

Negotiations resume on substitute amnesty issue

By Will Holbert
Of the Emerald

Negotiations between the Eugene 4-J School District and the Eugene Education Association will resume again soon, this time over the question of whether to give amnesty to substitute teachers who did not cross the picket lines during the teacher strike.

"At some level we're back in negotiations," said Jack Billings, chairman of the Eugene school board.

Billings did not say exactly what separates the two sides. The general issue is over the status of substitute teachers who were called in to replace the district's regular teaching staff during the recent teachers' strike. The district called in local substitute teachers in addition to the replacement teachers it hired from around the state.

According to earlier reports about this issue, the intention of the school board is to remove substitutes who refused to cross the picket lines from a master list of substitutes who are eligible to work for the district. Under such an action, substitutes who didn't cross the picket

lines would be punished by not being able to work for the district. The district would do this by using a clause in the substitute teacher's contract that required them to cross picket lines. However, the EEA is firmly opposed to such a measure and wants amnesty for those substitutes who honored the picket lines. A compromise is expected between the two positions.

Billings spoke to reporters Wednesday night after an executive-session meeting by the board about the issue.

"As soon as the respective representatives get together, we can discuss. We're anxious to get the problem resolved," said Billings, echoing the language used by the board during the strike.

In an May 29 Emerald article, Ray Gross, president of the EEA, predicted that if the district cuts the targeted substitutes from the master list, "morale will quickly reduce to terrible."

In the earlier article, Gross said he has heard some teachers talk about "working to rule," if a settlement isn't reached.

Recreation program expands for disabled

By Alicia Gano
Of the Emerald

Disabled students now will be included in University Outdoor Program trips because of the efforts of Shoshanna Marler, a program assistant for the co-operatively-run recreation group.

Marler, a junior in the therapeutic recreation department, came to the Outdoor Program in September 1986 and realized the program was geared completely toward "able-bodied" students, she said. Wanting to change this, she wrote more than 300 letters to organizations around the country soliciting information about programs for disabled persons.

There are architectural, psychological and resource barriers to integrating the disabled into programs such as the Outdoor Program, Marler said. The

main barrier at the University was resources, however, she said.

So Marler compiled a list of students who would be willing to go along on trips and aid a handicapped student. The idea was to remove minor barriers that keep the disabled from participating, she said.

Marler is careful to point out, however, the Outdoor Program is not offering any specialized mechanical services or staff to help out. The help would come from other students, not staff, she said.

A trip might be possible for a disabled student only if he or she had someone to drive the Outdoor Program van for them, she added.

"I think it's a great idea," said Hilary Gerder, a counselor for Students with Disabilities at the University. Gerder's only reservation about the program is that volunteers need to be sensitive to the disabilities of the individuals who participate, she said.

The Outdoor Program's mission to provide recreational activity for all students should include students with disabilities, Gerder said. Its effort to make themselves available and visible to students with disabilities is a step in the right direction, she added.

The Outdoor Program philosophy advocates a "common adventure" where individuals merge skills and energy to enjoy themselves at a low cost in the wilderness. There is never one leader, although there usually is a trip initiator.

Group cooperation and responsibility form the basis of the trips, Marler said, and the inclusion of handicapped students does not mean this will be sacrificed.

The group still will take precedent over the individual, but Marler said he hopes the new program will reduce some of the apprehension many students have about approaching the Outdoor Program for the first time, especially the disabled.

So far, two students have used the new program, which still is in a low-key phase, Marler said. She expects participation to pick up as the weather improves and the number of trips increases, she said.

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