

Negotiators hope to end strike at bargaining table today

By Jackie Barry
Of the Emerald

Negotiators will return to the bargaining table today in yet another round of talks aimed at ending the 21-day-old teachers' strike.

Talks are scheduled to resume at 1 p.m. at the Village Green Motor Hotel in Cottage Grove. Representatives from both sides expressed hope this would be the last session.

"Every time I always hope that that's it, I put all my eggs in one basket," said Bette Shoemaker, a first-grade teacher at Ida Patterson Elementary. "I just live from one bargaining session to the next."

"We're always hopeful something will break the log-jam," said Geoff Masters, an Oregon Education Association consultant on special assignment in Eugene.

Masters said he thought additions to the bargaining table may have added some new

ideas and believes that even though there's been more movement on issues than in past sessions, there hasn't been enough.

"It's going to take 'til the middle of September (to reach an agreement) at that rate," he said.

Neither side is sure how Monday's fairground protest and resulting arrests will affect negotiations or the ability of the parties to work together when the strike is settled.

Four striking teachers were arrested for disorderly conduct and a television news photographer was arrested for fourth-degree assault during the protest, according to a Register-Guard report. They all were released on their own recognizance.

District Superintendent Margaret Nichols said the events "bothered" her, but she doesn't think they will make a settlement more difficult. She

said talks hinge on money and other issues and not on behavior.

Nichols said she'd received calls from people expressing dismay or disappointment over the events and one person expressing anger because she couldn't get to her home.

An issue such as the arrest of a teacher typically is not part of teacher evaluation because it isn't related to teaching performance, Nichols said.

She noted teacher conduct expected by the public is higher than the ordinary standard, however.

"We expect more dignity, more self-restraint," she said.

Nichols said it's sad when professionals behave in a way that doesn't do credit to the maturity and dignity expected.

Masters is not sure community opinion of Monday's arrests matters, he said. The community stood by for months and months while negotiations dragged on, and members of the community should force the district to make fair and equitable proposals, he said.

"Our purpose was to give a very strong message to the scabs that we don't want them here," Masters said. "All they are is glorified babysitters."

The relationships that exist between building ad-

ministrators and teachers varies, according to Masters. The union receives reports that some administrators are doing the best they can, and some are very negative and hurtful to the striking teachers, he said.

Ida Patterson's principal, Virg Erickson, "has been very responsible," Shoemaker said. The building staff remains "tight" and continues to meet, she said.

Two part-time teachers at Ida Patterson continue to teach because their contract requires them to do so, Shoemaker said.

"We all understand that," she said.

ASUO, Student Senate to discuss changes to grievance procedure

By Carolyn Lamberson
Of the Emerald

Lucy Kaplan and Randy MacDonald will meet today with student grievance representatives to discuss the proposed changes to the grievance procedure.

Kaplan, director of the Office of Student Advocacy, and MacDonald, Student Senate chairman, have invited representatives from the offices of affirmative action, the dean of students, academic advising, the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, financial aid, ASUO mediation, the ASUO Executive and the Committee on the Status of Women, among others, to brainstorm ideas and suggestions before the changes are finalized.

The proposed changes actually occur in the introductory rule of the Grievance Division and attempt to clarify the procedures outlined in Division 3 of the Oregon Administrative Rules, according to a memo from the office of the vice president for administration.

Kaplan said the proposed changes are not tremendously different from the current rules, but she sees the need for other groups to get involved in the rule-making process. This is one reason for today's meeting, she said.

"I also want to explore the possibility of independently or jointly requesting deferment of the rule-making decision," she said, referring to her comments in Tuesday's Oregon Daily Emerald.

Although there is no state-mandated time limit for the University to implement these procedures, Kaplan is hoping to request a 90-day deferment in implementation to allow full commentary on the proposed changes, she said.

Kaplan said they are likely to get a favorable response from the administration on extending the finalization date.

Muriel Jackson, assistant vice president for administration, said tentatively, no action would be taken until two weeks after a planned public hearing

on May 14. She was informally told the University could take up to a year to make a decision but would have to hold a second public hearing in that time, Jackson said.

The proposed amendment is the result of a recommendation by the University provost's office in consultation with the faculty advisory council, Jackson said. It would give stricter boundaries concerning which offices handle what grievances as well as describe how students initiate grievances, she said.

The proposal also would identify which employees and students are covered solely by collective bargaining agreements, what timelines are used and limits the amount of campus procedures a grievant may implement when pursuing a grievance on the same subject.

Kaplan said she hopes all those involved learn something from today's meeting, planned for 3:30 p.m. in EMU Cedar Room C.

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