

Knight's money can't buy decisions

We were disappointed to hear Nike CEO Phil Knight's reputation of the University's decision to join the Worker Rights Consortium. We stand firmly behind the decision of University President Dave Frohnmayer to join the WRC. We believe it is the right decision made in the right way. The entire process of joining the WRC took more than a year, as Frohnmayer took counsel from a student vote, the faculty and the recommendations of a research-based committee. All members of the campus community were represented in this decision, even the alumni, as an alumnus sat on the committee who gave the unanimous recommendation of support for the WRC. The decision to join the WRC was also the closest act of shared governance this campus has ever seen.

There was much time, thought and research put into this decision, and we caution against taking the word of Knight in identifying the fundamental flaws in the WRC as he certainly has a very vested interest in having to adhere to our code. Would one ask a chef for a fair and objective review of his own food? Of course not, so why is Knight so opposed to having someone not appointed

by Nike reviewing his factories? The vested financial interests of Nike are certainly integral to his opposition to the University's decision to join the WRC.

Knight also seems to be upset because he was not consulted in the decision-making process. Our

COMMENTARY
Wylie Chen & Mitra Anoushiravani

concerns focus on how this situation sets up a slippery slope for interactions with donors in the future. If the University starts to incorporate donors into their decision-making process, where is the line drawn for who has donated enough to have a seat at the table? Does the threat of losing private dollars override the integrity and autonomy of our University community? We have been grateful for Knight's contributions, including a remodeled library and a new law school; however, if the conditions put upon Knight's dollars include making him a part of the deci-

sion-making process at the University, Knight has unreasonable expectations for the University.

Having corporate interests influencing University leaders through a backdoor process thwarts the inherent independence of any university. We are aware that Knight's generosity will be missed at the University; however, no single donor should expect to make decisions for an independent institution of higher education. There is nothing philanthropic about asserting a strong corporate influence at our university, which is devoted to independent inquiry and learning. We are proud to be members of a University that believes in shared governance and integrity. The University is lucky to be led by a president with strong ethics. The University cannot bear sole responsibility for the politics of relationships with large donors. That burden must be shared with the legislature, whose budget decisions force educators to become fundraisers. Maybe it's about time that Oregon's public universities are adequately supported by public funds.

Wylie Chen and Mitra Anoushiravani are the president and vice president, respectively, of the ASUO. Their views do not necessarily represent those of the newspaper.

Letters to the editor

Frohnmayer did the right thing

As a professor at the University, I realize that we do need contributions from people such as Nike CEO Phil Knight to remain competitive and to build on the excellent educational programs we now have at the University. Still, I fully support University President Dave Frohnmayer's decision, made with the backing of faculty and student representatives, to join the Worker Rights Consortium. I am disappointed by Knight's statement that "The bonds of trust, which allowed me to give at a high level, have been shredded."

What kind of bonds of trust was he thinking of? Did he think he had an unspoken understanding that he would give money to the University, and the University would refrain from any criticism of him and Nike? If so, then he was trying to use his association with the University to help legitimize his company and his views on economic globalization. I trust that no such understanding ever existed.

Michael Raymer
professor, physics

Students should attend International Night

For the last two years I have had the great privilege to attend International Night. Both times I have been astounded at the quality of the evening's entertainment and the delicious food. The international community on our campus is extremely diverse and abounds with talented, enthusiastic students eager to share their rich traditions and cultures through food, music and dance. What a gift they give us.

This year I was especially taken by the performance of the African students, who represent many different countries from the African continent. As Joyce Mmari, this

year's co-director of International week, put it, each African country is unique, with different histories and traditions. It's important to remember that. But the overall theme of their love of family and music weaves its way throughout their cultures. I could feel that love during their performance.

I will sincerely miss International Night after I graduate and move on to graduate school in a different state. I hope that more of the University community takes the opportunity to attend next year's International Night. It's a wonderful celebration that does much to increase one's appreciation of the similarities we all share as well as the unique way we express our diversity.

Paula DeBell
Senior PPPM

Anti-abortion display no picnic

I support any woman's right to choose how to prevent and terminate pregnancies. If a woman needs to get an abortion, she'll get one anyway, putting her life in danger.

It is not OK, though, for Justice For All to judge others, especially on the basis of religion. And who equates a picnic with anti-abortion theology anyway? Does God approve?

The Genocide Awareness Project was brought to campus by people who were desperate, and now they want to bring it back yearly. I work in a child-care facility, and I know that several children had to walk past the terrible pictures. Few knew it was going to be in the EMU Amphitheater. Instead of letting the others cover the pictures for those who did not want to see, they hiked the pictures even further up!

Way to go! (Sense the sarcasm.)

Anna Peterson
Students for Choice member
sociology, women's studies

Ryan not the focus of the week

I write this letter in response to

the short letter titled "Jesus vs. Ryan" (ODE, April 25). I would like to offer more insight on Ryan and the campus-wide event. The letter stated that Jesus was a revolutionary, and Ryan is a business student and football player, enough said. I agree 100 percent.

In fact, there is more to be said. This week of awareness is not about Ryan. The groups sponsoring the event do not compare Ryan to Jesus, nor do they worship him or follow him. The people that agree with Ryan are saying, "Like Ryan, I am a person who believes in God, and Jesus as the son of God." Most of these people believe that Jesus is the only way to know God personally and live eternal life in heaven. These are the fundamental beliefs of Christians all over the world. Ryan actually has nothing to do with this belief. Ryan is a representative of hundreds of students around campus that believe the statement above. It could have been Ryan, Mark, Christy, Jon, Sara or any number of students that follow Jesus Christ.

This is a week of awareness, do you agree with Ryan? Now that is enough said.

Jeff Martens
senior, business

ODE CLASSIFIEDS 346-4343

Standing Committee on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns Annual Symposium

April 25-27

Intersections

Trans-sex, Trans-gender: What's changing?

Wednesday, April 26

Dianne Dugaw
'I'll tie back my hair, men's clothing I'll put on'
Warrior Women in Folksongs and History
4:00 pm, Gerlinger Lounge
This program made possible by the Oregon Council for Humanities, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities

Will Roscoe
What's all the LOCO-motion?: Art, Sanity, and Gender
7:00 pm, Gerlinger Lounge
This program made possible by the Dept. of Anthropology

Elizabeth Reis
Brown-bag Presentation
You can teach a whole class on this?
12:00 pm. LGBTA, Suite 34, EMU

Alpha Kappa Psi presents

DARE TO DANCE

salsa & merengue



Friday, April 28 at Agate Hall (corner of 18th & Agate) 8:30pm-Midnight

Beginners' Lesson 7:30 - 8:30

\$3 students \$5 general

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AGATE HALL, APRIL 29, 2000
Gates open at 1:00. Show 1:30 to midnight
Tickets available at EMU ticket office;
Mother Kali's Books, 720 E. 13th; Students \$15, General \$20
For more information call 346-3360 or e-mail lgba@gladstone

This event is wheelchair accessible. If any other accommodations are needed due to a disability, please contact the above number at least 48 hours prior to the event.



SARAH DOUGHER