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Union predicts rejection of offer

From Associated Press reports

Greyhound union leaders were predicting Sunday that bus drivers and other employees on strike for 26 days will reject the company's latest contract offer when votes are counted nationwide today.

"Even though we provided for a secret ballot... a lot of them just didn't do it," J.W. Norman, president of Local 1315 of the Amalgamated Transit Union in Louisville, Ky., said Sunday.

Norman believes as much as 95 percent of the 250 members of his local voted against the contract, which reportedly is a three-year offer containing a 7.8 percent wage cut. The company and union have refused to discuss the contract publicly.

"I could tell how the vote was going just by our local reaction," said James Cawley, president of Local 1210 of the transit union in Philadelphia, where the 650 members voted on the contract offer last week.

"We set up a booth to vote last

Monday, but only three people used the booth," Cawley said Saturday. "The others marked 'no' on the table without using it."

In Arizona, striking driver Tony Cutri said after last week's voting that he had "talked to a lot of people. I haven't talked to anyone who liked it." In Boston, union officials said they expected 100 percent rejection of the proposal.

And in Seattle, Warren Bovee, a union spokesman, said local union members voted Saturday afternoon on the company's contract proposal. "There's no doubt about it, we'll turn the contract down by 90 percent," Bovee said.

But at least one observer saw only defeat for the union in the strike, which has been marked by sporadic acts of violence and at least 59 arrests.

"It seems to me that the union would be very wise to admit it's going to lose, and seek the best it can," said Herbert Northrup, professor of industrial relations at the University of Pennsylvania's

Wharton School. He said the union has been unable to generate public support.

Pickers walked outside depots in cities from Boston to Los Angeles on Sunday as Greyhound continued to operate a limited schedule of service in 27 states, using non-union workers and new hires.

A company official in Philadelphia, who refused to be identified, said only 42 tickets were sold for 10 departures from Philadelphia on Friday, and about the same number were sold Thursday. Two of the 10 buses scheduled to leave Saturday were canceled due to lack of riders.

Greyhound's 12,700 drivers and other workers who belong to the Amalgamated Transit Union struck Nov. 2 over a proposed contract calling for at least 9.5 percent cuts in wages and benefits. Later the company issued a revised proposal that reportedly called for a 7.8 percent cut.

Preparatory class set for mock convention

Students who want to lead delegations in next May's mock democratic convention must sign up for the recommended preparatory course before winter

term registration, says convention coordinator Tom Birkland.

Preregistration is required because the course carries a prerequisite of six hours of previous political science coursework. It is worth three credits.

The convention is scheduled to involve about 1,200 students altogether, including about 65 delegation leaders, who will decide on convention rules, a party platform and presidential and vice-presidential candidates in Mac Court May 11-13. The conven-

tion is sponsored by the Political Science Student Union.

The course will be taught by a political science graduate student and will be a thorough overview of the presidential nominating process, Birkland says.

Persons interested can direct questions and sign up for the course through PSSU, 686-4890, the Political Science Department, 686-4864 or by visiting the mock convention table PSSU will have in the EMU this Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.



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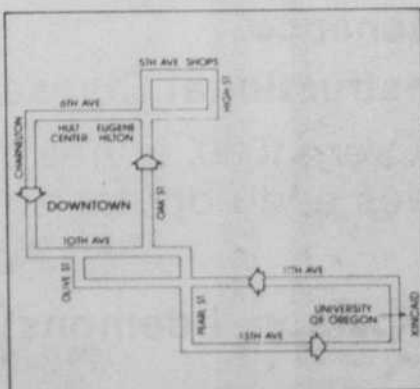
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