

Parents offer their own solution to school strike

By Janet Paulson
Of the Emerald

Local parents offered a "win-win" solution to chief negotiators for the Eugene School District and the teachers union on Saturday amid mounting community frustration about the strike.

Striking Eugene school

teachers enter their ninth day on the picket lines today with no new bargaining talks scheduled. State mediator John Vale halted negotiations last Monday due to a lack of progress and unwillingness by both sides to move towards settlement.

Ed Reiman, a parent of two

children at McCornack Elementary School, and other parents met Saturday with negotiators Tom Doig of the Eugene Education Association and Jack Billings, representing the school district. The parents presented the two sides with a plan to reach a settlement and return teachers to school.

Reiman said the plan offers a graceful way for both sides to resolve the current deadlock.

Reiman does not want to discuss the details of the plan at present, but said it involves returning the teachers to school by Wednesday. Both sides would agree to a time line in which they will "hammer out an agreement."

"It is a positive, workable plan involving teachers going back to work and involving no threat to either side," he said.

Both negotiators reacted skeptically to the plan, Reiman said. If the district and the teachers refuse to accept the plan, parents will probably "take the plan public."

Reiman also was one of the key organizers of a parents meeting held Thursday evening at McCornack School. The meeting produced 18 ideas parents believe would end the strike, including filing a lawsuit to compel binding arbitration. Reiman said he received at least 500 phone calls since the meeting, "not one saying to back off."

In other strike news, striking teachers picketed on Friday at Johnson Hall and passed out leaflets accusing school district negotiator Steve Goldschmidt of being "Oregon's highest paid public employee."

Goldschmidt is an associate professor in the College of Education. He has not worked full-time at the University since 1982 and currently is on sabbatical. According to administrative rules regarding sabbatical leave, professors on a one-year leave are paid 60 percent of their salary.

Goldschmidt receives \$75 per hour as chief negotiator for the school district. Picketers said Goldschmidt was stalling on negotiations because he stood to



Photo by Bobbie Lo

Lee Bear pickets outside Johnson Hall on Friday to show her disapproval of school district negotiator Steve Goldschmidt receiving sabbatical pay from the University in addition to his wages as chief negotiator.

benefit personally by prolonging the talks.

Picketeer Kaye LeFrancq, a fifth grade teacher at Awbrey Park Elementary School who spoke for the teachers, said a professor on sabbatical should come back better prepared to teach. She said Goldschmidt's activities while on sabbatical were only for personal gain.

Goldschmidt could not be reached for comment, but Alison Baker, executive assistant to the president, said

Goldschmidt's activities while on leave were within the bounds of the sabbatical contract rules. The contract states that the applicant must use the leave "in a manner which will provide greater service to the institution and to the state."

"One thing Goldschmidt teaches is collective bargaining... Therefore, he is increasing his understanding, and it is within the realm of his responsibility," Baker said.

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MEETINGS

The Student Senate meets at
3:30 p.m. today in the EMU
Maple Room.

LECTURES

Harvey Green, the deputy
director of interpretation for the

Strong Museum and professor
of history at the University of
Rochester, will talk on "The
Material Life of American Colonial
History" at 3:30 p.m. today
in 117 Fenton.

MISCELLANEOUS

A workshop on applying to
medical school will be held at

5:30 p.m. today in 101 Gilbert.
Deadline for submitting Et als
to the Emerald front desk, 300
EMU, is noon the day before
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