

University of Arizona seals \$7 million Nike deal

■ The agreement allows the school to inspect the company's factories.

Arizona Daily Wildcat University of Arizona TUCSON, Ariz. (U-Wire) — After more than a year of tug of war between UA human rights advocates and Nike, the university emerged Monday with a \$7 million deal and the power to call for inspection of Nike factories.

In exchange for outfitting 14 of the University of Arizona's athletic teams with the "swoosh" for five years, Nike will shell out \$1.4 mil-

lion a year for the same length of time. The UA made the deal public about two weeks after the contract was formally signed Aug. 17.

"In the scheme of things, it (\$7 million) is a very moderate number," UA President Peter Likins said. "The primarily operational significance is that it spreads the benefit among all 14 sports."

The UA also will receive 8.5 percent of retail sales through the Collegiate Licensing Co., which markets UA apparel with Nike logos.

Beyond money matters, the contract includes humanitarian stipulations. The shoe and apparel manufacturer created a code of conduct in 1994 after allegations of human

rights violations in overseas factories surfaced.

Likins met in April with Nike Chief Executive Officer Philip Knight to request an out-clause in the pending contract, enabling the school to void the deal if Nike "knowingly violates its code of conduct or overlooks human-rights violations made by subcontractors."

"I think we've gone a little bit further than we did when we talked to Philip Knight," Likins said.

In the code, updated in May, Nike pledges that it will not use forced labor or child labor. Under the code, workers are entitled to benefits mandated by local laws, including sick leave and minimum wage.

Included in the final contract is a clause permitting the UA to call for an independent investigation of conduct overseas.

The contract states that the UA can void the agreement if there is a "material breach" of the code, as determined by a "mutually agreeable independent monitor."

The UA can call for an independent investigation if wrongdoing is suspected. The contract does not state whether the UA or Nike would pay for such an investigation.

Arne Ekstrom, a neurosciences graduate student and head of Students Against Sweatshops, said he was happy to hear there was an independent monitoring clause in the

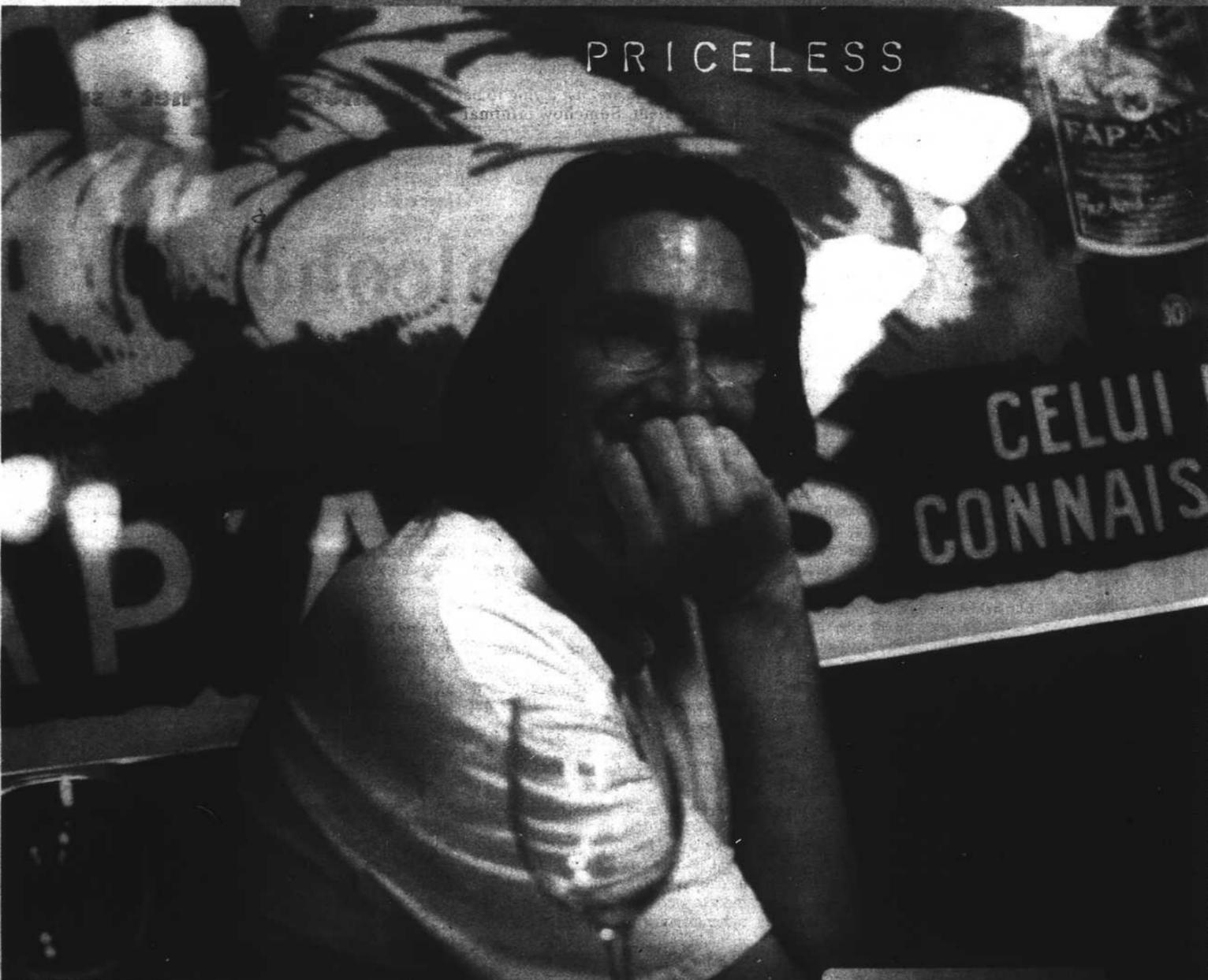
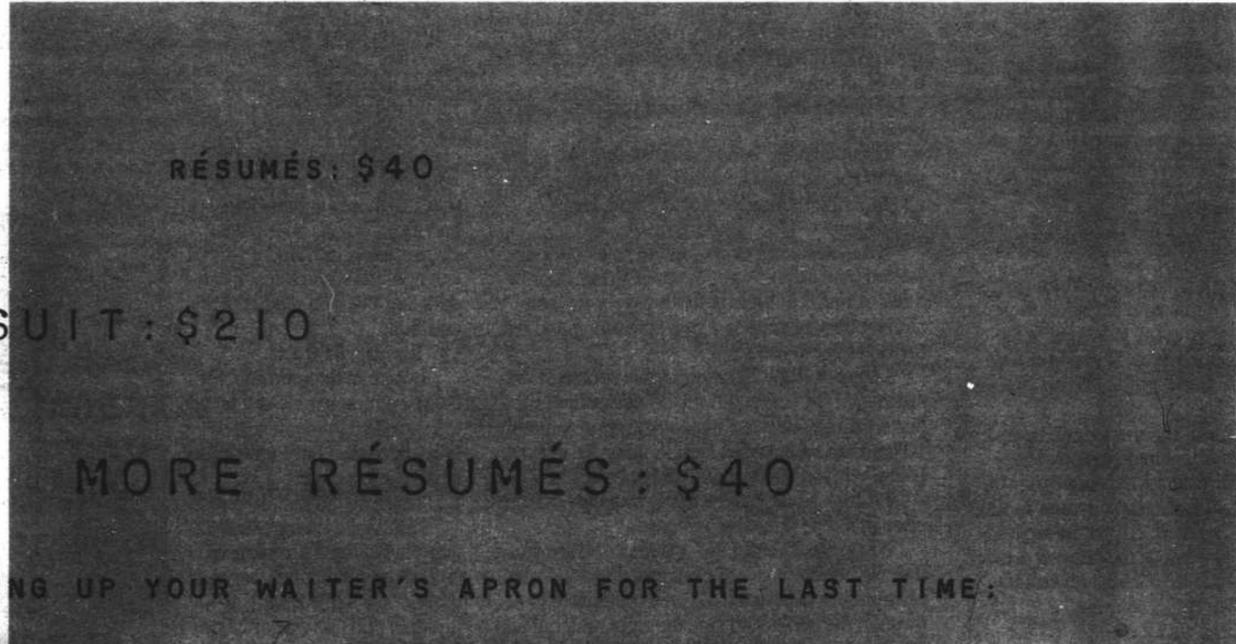
contract but was not entirely convinced it would be enforced.

"We feel that most of what the administration has done is empty," Ekstrom said. "I don't think that most of the dialogue we have had was effective by any means."

He said the contract was signed mainly for monetary gain, adding the athletic department had "absolutely no interest in human rights issues."

Nike spokesman Dave Minge said student concerns are taken seriously at the athletic apparel company.

"It is very important for us to be the leader in fair and safe labor practices," he said. "We are very concerned about the students' concerns."



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