

# Teachers insist on insurance, reject contract proposal

By Alicia Gano

Of the Emerald

School Board Chairman Jack Billings said he is encouraged by the Eugene Education Association's willingness to consider a new district insurance compromise, despite its ultimate rejection of it Tuesday.

Superintendent Margaret Nichols also commented on a recent Eugene Chamber of Commerce opinion poll on the strike that indicated there is higher community support for the board than for the EEA.

The district's proposed compromise would maintain current insurance benefits to teachers during the 1987-88 school year with a \$500,000 one-time contribution from the district. Later, district and

association representatives would form a committee to redesign an insurance program for 1988-89.

The plan also proposes the EEA and district share equally the risk of excess insurance costs or potential savings to the district in 1988-89.

Despite the association's rejection, Billings said the district and EEA did agree on maintaining benefit levels and the need for further discussion on capping insurance costs.

The district hoped this proposal would act as a "safety valve" to get the insurance issue "off the table," Billings said. The formation of a committee to redesign the program is a way to give everyone time to make some reasonable choices without the pressure of a strike, he said.

EEA member Andy Gottesman said the association is unwilling to accept the cap on insurance spending at this time, but it is willing to keep negotiating.

Gottesman also voiced concern that the district is close to making a "last offer" to teachers. A last offer is the district's equivalent to teachers going on strike, he said, which means the district breaks off negotiations and offers any teachers that will come back a job — those that don't accept will lose their jobs to replacement teachers.

Teachers are being encouraged by the EEA to reject any such proposal, Gottesman said. This

type of "union busting" would be to the detriment of everyone, he said.

All teachers would benefit most by sticking together in this situation, he added.

If the district does not get enough replacement teachers, it will have to come back to the association and reopen negotiations, Gottesman said. If some teachers go back to work while others remain on strike, the position of the union is undermined, he said.

Dean Baker, a staff assistant for community relations at the school district, said no one in the district wants this to happen. The district wants its regular teachers to come back, he said.

Nichols told reporters she found the Eugene Chamber of Commerce opinion poll "interesting," pointing out the survey showed 43.3 percent of the community supported the board while 29.3 percent favored the association. She also noted that 56 percent of Eugene taxpayers would not be willing to increase their property taxes to meet teacher's demands.

This concurs with the district's view that Eugene residents are not willing to increase their property taxes for school support at this time, she said.

"The most important thing is the reaffirmation of the importance of being responsible — good stewards — with the taxpayers' money," Nichols said.

## Chamber of Commerce Survey

1. As a personal opinion, which position do you tend to support at present, the teachers or the school board?

|        | Teachers | School Board | Don't Know No Opinion |
|--------|----------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Male   | 30.9%    | 45.1%        | 24.0%                 |
| Female | 28.0%    | 41.8%        | 30.2%                 |
| Total  | 29.3%    | 43.3%        | 27.5%                 |

2. Do you support the teacher's or the School Board's position on the issue of health care benefits?

|        | Teachers | School Board | Don't Know No Opinion |
|--------|----------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Male   | 28.6%    | 47.4%        | 24.0%                 |
| Female | 27.1%    | 46.2%        | 26.7%                 |
| Total  | 27.8%    | 46.8%        | 25.5%                 |

## 'Make a stink' about excesses, renowned peace activist says

By Deborah Janes

Of the Emerald

Dr. Benjamin Spock took a break from his civil disobedience activities Tuesday night to encourage a University audience to "fight against the insanity of possible nuclear annihilation."

In his fiery presentation, he warned against relying on politicians to create change because "they have all thrown away their judgment," and to instead "make a stink."

Spock, 83, has spent the past 20 years as a rabble-rouser, railing against the nuclear arms race. He has been arrested 12 times, most recently in January for climbing over a fence at Cape Canaveral, Fla., to protest testing for the Strategic Defense Initiative, also known as Star Wars.

Spock is best known for his work as a pediatrician and as the author of "Baby and Child Care," which sold 28 million copies and revolutionized the art of parenting.

As keynote speaker for Earth Week, he spoke about the "excesses" that have led to the disintegration of society. "We are disintegrating from the inside because we put everything in money terms," he said.

Americans have lost their spiritual base — are losing their faith in religion, the family and the nation, Spock said. "We are a believing species; we need to believe in something a little bigger than ourselves," he said.

Turn to Spock, Page 5A

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- 10:00 Page DuBois, University of California, San Diego, Feminist Rethinking of Greek Classics.
- 11:00 Mary-Kay Gamel, University of California, Santa Cruz, This Day We Read Further: Why Feminist Interpretation is Necessary.
- 12:00 Lunch break.
- 1:30 Judith Stacey, University of California, Davis, Can There Be A Feminist Ethnography?
- 2:30 Naomi Scheman, University of Minnesota, The Engendering of Philosophical Problems.
- 4:00 Panel discussion with the above speakers.