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# Perspectives

Oregon Daily  
**Emerald**

## Fools rush in

Once again campus is abuzz with protest in front of Johnson Hall. While last year it was diversity, this year is about the University joining the Worker Rights Consortium. The funny thing is both sides agree on the issue, but while students demand immediate action, University President Dave Frohnmayer is taking a reasonable and measured approach to licensing responsibility.

The basic point of this entire discussion, that the University should band with others in the nation to join the WRC, is agreed upon by all sides. Students overwhelmingly passed a ballot measure in the recent ASUO elections in support of membership, which the Emerald supported vigorously. And Frohnmayer has been saying all along that he would be moving in that direction.

The basic point of contention, the reason students have been blaring out disgust for the University administration on the steps of its building, is that the process is not moving fast enough. The Human Rights Alliance set a March 31 date for University compliance that came and went without administration action. Thus in front of Johnson Hall there stand the tents, megaphones, drum circles and protesters — 14 who were arrested for civil disobedience Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Frohnmayer's approach may be slow, but it is definitely a wise way to go. The expiration date for the majority of licensing contracts with the University is June 30. That makes it unnecessary to rush at this point. And while the desire for immediacy may make some anxious for rapid results, the administration knows the results of these policies made today will either haunt or benefit them years from now when current student protesters are years gone and into new avenues of their lives.

We sincerely appreciate the ability for all students and citizens to have their voices heard through public gatherings. In this case it's a protest, and we certainly wouldn't ask that their voices be diminished in any fashion. For it's often protesters who keep the rights of free speech alive and well for the rest of us. But in this case, the protesters continue fighting

a battle they've already won.

Protesting students should consider, however, that the University has long been on the right path to becoming responsible in its licensing contracts. Last June, Frohnmayer informed licensee companies that the school would be moving in the direction of the WRC goals. Later he set up the Licensing Code of Conduct Committee, which has just finished its assigned tasks and advised, as expected, that Frohnmayer should join the WRC. And Frohnmayer wants to continue the process through the University Senate, which is reasonable. By following a long process involving as many campus groups as possible, the end result of Frohnmayer's efforts should be the most responsible and long-lasting.

Frohnmayer has everything to gain from a successful worker rights policy and should be trusted to follow through on the effort. If Frohnmayer claims, as he has done repeatedly, that the University will adopt licensing guidelines, there is no reason for students to believe otherwise at this point. President Frohnmayer has never shown himself to be untrustworthy or one to go back on his word.

The end result will hopefully be a practical, honorable worker rights policy of which students can be proud. Students have a right to take credit for their role in bringing about these positive changes. Through hard work, serious discussion and a sincere compassion for the plight of faraway workers the University soon will be a more responsible organization in its licensing practices.

But it should nonetheless be recognized that serious matters such as joining the WRC should be examined carefully through a responsible and pensive process. Even though students have every right to speak their minds, in this instance Frohnmayer's method of making sure the final deci-

sion is widely accepted and passed through all the proper channels is responsible and should be commended.

This editorial represents the view of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu



Giovanni Salimena Emerald

### THUMBS



#### To an original activist

Besides making a scheduled keynote speaking engagement along with actor Edward James Olmos at the Dr. Edwin Coleman Speaker Series Wednesday, co-founder of the Black Panther Party Bobby Seale took time to speak to the activists protesting outside Johnson Hall. He warned them to look into the facts of any given situation and not to assume too much.

#### To an easier puppy package

The Greenhill Humane Society, in an effort to make it more affordable to adopt a pet, has reduced the price of adopting a stray to \$25 on the condition the animal be spayed or neutered.



#### To a smoking weapon

According to state news service Xinhua News Agency, a careless smoker caused a hotel fire that ended up killing 13 people Thursday. The fire destroyed the tenth floor of the Meilihua Hotel in the city of Dezhou, about 200 miles southeast of Beijing.

#### To blazing the wrong trail

The Portland Trailblazers, favorite NBA team to most Oregonians, have lost five out of their last ten. The squad was picked as one of the best in the league this year but has faltered lately as the playoffs near.

Jackson Ross  
student

## Letters to the editor

### Sports coverage insufficient

Mirjam Swanson's "K.O. Kobe proves his point" in yesterdays Emerald (ODE, April 6) made me sick. Who is this Mirjam Swanson? Where is she from? Why in God's name is she covering sports? If Mirjam is into liposuction or oxygen bars or other things from Los Angeles, I'd be interested in hearing it, but when it comes to basketball, remember that it's the OREGON Daily Emerald. If I had a subscription, I would cancel it, and I would encourage any and all Blazer

fans to cancel their subscriptions until this Mirjam Swanson woman is released from her duties as columnist or graduates, whichever comes first. Mirjam, to say the things that you said in your column, well, that was hate speech. Here at the University of Oregon, we don't tolerate that sort of thing.

Jacob Johnson  
sociology

### Illegal action deserves citation

What a sad, sad time it is for activists and protesters around the country. Back in the 1960s, you could get arrested simply for protesting. But as our five fellow University stu-

dents, including ASUO President-elect Jay Breslow, have shown us, you have to actually break the law to get arrested these days.

I wonder what those five honestly expected to happen as they sat in Johnson Hall after it closed for the evening. If they thought that the police would allow them to stay there, they're either naive or stupid, neither of which makes me feel any better. If they knew and expected to be cited, however, then they deserve whatever penalty goes along with second degree trespassing. I would expect nothing less for myself should I ever occupy a building illegally. A lot of people here seem to think that if you have a

really good reason for being there, it all of a sudden ceases to be a trespassing violation and becomes a major injustice.

I normally couldn't care less about a minor trespassing violation except that I, like them, would like very much to see this University join the WRC. These five kids who sat illegally in a building were asked repeatedly to leave by police and eventually had to be removed by force. They weren't carried off to prison. They'll most likely pay a small fine and will certainly be able to go on with their lives as usual.