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Sweatshop

continued from page 1A

ple that are bringing in new perspectives and ideas to the struggle." Honors College Director David Frank was chairman of the University Senate ad hoc committee that developed the University's Licensee Code of Conduct. At the time, he recommended the University join the WRC, and he agrees that membership in the movement has changed, contributing to a decline in activism.

"The fact that two key leaders have graduated and moved on means that new people will have to step forward," he said.

But neither Frank nor Newnham thinks the labor issue has died, and Frank said it is typical for activism in any movement to fluctuate.

Newnham added that the movement is in the process of reforming.

"I believe there is going to be a resurgence, especially in light of last year's policy," he said, referring to the State Board of Higher Education's policy which effectively prohibited Oregon universities from joining any labor monitoring groups.

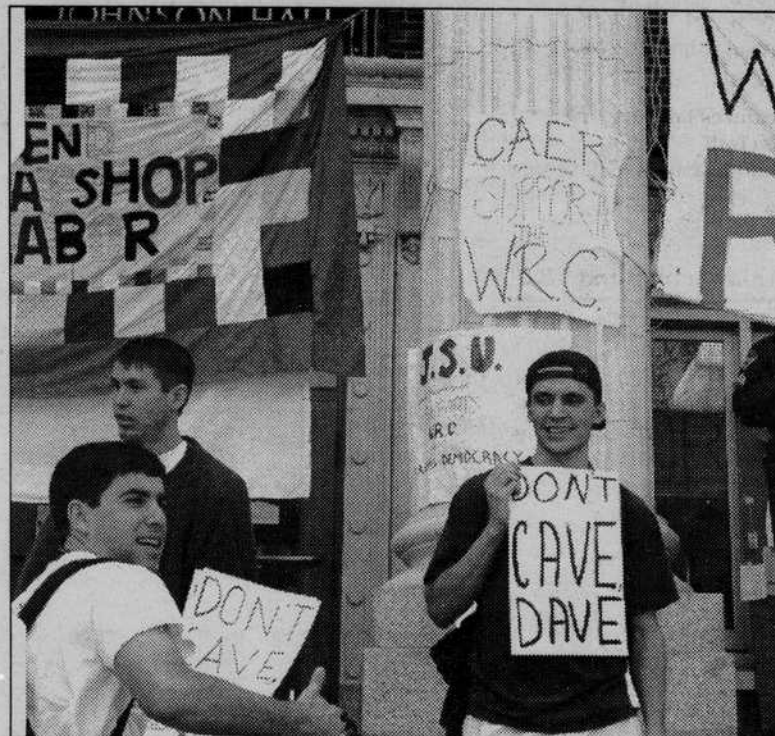
"The movement is not going to look the same as previous years be-

"The fact that two key leaders have graduated means that new people will have to step forward."

David Frank
Honors College director

cause there is a new focus, new people, new ideas and new issues," he said.

Although the ASUO no longer has worker rights issues at the top of its agenda, ASUO Vice President Joy Nair said the issue is "something that will always be very important to us."



Emerald

Students opposing the WRC protest on the steps of Johnson Hall. Their signs urged President Frohnmyer not to yield to student pressures to join the labor monitoring group.

Nair added that just because there haven't been any recent protests, that does not mean students are apathetic to the issue. The anti-sweatshop activism increased awareness on campus about sweatshops, she said.

Nationwide, the movement has continued to grow, Nova said. A year ago, 40 universities signed onto the WRC, which has increased to 85 universities, he said.

He added that it is difficult to say whether conditions in Nike's factories have improved because the monitoring is not in place. But Nike has been more aggressive in improving conditions because of pressure from universities nationwide, he said.

Newnham agreed that student activism has pushed corporations into making some improvements, adding that the movement extends

far beyond just the University.

"What we did here in spring of 2000 was part of a much larger wave," he said. "Just because students aren't currently involved isn't such a big deal because it's not just us."

Nova said that right now the movement is still in its beginning stages, and he is optimistic about the future.

"Concern among consumers will grow. A commitment to improving conditions will grow," he said. "As a result, we will see positive change. I feel very optimistic about the movement as a whole, which includes students, consumers, colleges and universities — and the public in general."

Diane Huber is a student activities reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald. She can be reached at dianehuber@dailyemerald.com.

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