

Negotiations to resume Saturday; schools set to reopen next week

By Jackie Barry

Of the Emerald

Negotiators will reconvene this Saturday at 1 p.m. in an attempt to settle the strike between the Eugene Education Association and the 4-J School District, according to Superintendent Margaret Nichols.

State mediator Nancy Ruiz canceled talks earlier this week, saying 18 hours of talks failed to produce enough progress to warrant continuing the session that ended Wednesday.

Nichols said the district's desire to continue talking remains "unabated." She said the only way the dispute can be settled is if the two sides talk.

District office strike captain George Wilhelmi said he couldn't believe the school board and superintendent "actually support this lack of effort to bargain in good faith."

He said district negotiator Steve Goldschmidt's method of negotiating was "not to negotiate." He said an 18-hour session that produced so little growth was clearly a stalling tactic.

In a related issue, the union has filed two labor complaints against 4-J with the State Employment Relations Board in Salem.

Shari Thomas, a public rela-

tions spokeswoman for the union, said one complaint relates to a decision made by the ERB in March, directing the school board to bargain over part-time seniority. Thomas said the school board has ignored the order, and the union is attempting to have a court make the order.

The second complaint involves salaries the board said it will pay substitute teachers who have said they will teach during the strike. According to Thomas, the 4-J substitute contract stipulates substitutes will be paid \$77 per day, and the district has offered \$148 per day to substitutes who will work during this dispute. The district can't increase the rate without bargaining, she said, but it refuses to bargain.

District officials could not be reached for comment on the labor complaints Thursday evening.

Meanwhile, district officials are continuing efforts to reopen schools next week.

Nichols said secondary schools will reopen next Wednesday but will be on a shortened schedule for a few days, giving teachers and principals extra time for planning.

Nichols also said elementary schools may open the same day

but are not fully staffed yet.

She said the district has a total of 500 certified teachers scheduled as replacements and needs 633 to reopen all schools. The district usually employs about 1,200 teachers.

The district will continue to recruit and interview replacement teachers after schools reopen, Nichols said, to beef up programs from a minimal level.

She said she still hopes the strike will end before schools reopen with replacement teachers. "Some days it feels like a desperate hope."

Nichols said district officials made a "deliberate decision not to reopen" as early as they could have, possibly a week ago. She said the additional conflict and animosity present in such a situation prompted this decision. "But we've reached a point where the price for students not to have school is too great."



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years.

But Mason, the Portland Democrat and part-time PSU instructor, defended the distribution of wealth among the three universities.

"Those of us in the urban area wanted some equity in the fun-

ding," Mason said.

Earlier this year, Mason remarked that one of Oregon's biggest mistakes was building the University in Eugene, which is too far from the state's main population center in Portland.



"Report from Africa"

Peace Corps Volunteer Margaret Pettibone of Seattle, a health and nutrition specialist serving in the West African nation of The Gambia, recently wrote this account of her work in that developing country.

"Bakendik is a Gambian farming village located on the North bank of the Gambia River, not far from the Senegalese border. There are 1,000 people living here speaking diverse languages of Mandinka, Wolof, Fula, Jola and Serrehule. Two chiefs preside over the village, one a Mandinka, one a Wolof. Both served in the British Army during WWII. The main activity is farming — rice and vegetables by the women and couscous by the men.

One villager, Mustapha Jammen, has been propagating Mango trees in his back yard in tin cans for 5 years or more. He was encouraged to do this when he heard radio reports out of Senegal talking of the advance of the desert. (There is, of course, no electricity here, so he listens when he has batteries.) When the trees are about 18 inches high he transplants them to a field and carries water to them from a well which is about one quarter mile distant. He protects his trees with bamboo fences and bits of corrugated tin.

INFORMATION TABLE:

Tues., - Wed., Apr. 28-29
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
EMU Lobby

FILM PRESENTATION:

Tues., Apr. 28
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
EMU Room 108
Film: "The Toughest Job You'll Ever Love"

SCHEDULED INTERVIEWS:

May 12-13
9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Hendricks Hall

Career Planning & Placement Center. Sign up in advance, bring your completed application to the interview.

For more information call 686-3235

There is no herd law here so goats, sheep, and the big horned African cattle wander at will. Anything green attracts them. The survival rate for Mustapha's trees is very low. After five years he has 7 trees.

As a Peace Corps Volunteer I was posted to this village to investigate the causes of malnutrition. At the same time, I became aware every day that the land was blowing — here they call it the Harmattan winds. Sand is everywhere.

In the hopes of increasing food production, changing land use and perhaps altering the work load of women, the villagers and I began talking of tree planting. Together with Mustapha, the Primary School Headmaster, and a prominent woman we obtained U.S. A I D funds to provide adequate fencing and an accessible water supply for a fruit farm. School children are each assigned a tree to care for and can be seen watering their trees morning and night. Villagers who were skeptical of Mustapha's vision are now asking how to start their own. It is a beginning."

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SLIDE PRESENTATIONS:

Tues., Apr. 28
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
EMU, Forum Room
"Peace Corps At Work in The Philippines"
Wed., Apr. 29
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
EMU, Maple Room
"Peace Corps Perspective On Sierra Leone"



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