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Collective commotion

Possible unfair labor practices prompted a demonstration in front of Mother Kali's Books on Tuesday night

By Caron Alarab
Senior News Reporter

About 30 people demonstrated in front of Mother Kali's Books on Tuesday night to protest recent termination letters issued to all four of its current employees.

The employees, who will all be terminated on or by Feb. 13, contend that the firing method could violate certain union rights, including the right to collective bargaining.

The employees rallied friends and volunteers to stomp and shout outside the store for their continued employment and for restored health care benefits during the first part of a Mother Kali's executive board meeting.

"(Our goal) is to show the board that we have community support," said store Co-Manager Cheryl RiversHailey, who received her termination letter on Jan. 23.

Less than 15 minutes into the meeting, board members adjourned to a different location after reviewing a copy of a claim and a requested injunction filed by the workers.

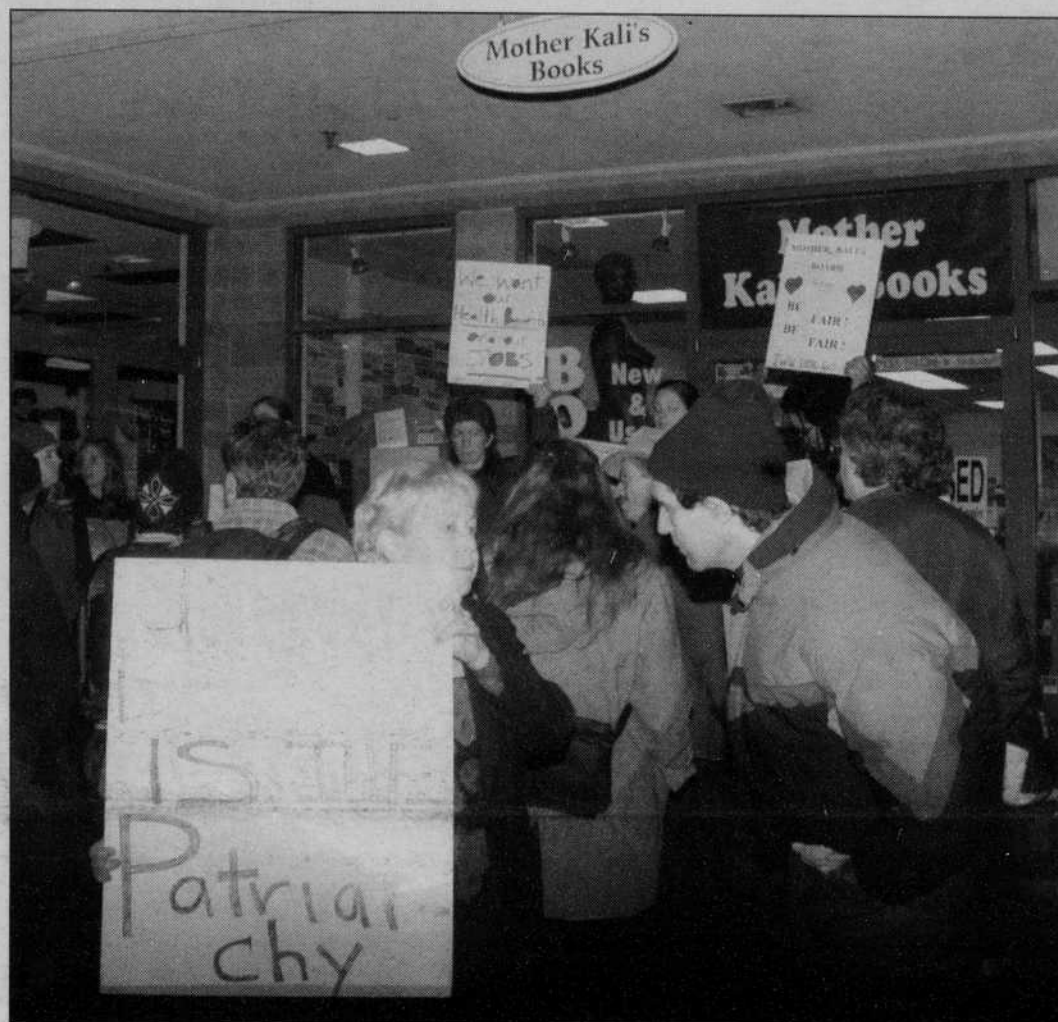
The board members declined to comment.

On Jan. 26, the employees filed an unfair labor practices claim with the National Labor Relations Board in Portland. As an independent federal agency established to enforce the National Labor Relations Act, the NLRB remains neutral in all labor disputes while ensuring the right to collective bargaining, which Mother Kali's employees are fighting to maintain.

"Their case has been assigned for investigation," Portland NLRB Officer-In-Charge Cathleen Calahan said. "But we won't know what happened until we investigate it."

Calahan defined collective bargaining as "a union and employer obligation to bargain, in good faith, with respect to terms and conditions of employment." Calahan said she couldn't tell whether the bookstore employees' case involved a lack of collective bargaining and that the investigation should take anywhere from 30 to 45 days to complete.

In the meantime, the two staff employees, Tiffany Haggmark and Madrone Deicher, and their co-managers, all of whom are members of IWW Local 660, hope to receive a quick injunction to allow time for collective bargaining.



Tim Bobosky Photographer

About 30 people protested in front of Mother Kali's Books after four employees received termination letters.

RiversHailey and Sandra Pasman became temporary co-managers at the store in September after working as staff employees for three years and a year and a half, respectively. Approximately three weeks ago, board members notified the co-managers of upcoming newspaper ads for a single full-time manager. Although she always knew her management position would be temporary, RiversHailey said she was shocked to receive the termination letter.

"They didn't say it, but I was under the impression we were going to get our staff jobs back," she said. "It was a total surprise for everyone."

RiversHailey's letter stated that the board needed

"to implement a new management-staff model" in order to keep the store open. At the demonstration, the employees said the store has also recently denied them health care benefits, which they said "adds insult to injury."

At the end of the demonstration, demonstrators with signs — one reading "Union busting is the patriarchy" — held them high while others shouted "Union bust, lose our trust" at the board members, who walked out the store's back door to avoid the crowd.

Contact the business/science/technology reporter at caronalarab@dailyemerald.com.

N.H. win secures Sen. Kerry as leader

For the past 22 years, the Democratic candidate who won both the New Hampshire and Iowa primaries has received the party's nomination

By Carl P. Leubsdorf
The Dallas Morning News (KRT)

NASHUA, N.H. — John Kerry cemented his front-runner status by defeating former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean and three other main rivals Tuesday in the New Hampshire primary.

The Massachusetts senator, a surprise victor Jan. 19 in the Iowa caucuses, held off a late surge by Dean, who began 2004 as the front-runner in polls and money.

The former Vermont governor's strategists hoped that a relatively close finish would enable him to claim a share of the night's laurels.

But Dean may have trouble finding a state where he can win, and aides said he would focus his efforts in the next week on some later primaries as well as the seven states that vote next Tuesday. Since 1972, every candidate winning both Iowa and New Hampshire has captured his party's nomination.

Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, hoping to exceed expectations by finishing third after his surprising second in Iowa, was in a close race with retired Gen. Wesley Clark.

Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, who like Gen. Clark bypassed Iowa to concentrate here, trailed in fifth place; aides denied that he would soon quit the race.

Aides to both Clark and Lieberman have said that they hope to do better when Democrats vote next Tuesday in seven

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Coordinator provides ASUO with needed stability



Danielle Hickey Photo Editor

Jennifer Creighton-Neiwert, ASUO accounting coordinator, has been a welcome mainstay with the ASUO since 1997

By Chuck Slothower
News Reporter

While ASUO presidents, student senators and board members come and go, ASUO Accounting Coordinator Jennifer Creighton-Neiwert holds the ASUO together, providing a key element of

continuity from year to year and helping many students who are new to the ASUO adjust to their positions.

Since starting with the ASUO as an intern in 1997, Creighton-Neiwert, 27, has become the go-to person for students seeking advice on ASUO processes.

"She goes out of her way to make sure that everybody in the office does the best job that they can do," Sen. Mena Ravasipour said. "She helps me be the best senator that I can be."

Creighton-Neiwert, who has semi-officially taken on the title of ASUO

Coordinator, is a familiar face at meetings of the ASUO Student Senate and Programs Finance Committee, where she occasionally pipes in to shed light on precedent or ASUO rules.

"My role in a lot of boards and groups differ(s) every year depending on their needs," Creighton-Neiwert said, adding that while groups such as PFC and the senate are completely student-run, she is happy to give them advice.

"It's just to help them make their own answers," she said.

Creighton-Neiwert said her role can

be demanding.

"I think (students) expect a lot as far as me always having the answer and having it in a very timely manner," she said. "We're fast paced, we're motivated and we're always on the move, and it's not always easy to be moving and shaking."

Creighton-Neiwert said she believes passionately in the power of involvement.

"My philosophy and why I do my job is that anybody can make a difference," Creighton-Neiwert said. To that end, she

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