

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Nike

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to let people know that Nike is rectifying the problems."

According to the students' report — available at www. nikebiz.com/labor/index.shtml—the Mexico factories are "up to par with health and safety standards both locally and as written by Nike. In the past, Nike has been accused of placing workers in environments that were toxic in air quality and exposed them to dangerous chemicals. Overall, the as-

sessment of safety standards was of a positive nature."

There were some conditions that should be improved upon immediately, Capobianco said. For example, in one factory that he visited, workers put in a 10-hour day with only a half-hour lunch break, which is legal under Mexican law. But such rigorous work days are not in Nike's best interest, Capobianco said.

At most of the factories, students reported that workers' compensation was not a problem. Some overtime grievances were filed, though, and need to be

looked at by Nike management, according to the report.

"Factories are a fact of the global economy whether we like it or not," Capobianco said. "We have to accept that and try to make them better."

The students recommended that the factories provide workers with a better education and better information regarding grievance procedures and the Nike Code of Conduct.

The students "have taught us a great deal," Kidd said. "We take their observations and recommendations very seriously and commit to report back in three months what we and the factories have accomplished."

Capobianco and the other students went through three days of training to prepare for their visits. PricewaterhouseCoopers, the Nike factory auditing team, trained the students for 10 hours a day.

"The students challenged Nike and themselves and were wonderful," said St. John's University Father James Maher, who coordinated the student selection and training. "We hope this process of independent monitoring will move the issue forward ... beyond inflammatory rhetoric, toward the global realization of human dignity in the workplace."

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Thursday, April 27
Ecological Conversations Seminar:
Saskia van Oosterhout, an agricultural biologist from Zimbabwe specializing in the conservation of crop plant genetic resources and the effects of gender dynamics on traditional crop agriculture, discusses "Moyo muti unomera paunoda (A Tree Grows Only Where It Wants To)." 3 - 4:50 p.m., Room 201, Villard Hall. Free. For information, call Lynne Fessenden at 346-5399.

InterSEXions Conference: Brown bag presentation by Molly Mc-Clure, Women's Studies student, on "Feminism and Transgenderedism: A Thesis in Progress." Noon, Suite 34, EMU. Free. For information, browse darkwing.uoregon. edu/~program or call 346-1134.

InterSEXions Conference: Lecture by Alice Dreger on "The Meaning of Testicles in a Woman: The Medical Politics of Intersex." 4 p.m., Alumni Lounge, Gerlinger Hall, 1468 University Street. Free. For information, browse darkwing. uoregon.edu/~program or call 346-1134.

Creative Writing Reading Series:
American Book Award-winning
writer Chang-Rae Lee of Hunter
College, author of "A Gesture Life"
and "Native Speaker," reads and
autographs copies of his work. 8
p.m. Agate Hall Auditorium. Free.
For information, browse
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~crwrweb/events.htm or call
346-0544.

Emerald

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