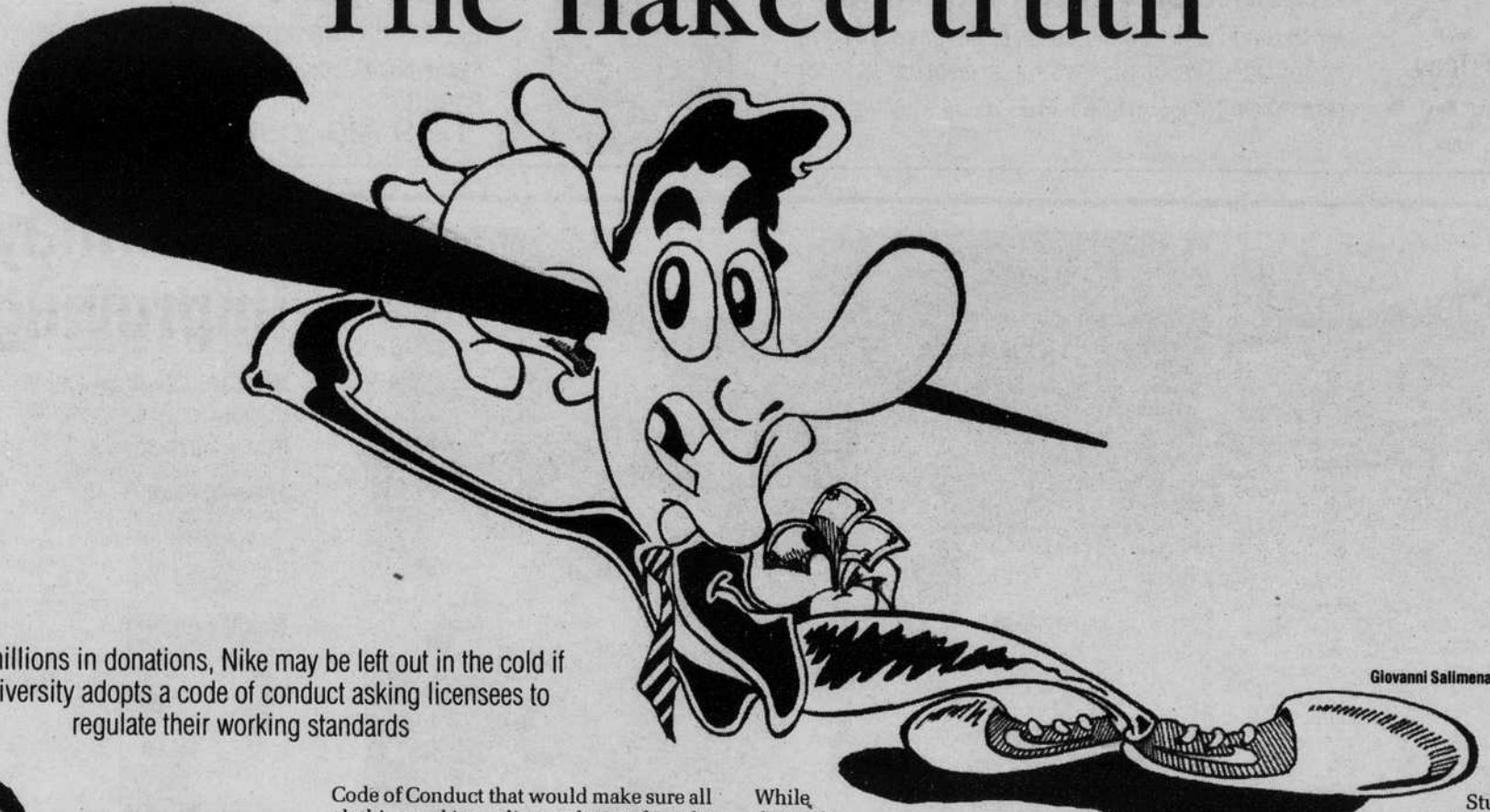


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# Perspectives

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## The naked truth



Giovanni Salimena Emerald

After millions in donations, Nike may be left out in the cold if the University adopts a code of conduct asking licensees to regulate their working standards



**Beata Mostafavi**

People stripping off their clothes? Doesn't sound like such a terrible idea. It's just too bad that this is what it takes to get the public to look, listen and maybe even care.

On Oct. 19, we saw Human Rights Alliance members make a public display of taking off University apparel in an effort to bring attention to the issue of full disclosure as a first step in ending sweatshop practices. Making a code of conduct for corporations involved is also a goal. Nike, one of these licensees, may be in a position to influence the University's decision to establish this code. Any undue attention to this influence would be a great shame.

The University currently licenses its logos and name on goods that may have been made in sweatshops in Central America, China, Indonesia, Malaysia and the United States. The HRA aims to require the school's 300 licensees to disclose the locations of factories where licensed goods are made. It also hopes to adopt a University

Code of Conduct that would make sure all clothing and items licensed come from factories that follow certain working standards. These regulations could include a living wage, women's rights and child labor. Among the companies affected is one that can't help but stand out with its swoosh symbol flashing from every direction of the nation. You guessed it: Nike.

Most of us are very familiar with the head honcho of Nike, also known as Nike CEO Phil Knight, who has been an extremely generous and loyal alumnus to our school. Knight's 1996 personal gift of \$25 million to the University, of which nearly \$1 million went toward a presidential endowment and \$10 million towards the William Knight Law Center, was one of the largest public donations ever in Pacific Northwest history. Nike itself has a near \$7 million contract with the Athletic Department. The University is one out of 11 that have lucrative contracts with Beaverton based Nike.

Anyone else see a problem with the connection?

Nike's overseas labor practices have been under intense scrutiny more than most corporations. According to a September 1998 study by Global Exchange, presented in a HRA brochure, Nike "just isn't doing it" for Indonesian shoe workers.

While the study says that total physical requirements per month per person appear to come between \$33 and \$35 a month, the current base wages for Nike remain at \$25. Kind of hard to call this livable. So if a livable wage does become a standard included in the possible code of conduct, as intended, Nike may be out of luck. But it's difficult to see this being accepted. It's reasonable and fair to wonder if Nike's influence will cause hesitation in establishing a code that could exclude them.

Imagine the consequences of the University eventually denying relationships with corporations that didn't follow a corporate code of conduct that may someday be enforced. Say that Nike fails to meet the standards. Could we truly refuse it as a licensee when its CEO basically built our new law center, whose name is in our library's title and whose company so greatly supports our Athletic Department? This thought has to run through our minds at least once.

When Knight first started giving the University gifts, the public worried that this would give his company indirect control over the school. In the Nov. 7, 1997, issue of the Emerald, Anne Strom, a graduate student in sociology and a member of the

Students for Action, Labor and Equity group expressed this fear.

"When Phil Knight gave the money to (the University), it gave him better access to Dave Frohnmayer's ear than students and faculty," she said.

That was a general comment. But here we are two years later in a situation where this could have significant meaning. The phrase "conflict of interest" comes to mind.

I definitely commend the University for working on forming an advisory committee that will look into a possible conduct code. Maybe Nike won't have any influence over the decisions to be made, and perhaps it's wrong to assume that the University may find itself somewhat bound by the money it receives. The University may choose to stop licensing its logo and name on materials made in sweatshops for good, even if it does include Nike.

But if the University decides not to set strict standards for its licensees, let's just hope the decision was made because it was the right thing to do and not because of financial benefits it may receive by doing so.

*Beata Mostafavi is a columnist for the Oregon Daily Emerald. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald. She can be reached via e-mail at bmostafa@gladstone.uoregon.edu*

### Letters to the editor

#### Ticket swap Friday

Students picking up tickets to the football games and not using them is a tremendous problem that substantially contributes to the dilemma of other students not being able to obtain tickets.

On Friday, Oct. 29, from 11am-2pm, the Athletic Department Finance Committee (ADFC) will be holding a ticket swap in the ASUO office, Suite 4 of the EMU. Students who picked up tickets but don't plan to attend the game on Saturday can drop their ticket off. Students who didn't get a ticket but want one can come by and get one that another student dropped off on a first come, first serve basis.

Students have already paid for these tickets in incidental fees. Don't let the ticket or our money go to waste by not using

your ticket!

**Jennifer Greenough**  
ADFC Student Senator

#### GTF problems exist

I said what I said and I mean what I mean, nothing more, nothing less. That's logic. (Through the looking glass; Tweedledee & Tweedledum) This letter to the editor is going to cover the recent arguments I have seen on the topic of GTFs and the usage of English in these discussion sections. I am a junior at this fine university and have admittedly had a few GTFs and a few discussion sections in my time, as well as a few classes taught solely by GTFs. Some I have thoroughly enjoyed and some I have had differences with. I will also be one of the first to admit that a few of the GTFs have made me overlook the myriad of downsides that are the University and made my three years very worthwhile.

Overall no matter what the complaint is, in this situation I have heard many times that there are problems with the GTF program. Before writing this I asked a friend about his current situation and I procured the reply "he has a talent in speaking monotone." A few days ago, one Vanna Nordyke stated that she as well has noticed problems and went about dealing with the situation in a very mature way (ODE Oct. 21). Now if even one person has filed a complaint then it needs to be addressed. Perhaps the process that teaches GTFs how to actually teach needs to be reviewed because that is where the problem lies. When no complaints are filed the upper hands tend to become lax in most situations.

**Brian Ouellette**  
Political Science

#### Help is available

The history of abortion is the

story of a set of experiences in a woman's life. Each one's story is unique. Some seem to have little problems, others, bigger problems. 1stWAY, as a Resource Center for Women, is here to help women who are experiencing some unexpected distressing tension around this issue. The University has provided a place for thinking about this part of life.

**Terry Ianora**  
1stWAY of Eugene

#### Tickets have no basis

Recently I walked by Chiles and noticed several bicyclists had been ticketed for locking their bicycles to the chain flower garden barrier. I was troubled by such an action by the University Office of Public Safety and decided to find out under what authority they ticketed bicyclists. I asked the people behind the desk at public safety, whether or not there was an ordinance against locking bicycles to

the chain flower garden barrier — none of the three employees could answer. A brochure was handed to me that made it vividly clear that no infraction had taken place. If you received a ticket for locking your bicycle to the chain flower garden barrier in front of the business school you should petition your fine, there is no legal basis for Public Safety's action. OPS should realize that their role on campus is "protect and serve," not "to tax and collect."

**Gil Burgess**  
Business and Administration

#### CORRECTION

In the story "Let's do the Time Warp again" (ODE Pulse, Oct. 26), Lara Wickes' name was spelled wrong and Jessica Obrist should have been identified as a theater minor. The Emerald regrets the error.