

WRC

continued from page 1

memories of last May's sit-in when 31 students were arrested after demonstrating for improved campus diversity.

"How many times do we have to sit-in and get arrested?" Breslow said.

Sophomore political science major Laura Close, one of the most vocal protesters on the Johnson Hall steps, said the time has come for the administration to take action and join the WRC.

"Not one more time, not one more day," Close said. "We don't have to be sickened by wearing exploitation on our bodies."

The WRC would work to ensure that all University products licensed by companies such as Nike are produced using fair labor practices.

Frohnmayr has said he is prepared to sign on with the WRC pending "appropriate conditions" and final recommendations from the University Senate and Licensing Code of Conduct Committee. In a recent Emerald guest commentary, Frohnmayr stressed

that he wants the issue to go through the proper government channels on the University, even if it takes longer than some students want.

However, ASUO President Wylie Chen agreed with Close that the administration has waited too long.

"This has been going on for more than a year," he said. "Most importantly, students voted for this. They want it."

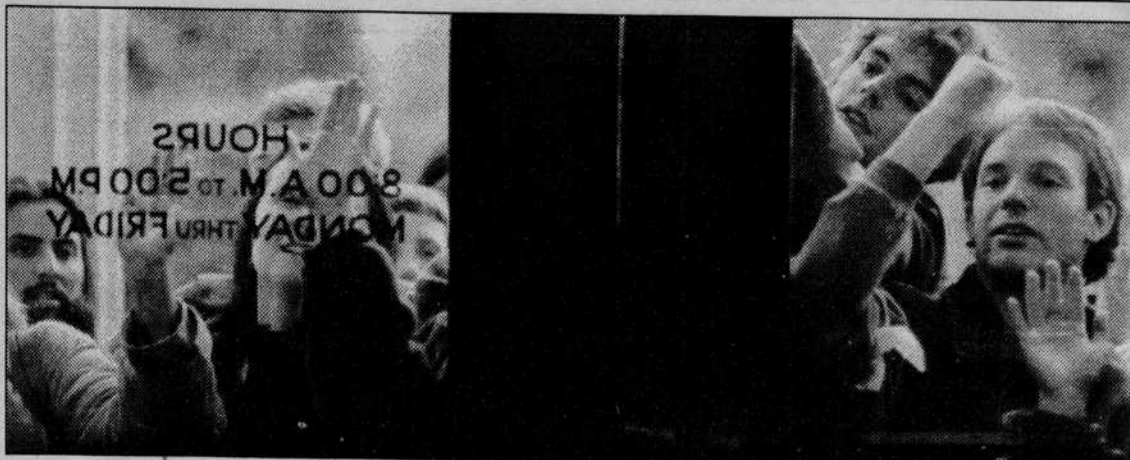
A ballot measure urging Frohnmayr to have the University join the WRC passed with a 75 percent majority in this year's student election.

Chen said he and many other student leaders did not enter the lobby to ensure that all protesters were not arrested at once and could continue the demonstration today. Currently, they plan to protest each day until their demands are met.

Frohnmayr "didn't sign today ... I guess there's going to be more," Close told the protesters.

Oregon is not the only university where students are demanding the administration join the WRC.

Students at Purdue University are currently on a hunger strike while they are waiting for their university to join the WRC, ac-



Supporters of the WRC pound on the doors of Johnson Hall during a protest Tuesday afternoon.

Catharine Kendall Emerald

ording to the March 31 edition of the Purdue Exponent.

Students at the University of Kentucky are also protesting unfair labor practices and urging their administration to sign on with the WRC, the Kentucky Kernel reported Tuesday.

A number of universities, including Brown University, New York University and Oberlin College have already joined the WRC.

Students at Tuesday's rally also asked the University not to join the Fair Labor Association or other

monitoring bodies that do not release information to the public and that conduct announced visits.

Sarah Jacobson, a Human Rights Alliance member, compared the hierarchical structure of the University to the structure of corporations using sweatshop labor. She said that similar to retailers that use contractors — that in turn use subcontractors, that then hire the workers — the administration is disconnected from the students and their needs and demands.

"We are asking for a change of the system, not for a change in what [Frohnmayr] is saying," Jacobson said.

The administration granted students the right to sleep outside Johnson Hall in protest Tuesday night. After a rally at 10 p.m., students created a makeshift camp of tents to spend the night.

"This has not stopped," Close said. "We're not going to leave."

Emerald reporter Jeremy Lang contributed to this article.

Brown

continued from page 1

In a letter to the Rhode Island school, Nike said it was not willing to comply with the provisions of the WRC.

"If they don't want to be monitored by the WRC, it begs the question of 'what do they have to hide?'" Jacobson said.

Nike, which participates in the Fair Labor Association — a monitoring organization similar to the WRC — said that it ended its association with Brown's hockey pro-

gram because of changes made in an existing contract.

"Brown changed the ground rules of the contract midstream," said Simon Petridge, manager of Nike's labor-practices department. "We don't tend to renegotiate midstream."

Brown's hockey contract with Nike was in its second year and was scheduled to expire in 2001.

"The bottom line is we have difficulty working with the WRC because we don't have a seat at the table," Petridge said Tuesday.

The University Senate Rules Committee reacted to the news by

changing its stance on a resolution that was brought before the senate at its March 8 meeting.

Resolution US9900-10, which urged University President Dave Frohnmayr to enroll the University in the WRC, was originally determined to have only a minor fiscal impact, but the Rules Committee officially withdrew that ruling in light of Nike's termination of its contract with Brown.

Sen. James Schombert, Rules Committee chairman, said that the ruling was reversed because there is some fear that Nike's contract with the University could be

jeopardized, should it join the WRC.

"The indirect fiscal impact could be enormous," he said.

The senate resolution was withdrawn from consideration before the committee changed its ruling because Frohnmayr's Licensing Code of Conduct Committee voted unanimously in support of joining the WRC.

Much confusion surrounds the similarities and differences between Nike's relationships with Brown and the University, those involved in university product licensing said.

Matt Dyste, University merchandising director, said that the two situations were difficult to compare because the University's association with Nike is much broader than the one at Brown.

Frohnmayr said he would make a decision on whether the University will join the WRC following discussion of the matter in the April 12 University Senate meeting. The meeting will be in 177 Lawrence from 3 to 5 p.m.

He added that the situation at Brown University "won't affect anything we do here."

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