

Universities campaign against Guess jeans

**Daily Targum
Rutgers University**
New Brunswick, N.J. (U-Wire) — The Student Action Union began a nationwide campaign last week to protest Guess, which the university group claims utilizes sweatshops to manufacture its clothing.

The group began handing out fliers Friday alleging Guess has a history of subcontracting to companies that underpay and overwork their employees.

Rutgers College senior Arsenia Reilly, member of the SAU, said the group is one of 50 nationwide that will be asking students on their respective campuses to boycott Guess. Schools that have groups advocating the boycott include Harvard, Cornell, Georgetown and New York universities.

"What we're trying to do is spread some awareness about this," said Reilly of the SAU, which is a member of United Students against Sweatshops Coalition. "We want people to know about the sweatshops Guess had two years ago. Ever since they got some bad press about that last year they moved those plants to Mexico."

Glenn Weinman, a Guess spokesperson, said the company neither has, nor had any sweatshops.

"We never had what most people envision as sweatshops," he said.

“Violators are found from time to time, but they are minor violations that are corrected immediately.”

GLENN WEINMAN
Guess spokesman

"Guess has compliance contractor monitoring. Violators are found from time to time, but they are minor violations that are corrected immediately."

He said such violations are typically overtime violations, not child-labor abuses or illegally low pay.

According to Guess' Web site, the company has had an agreement with the Department of Labor since 1992 to monitor the compliance of its contractors with federal and state labor laws.

Weinman said to guarantee fair labor conditions when using subcontractors Guess itself first does an initial inspection of each work site, which then is followed up over time by inspections from an outside group.

The inspections check to see if the work sites are sanitary and to see if proper signs, which must let workers know their rights and how to file a complaint if those rights are violated, are hung up.

A code of conduct also must be

signed by the contractor and hung up, he said.

"They will typically go up in English and at least one other language," he said.

He said the outside inspection team also does regularly scheduled payroll audits and surveillance to make sure workers are being treated fairly.

He said that although labor laws vary in the dozens of countries in which Guess hires subcontractors, the company maintains its code of conduct internationally.

"If we find anything wrong then we're all over the contractor to have the violation fixed," he said.

Weinman said while previous complaints have been made, including some by Amnesty International, news of poor working conditions actually comes from competitors who are trying to ruin Guess' image.

Partial beer ban angers many

**Colorado Daily
University of Colorado**
Boulder, Colo. (U-Wire) — The decision to keep alcohol flowing at the Flatirons Club has upset many alumni and students.

On Thursday, the Board of Regents voted to support the Folsom Stadium ban on beer sales, but to still allow alcohol in the Flatirons Club, a clubhouse in the stadium that seats about 900 people. Anyone who can afford a \$1,250 donation to athletic scholarships at CU can become a member of the Flatirons Club.

"The alumni board overwhelmingly considered (the regents' decision) to be a double standard, hypocritical," said Kent Zimmerman, president of the Alumni Association, after the alumni board met Friday. One alumnus believed it is un-American to have a ban that you can buy your way out of, Zimmerman said.

Two years ago, the Alumni

Association came out against the beer ban. At the alumni board meeting, they supported the continued ban by a slim majority vote of 15 to 12. But only three out of 27 felt it was fair to allow alcohol in the Flatirons Club.

"There's a fear expressed that current programming seems to focus more and more on prohibition rather than the original goal of teaching life-long responsible behavior," Zimmerman said. "If the beer ban is for behavior, then why is it allowed in certain areas?"

Many students also have a problem with the beer ban.

"The beer ban in general doesn't bother me, but to allow (alcohol) in certain elitist areas is beyond unfair. It's an act of segregation, essentially," said CU student Kim Power.

"It seems unfair," said student Sharon Choi. "The beer ban at Folsom is an easy out — a quick and dirty solution to the problem." Student A.J. Neitenbach agreed.

"If you're going to have it in one place, you should have it everywhere," he said. "I'll never be able to get into that club."

Other students didn't mind the ban or the continued alcohol sales in the Flatirons Club.

"It doesn't bother me," said student Sean Belt.

"I don't really have any opinion about it," said student Xao Yang.

Chancellor Richard Byyny commented through public relations spokeswoman Bobbi Barrow.

"He says he considers health and safety, the enjoyment of the fans and the reputation of the university as the most important consideration in his decision (to ban beer at Folsom Stadium)," said Barrow.

Barrow said that whether or not the Flatirons Club would still serve alcohol wasn't something Byyny considered.

Records release concerns students

**The California Aggie
University of California-Davis**
Davis, Calif. (U-Wire) — When UC Davis students learned last week that senior Sean Michael Patrick had been charged with five counts of rape in September 1997 — just two months prior to landing a job as a Cal Aggie Host for the UCD Police Department — their questions about sex offenders and their employment rights took police by surprise.

According to UCD Police Capt. Michael Corkery, who said he has never fielded so many calls about a single case in one day, most students are uninformed about their rights to information about sex offenders.

Corkery said Patrick's charges, which were filed in Shasta County, were not brought to the department's attention by an anonymous informant until December. Patrick was subsequently fired and pleaded guilty last month to three counts of statutory rape.

Although his reign as an Aggie Host was short-lived and his duties were limited to ticket-taking and monitoring events, the fact that he was employed in any capacity by the

campus police puzzled some students on campus.

"Some of the callers were just curious, but most were generally concerned about sex offenders being on campus," Corkery said.

Part of their apprehension, according to Corkery, is the mistaken assumption that any employer, including the Cal Aggie Host program, has the resources or the capability to run a full background check on every job applicant.

For the UCD Police Department, which employs 150 students as Aggie Hosts, complete fingerprint checks are only feasible when hiring supervisors and late-night campus escorts.

Instead the program bases its hiring on rigorous personal interviews and contacts with former employers.

"Our questions are pretty pointed," Corkery said. "We're trying to evaluate the person's leadership skills and their character. The trust level is very important."

Consequently, only half the students interviewed for jobs routinely pass the trust test. But cases like Patrick's do slip through the cracks.

"Nobody routinely knows if a student has a criminal history unless someone brings it to their attention," Corkery said.

He added that the only person who could have officially notified the police department of Patrick's charges was the Shasta County district attorney who prosecuted his case. Still, Corkery added, he had no obligation to do so.

"(Patrick) was over 18," Corkery said. "The DA has no responsibility to call us and warn us that he was charged with these crimes."

"They don't typically look at the bigger picture — where this guy might end up working or going to school," he added. "They're looking at the basic elements of the crime."

Patrick's decision to apply at the campus police department when he returned for his third year at UCD, just after his 1997 rape charges, doesn't make sense to Corkery.

"I can't speak to what his motivations were," Corkery said. "He may have felt that what happened in Shasta County had nothing to do with his education or his life here."

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