

REGIONAL BRIEFS

Teachers still on strike

(AP) — Negotiations resumed Tuesday in the Mukilteo and University Place school districts, where teacher strikes have kept 13,700 students out of classes, but the Mukilteo talks collapsed late in the day.

No further talks were scheduled in Mukilteo, south of Everett, where 470 teachers went on strike Aug. 30 and 9,100 students have had an extended summer vacation since Sept. 5.

Snohomish County Superior Court Judge Stuart French, who refused to order teachers back to work last week, was scheduled to meet Wednesday morning with lawyers from both sides in his chambers. Another

hearing on the issue could follow in the afternoon.

"We hope that he issues an injunction," said Jackie Valiquette, a school district spokeswoman. "If he does not, we will be making our next decisions then."

Agreement was reached on student discipline, "not one of the major issues," she said.

John Cahill, a Washington Education Association field representative, said the teachers reluctantly agreed to consider a three-year contract and eased their demands on a role in school-by-school decision-making panels.

"We've gotten nothing back in return," Cahill said. "We're not going to keep bargaining

against ourselves."

College dorm damaged

PORTLAND (AP) — Fires damaged a women's dormitory at Lewis and Clark College in Portland and the student union at George Fox College in Newberg on Tuesday, forcing evacuations.

The fire at the Lewis and Clark campus started about 2 a.m. in a trash can in a communal kitchen on the upper floor of the Akin Hall dormitory, said Don Mayer, spokesman for the Portland Fire Bureau.

The blaze caused about \$125,000 in damage to the building and its contents. There were no injuries.

EXECUTIVES

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changing the title," Stickel said. The title change is meant to reflect the equal ability of both officeholders and the equal value of the work they do. "We just wanted to grant recognition to the people doing the work," Bailey said.

Although the ASUO constitution refers to executive officers as president and vice president, Bailey and Stickel said they do not consider it misleading or confusing to refer to themselves as co-presidents, or to sign documents with that title.

"It's just a recognition of the progressive nature of the University," Stickel said, adding that many other University student bodies are governed by co-presidents.

Bobby Lee, ASUO affirmative action coordinator, said the co-presidency has been a positive step. "From my personal perspective, it's working really well," he said. "They share authority in an organized, efficient manner. ... It's really nice to include both perspectives."

Dan Williams, vice president

for administration, said University administrators have adapted with no problems to working with co-presidents.

"We've always worked hand in glove with both president and vice president," he said. "But I think it's a very good thing. ... It only enhances the effectiveness of their administration."

Although the co-presidency technique appears to be working well with students and administrators, it is not clear whether the title change is in keeping with the ASUO constitution, which states that the elected executive officer of the ASUO shall be the president.

Rachel Kelly, ASUO Constitution Court chairwoman, said the court can consider the constitutionality of the co-presidency if a written request is submitted.

Kelly said any opponents to the co-presidency idea would have to submit their request with three essential parts: an explanation of the complaint, a request on how the court should rule, and a description of the rule change. In addition, Kelly said a complainant would have to submit five copies, one

for each member of the court.

Bailey and Stickel said that their co-presidency is simply an administrative technique that applies to their particular administration; it is not intended to be a permanent change to the office of president.

Technically, Bailey said, he retains all the powers accorded to the president by the ASUO constitution. Only Bailey's signature is required on contracts, and he officially has the power to appoint students to ASUO positions and to veto budget allocations.

However, Bailey and Stickel said, they will confer on all decisions, including contracts, appointments and vetoes, taking into consideration the recommendations of other executive staff members. They both sign all contracts and documents requiring the president's signature.

Bailey said eventually he may ask the elections coordinator to look into the possibility of changing the executive rules to officially provide for a co-presidency.

"The job's just too huge for one person," Stickel said.



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