

News guild approves new R-G contract

The five-year contract brings relief for some despite reservations

Jennifer Bear
Campus/City Culture Reporter

The Eugene Newspaper Guild voted Tuesday to accept a five-year contract proposal extended by The Register-Guard management by a vote of 60 percent to 40 percent, guild President Adele Berlinski said. The new contract will be in place by Friday.

The last contract expired at midnight April 30, 1999, and guild members have been working without a contract for more than three years, according to the guild's Web site.

"I thought it would be an overwhelming 'yes' vote," said Berlinski, who leads a guild of approximately 150 members representing advertising, circulation, technical, newsroom and office workers. "It was a lot closer than I thought."

Register-Guard spokeswoman Cynthia Walden refused repeated requests by the Emerald for an interview.

Berlinski said she had reservations

"... I'm glad this is over after three and a half years."

Adele Berlinski
guild president

tions with several aspects of the new contract, including a new policy that prohibits the union from using the company's e-mail system, one prohibiting workers from wearing union insignia when dealing with the public and the installation of a drug-testing procedure.

With the new e-mail policy, members of the guild will have to use personal e-mail, office bulletin boards or newsletters to communicate with each other.

"There are some things that really bother me about (the contract), but I'm glad this is over after three and a half years," Berlinski said.

One feature of the new contract that helped it to pass was newspaper management's removal of a bargaining waiver, Berlinski said. Former proposals contained a provision that

would have restricted the union's right to bargain mid-contract.

Berlinski added that the new contract contains provisions for a signing bonus of \$1,000 per union member and yearly raises for most workers between 2 percent and 2.5 percent during the next five years:

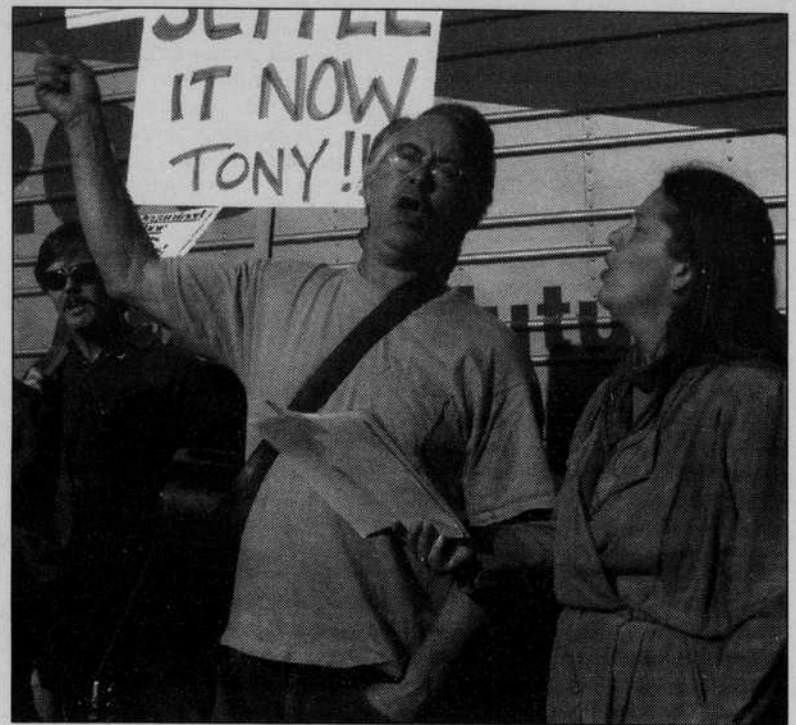
Berlinski blamed the three-year negotiations on Attorney L. Michael Zinser, whom she called out-of-state and anti-union. She added that guild members were so incensed by the stymied bargaining process that the union filed nine unfair labor practice charges against the newspaper.

Prodding from the National Labor Relations Board prompted newspaper management to back off several demands and present the guild with an acceptable contract proposal, Berlinski said.

Berlinski also credited the community in helping the guild during the past three years.

"The community has been phenomenal," she said. "They have been very supportive."

Contact the reporter at jenniferbear@dailyemerald.com.



Emerald

Newspaper Guild employees, seen here at a May rally outside The Register-Guard, approved a five-year contract Tuesday after working without a contract for three years.

Campaign offers help for same-sex violence

Groups focus on spreading awareness of domestic violence in the gay community

Danielle Gillespie
Safety/Crime/Transportation Reporter

When most people think of domestic violence, they think of women as victims and men as abusers. But that is not always the case; abuse also happens in same-sex relationships.

YWCA financial advisor Kirista Trask said many people do not think of domestic violence as a same-sex issue, but it does occur in the gay community.

Trask said the YWCA is working on a poster campaign for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the group will be focusing on informing students about same-sex domestic violence.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Educational and Support Services Director Chicora Martin said gay men who are suffering from domestic violence do not really have a safe place to go in Eugene.

Trask agreed and said that although gay men can go to Womenspace, a local domestic violence service, most do not feel comfortable going.

"Gay men have little resources, and there is very little written literature about same-sex domestic violence," she said.

Same sex battering stats

- 50,000-100,000 lesbian women are battered by partners every year
- 500,000 gay men are battered by partners every year
- 25-33 percent of same-sex relationships involve domestic violence
- Seven states define domestic violence in a way that excludes same-sex victims
- 21 states have laws that require same-sex victims to confess to a crime in order to prove they are in a domestic relationship

SOURCE: www.aardvarc.org

ence," she said.

Martin said gay men do not generally come forward when they are being abused because they must admit first that they are gay and second that they are being battered. She said this can be difficult for gay men because society does not typically accept them or believe that a man can be abused by a partner, whether it is physical or mental abuse.

"There is not a lot of statistics about gay men who are abused by their partners," she said. "They do not have a lot of resources available for them to report domestic violence."

Martin said gay men will most likely not call the police, and if they do, authorities do not always report the situation as domestic violence.

"A fight between two men won't be seen as partnership violence, but as two male roommates duking it out," she said.

There are gay men on this campus who have been in violent relationships, and most say they left the relationship because of friends or because they decided to move out or leave town, Martin said.

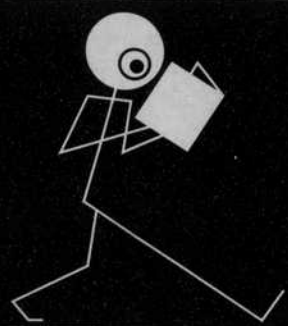
She said she has heard of gay men on campus being stalked by partners, but the men have had difficulty obtaining a restraining order because authorities did not believe them.

Womenspace has gay and lesbian advocates as a support group for people dealing with same-sex violence.

Womenspace community outreach director Margo Schaefer said Turn to **Violence**, page 10

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