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Teachers really don't work only nine months of the year, Ponder said. She will have to spend the next two summers fulfilling a 24-credit educational requirement in order to keep her certification, she said. The University currently charges just over \$700 for nine to 16 credits of graduate study.

The teacher's union so far has refused to accept the district's offer for what it calls "guaranteed" major benefits of insurance from an undetermined carrier.

Both Ponder and Bloom doubt the district's promise to guarantee insurance benefits if the new contract doesn't specify Blue Cross as the carrier. Bloom said the district won't give them a written guarantee and wonders why.

The district could not agree to a rigid guarantee of "identical" insurance benefits, according to Nancy Heiligman, the financial services coordinator for the district. The current teacher's contract would keep the district from "unilaterally changing" the benefits, she said, and it's common practice for insurance companies to make minor changes in policies.

Nichols told reporters the district "should have a very clear idea" by the end of this week of how many applicants it will have to fill 622.5 FTE job openings in order to reopen schools next week if the teachers' strike continues. She said the district received almost 400 applications, and nine people from the district substitute teacher list had said they would teach as of Monday.

The district asked teachers from the substitute list to respond by today, Nichols said. She added that school principals probably will start interviewing candidates to staff their schools early next week.

In regard to the length of time negotiations are taking, Nichols said, "It's so tempting to



Photo by Andy Cripe

**Third-grade teacher Dave Pratt of Ellis Parker Elementary School uses a shovel to show his opinion of the ongoing strike.**

think that the problem is the process... I succumb to that thought" sometimes. But, she added, "I really think the problem is the issues." She said if money issues could be worked out, language issues would not keep a settlement from occurring.

# Budget Continued from Page 1

the ASUO surplus account. If the pay increases are more than expected, the money to cover those increases will come out of the ASUO overrealized account.

A third note supported a note placed by the EMU Budget Committee concerning Main Desk renovation, and the fourth asked next year's board to explain specific line-items and why there were increases or decreases.

Baldwin then moved the EMU budget as requested; however, he did not support his own motion.

"I thought a 5.5 percent increase was stretching things," he said, adding that a 6.6 percent increase was just too much.

Baldwin's original motion failed 2-4, with Ron Munion and Laurie Clark in favor. Baldwin then moved the budget as recommended.

A budget note was added by IFC Vice Chairwoman Katy Howard. She wanted to see the EMU Board adopt a more realistic depreciation schedule for computer equipment in the Computer Lounge. The motion plus the five budget notes passed 6-1 with Munion in opposition.

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EUROPE DAY

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

**All day:**  
Scandinavian knitting demonstration

**Morning:**  
11:00 a.m. Slide-show "The Netherlands"-Location: Dad's Room-EMU  
11:30 a.m. Slide-show "Norway"-Location: Dad's Room-EMU

**Lunch time:**  
Songs from Sweden  
Poffertjes from the Netherlands


**Afternoon:**  
1:00 p.m. Slide-show "Finland"-Location: Dad's Room-EMU  
1:30 p.m. Slide-show "Denmark"-Location: Dad's Room-EMU

**Countries:**

|              |          |                  |          |
|--------------|----------|------------------|----------|
| -Belgium     | -Greece  | -Denmark         | -Turkey  |
| -Germany     | -Hungary | -Sweden          | -Iceland |
| -Switzerland | -England | -Poland          | -France  |
| -Norway      | -Cyprus  | -Italy           | -Spain   |
| -Finland     |          | -The Netherlands |          |


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*could*  
win this election.

No, Bob,  
The People  
will  
win this election.



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