

Insurance debate prolongs strike

By Jackie Barry
Of the Emerald

What and how to pay for insurance coverage continues to thwart resolution of the 4-J School District teacher's strike. "It's almost as if this one issue has become a trip wire," said school board member Jack Billings. "Unfortunately, things will blow up whether we move or not."

Negotiators met for 14 hours Sunday; however, no new negotiations have taken place and none are scheduled, Billings said.

During one of Sunday's three "face-to-face sessions" the district's mediator "pressed strongly for a proposal" that would cap the cost of insurance, Billings said. The district would like to provide the same coverage but change from the current carrier, Blue Cross, because its rates are not "competitive," he added.

The teacher's mediator refused to go along with this proposal and continues to oppose the district's idea to give the union the funds so it can purchase its own insurance policy, Billings said. He called the

union's response ironic, saying it disbelieves insurance costs are skyrocketing but is not willing to risk the responsibility itself.

The district has evidence the costs of insurance are "skyrocketing" compared to the costs the district already pays, Billings said.

Negotiators discussed the insurance issue from 1 to 10 p.m. and "No movements were made on that issue," said Shari Forbes-Thomas, a public relations representative for the teacher's union.

Forbes-Thomas accused district officials of withholding evidence of skyrocketing insurance costs. "They won't give us actual rates," she said.

The district has made some information public but can't legally divulge the amounts of the bids received by the insurance carriers on which it bases its claims, said Dean Baker, a staff assistant for district community relations.

"The district virtually has not moved on any of its positions," Forbes-Thomas said. "They came up slightly on their salary offer and we came up slightly."

According to district Employee Relations and Business Services, the following proposals were made during Sunday's negotiations session:

- The district proposed raising teacher's salaries 3.9 percent for the 1986-87 school year, up from its last proposal of 3.15 percent. The Eugene Education Association lowered its salary proposal to 8.87 percent from 9.14 percent for the same year.

- The district proposed raising salaries a total of 6.4 percent for the 1987-88 school year and the EEA proposed raising salaries a total of 7.87 percent for that same year.

- Total district increase proposals, which includes additional salary increases, fixed charges such as PERS, social security, unemployment insurance and worker's compensation, and fringe benefits such as insurance, were 4.7 percent for the 1986-87 school year and 7.96 percent for the following year. For the same year, the association proposed a total increase of 9.93 percent and 24.01 percent respectively.

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Et al.

MEETINGS

Campus Crusade for Christ meet at 8:30 p.m. in 146 Straub.
Episcopal Campus Ministries meets at 5:30 p.m. at Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid.

MEChA meets at 4:30 p.m. in Room D, EMU.

Save Southbank Riverside Field. Students concerned about the Riverside Research Park meet at 7:30 p.m. in Cedar A, EMU.

Minority Caucus Meeting at 2 p.m. in Room 319 EMU for final decision on endorsements.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting at 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid.

Men Against Rape will meet at 7 p.m. in Century Room F, EMU.

The Pre-Law Society will meet at 4 p.m. in 164 Oregon Hall.

Peace Circle will meet at 12:20 p.m. outside the faculty club.

The Council for Human Rights in Latin America will meet at 6 p.m. at 1236 Kincaid.

Elections Board meets every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. and Saturday at 3:00 p.m. in the Conference room of the EMU basement, Suite 3.

Asklepiads meet at 7:30 p.m. in Century Room E.

LECTURES

International Week Middle East and Africa Day. Discussion about apartheid in South Africa at noon in the EMU Gumwood room.

Pat Shipman will speak about "Adventures with the missing link: finding the black skull" at 8 p.m. in Room 123, Science 1.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Danish film "Me and Charley," will be shown in the

EMU Forum at 7 p.m. Free admission.

Elections Board. Candidate Expense sheet due second day of both elections. Initiatives and statements due by 5 p.m. today.

Deadline for submitting Et als to the Emerald front desk, 300 EMU, is noon the day before publication. Et als are run only once. Events with a donation or admission charge will not be considered. Events occurring nearest the publication date and campus events will be given priority.

UO BOOKSTORE

ADVERTISING CORRECTION

Revenue disposition, income minus expenses, for year ending June 30, 1986 is \$331,885. Due to a typographical error it was reported incorrectly in an advertisement on page 10 of the Monday, April 13 Oregon Daily Emerald. Please see the annual report on page 4 of this issue.

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