

Yale students hit president with charges

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Columbia Daily Spectator (Columbia U.)

NEW YORK (U-WIRE) — Seventy-six undergraduate students at Yale University filed formal charges against Yale President Richard Levin on Thursday, claiming he violated university bylaws in his treatment of students, particularly those exercising their freedom of speech right.

If Levin is convicted by the University Tribunal, he could face suspension or expulsion, a press re-

lease by the Undergraduate Organizing Committee states.

A letter submitted with the charges states, "the seriousness of (an expulsion) matches the seriousness with which we take these issues."

The letter cites the ongoing labor strife at Yale, in which almost 4,000 workers are still without renewed contracts.

The press release argues that Levin has violated bylaws requiring administrators to "preserve mutu-

al respect and charitable relations within the Yale community."

Yale freshman Thomas Frampton said Levin has done exactly the opposite, saying his inactions with regards to workers' rights and students' rights have led to a crisis on campus.

"We've approached him at open forums," Frampton said. "We've tried informal sit-downs with him where students felt disrespected or shut down."

Another charge states that Levin

has misrepresented university policy to the student body. Frampton said he and other students were leafleting near the Woolsey Rotunda on campus and were harassed by police.

"Repeatedly, President Levin was asked why it happened," Frampton said. According to Frampton, Levin said leafleting is not allowed in that area, which prompted Frampton and others to research Yale policies.

"Nowhere it says leafleting is (prohibited)," he said.

The third and fourth charges listed claim Levin has violated Yale's Freedom of Expression Policy, stifling free speech through the use of university police.

"There's a lot of students that feel marginalized and intimidated," Frampton said.

Yale spokesman Tom Violante declined to comment.

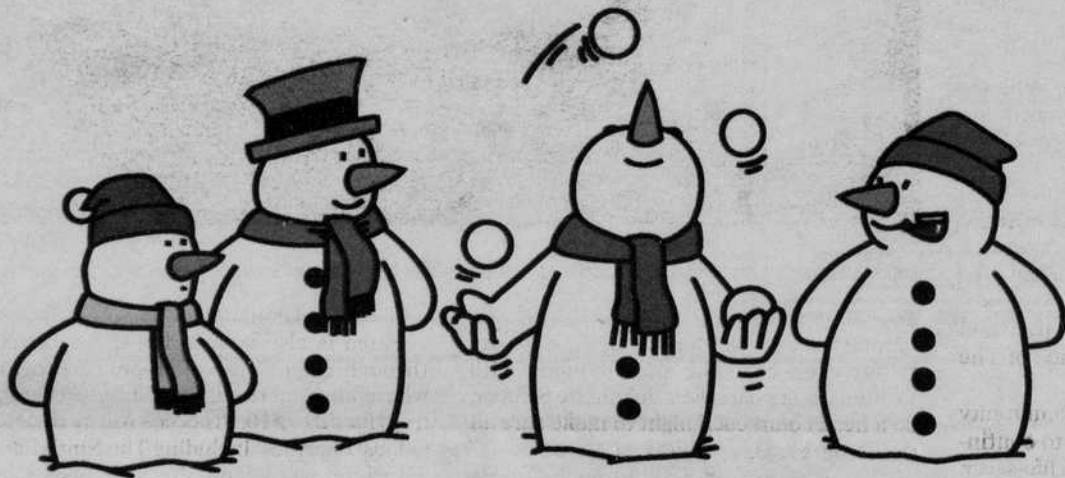
The letter from the students says the charges are not a personal attack on Levin.

"We are asking nothing more than that as university president you will be held to the same standards as you would hold your own undergraduates," the letter states.

The next step, Frampton said, is unclear. He said an investigator will most likely investigate the complaints to try to informally resolve the problem. If it is not resolved, it will go to trial before the University Tribunal, he said.

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Planning

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it is normal to question development in Eugene.

"I think there are always people who are concerned about change and the plan hopes to address their concerns," Ramey said.

He said the plan was particularly aimed at addressing the abutment of a low-density area with a high density area — homes hitting University buildings, so one of the key elements for the plan is to create graceful edges, or a smooth transition between the two.

Many people have worried about the East Campus Children's Center, a structure whose East 17th Avenue and Moss Street site caused considerable controversy because its brick-and-mortar style seemed not to blend with a residential area.

An advisory group of randomly selected east campus residents provided some input when the University began making changes to better suit the building to the area.

The University is close to receiving all of its permits to begin construction on the child care center, but some area residents say they have not been included enough in the planning process.

However, University officials

maintain that they adjusted the building plans to help the one-story building mesh with the neighborhood, and also worked to solve possible issues such as traffic congestion and parking.

Some also contend that the University should not have sold the low-income houses on the property.

"I think that they're not representing the truth (at the open house), and I think they need to be called on it," Osanka said. "There was a young man who walked by and he said 'you're tearing down my house, man.'"

Yet, the University does own the property, and tries to provide low-income housing in other areas.

Associate Vice President of Institutional Affairs Jan Oliver said the University originally bought this area in the 1960s for residence halls, but that it did not need the space at the time, so they chose to build low-income housing for students.

Oliver added the plans seek not to do harm, but to fulfill the University's mission to provide adequate facilities for the student body.

"The educational community's needs sometimes come in conflict with values around low-income housing," Oliver said.

Contact the reporter at jilliandaley@dailymerald.com.

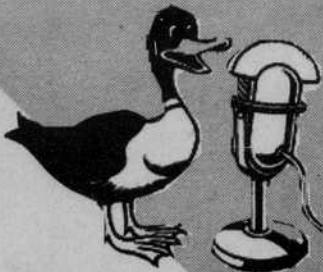
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