

Workers - GTFF to vote on University offer

Stories by MIKE HOPKINS
Of the Emerald

Members of the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation (GTFF) will make the biggest decision in the union's two-and-a-half-year history Tuesday when they vote to accept or reject the University's latest contract proposal.

According to Bill Ratteree, GTFF vice-president and chief negotiator, the

GTFF will meet to hold the election at 7 p.m. in Room 167 of the EMU. GTFF members unable to attend the Tuesday meeting may cast absentee ballots at the GTFF's headquarters, located above the Red Rooster Barber Shop at 868 E. 13th Ave., Eugene.

Since only GTFF members may vote on the contract, Ratteree said, GTFFs may join the union to cast a ballot at the GTFF office not later than today.

If the GTFF membership rejects the contract, Ratteree said, the union will ask for fact finding, a process in which a state Employment Relations Board (ERB) official, acting as a neutral third party, hears proposals from both sides and devises a compromise, which either party may then reject.

Oregon law requires a mediation period followed by fact finding before a union may strike. After beginning collec-

tive bargaining with the University last October, the GTFF declared an impasse and asked the ERB for mediation in late March.

Ratteree said he believes sentiment in the GTFF is running against the proposed contract because it fails to adequately address the issues of wages, health benefits, child care, reappointment and discipline and discharge.

However, the election's outcome can't be predicted, Ratteree cautioned. "A lot of GTFFs haven't made up their minds yet," he said. "Departments have already begun to organize meetings to discuss it."

Ratteree and Jon Silvermoon, a GTFF from the Wallace School of Community Service and Public Affairs, expressed opposition to the contract Wednesday in speeches before about 100 GTFFs attending a noon rally on the EMU terrace.

"We can strike. We can work over the summer," Silvermoon told the crowd. "Let's throw that dirty piece of paper (the proposed contract) back in their faces."

University, food workers' talk in limbo

Collective bargaining talks between the University and the Food Service Workers Union (FSWU) have stopped and apparently will remain in limbo until fall term.

FSWU president Scott Higgins said he had been advised by Bob Bell, the state Employment Relations Board (ERB) official who has mediated the talks since the FSWU declared impasse April 17, that further mediation would be

fruitless without a change in position from either side.

The two parties are at odds over the issues of wages and seniority rights. Although the University is willing to raise the starting salary to \$2.65 per hour, the federal minimum wage, it has resisted union demands for an automatic raise when a worker has acquired 200 hours working time.

Also, the University wants to exempt two key working positions from seniority

provisions. The FSWU wants all jobs to be filled according to seniority.

Higgins said he was under the impression the University would ask for fact-finding, a procedure allowing an ERB official to propose a compromise. However, Allen McKenzie, the University's chief negotiator, in talks with the FSWU, said the University has no intention of requesting fact finding.

"We're still waiting to hear from the union," McKenzie said.

Board tries again, gets position

If at first you don't succeed . . .

The EMU Board tried again Friday and gained approval of an amendment to change their by-laws, opening up a position on the board for a ASUO program member.

At a meeting last week, Board Chairer Dusty Rhodes proposed that of the three appointed positions open for EMU program members, one remain an EMU position and the other two be available to EMU or ASUO program members.

The proposal was defeated, so Rhodes drew up another stating that two positions would remain in EMU programs' hands while the third would be represented by someone from an ASUO program. The amendment passed eight to two.

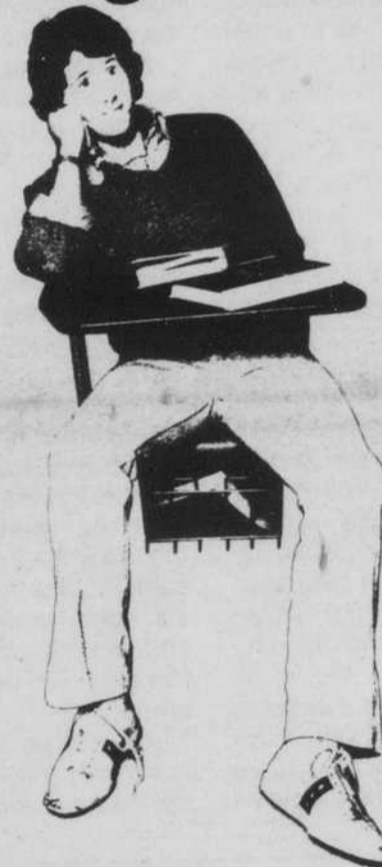
In other business, the board unanimously ap-

proved a motion made by Rhodes to allow him, EMU Business Manager Bob Schutz and any other interested board members to look into a management study of the EMU's revenue producing areas.

Rhodes called for the study because projections made by Schutz indicate substantial deficits in the revenue producing areas and "previous management studies have been good management tools and have contributed significantly to improved results in certain areas."

"Interested members" will come up with a proposal this summer that will be submitted to the full board in the fall. After the study's objectives and a management consultant are determined, the board will approach the Incidental Fee Committee for funding.

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