

Workers' strike expected to continue today

OPEU: Negotiations failed to produce a settlement by late Wednesday night

Samantha Martin
Oregon Daily Emerald

The University can expect strikers to resume picketing today as mediated contract negotiations between the state and the Oregon Public Employees Union Wednesday failed to produce a settlement, showing each side appears to be standing its ground.

The negotiating session began at 1 p.m. Wednesday in Salem. Union leaders told OPEU employees to return to the picket lines today if a settlement was not reached by midnight Wednesday.

Bart Lewis, treasurer of Local 85 of the OPEU at the University, said the union has changed its mind on the three-day warning strike, and decided that because of the overwhelming support by the members and the success of Tuesday's rally at the capitol, workers will not be back to work today.

"Right now it appears as if we're out until this is settled," Lewis said. "Basically it is a test of wills at this point."

Lewis also said that beyond Thursday, everything is up in the air, as the status can change from day to day.

As strikers walk the lines for the fourth day on campus, some strikers said that students who ditch classes in the name of honoring the strike may only be proving



Striking members of the Oregon Public Employees Union protest in front of the art buildings on Franklin Boulevard Wednesday afternoon. Negotiations between the union and the state had not resulted in a settlement by late Wednesday.

NATALIE MONTGOMERY/Emerald

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Students sue University for refund of OSPIRG fees

Lawsuit: Plaintiffs say forcing them to support OSPIRG violates their rights

Amy Columbo
Oregon Daily Emerald

Seventeen University students, one recent graduate and a nonprofit law firm have filed suit against the University, claiming student fees dispersed to the Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group are a violation of the First and

Fourteenth Amendments.

The lawsuit, filed May 2 in the U.S. District Court in Eugene, requests that the University reimburse the eighteen students for the mandatory \$2.75 per term they paid to OSPIRG.

The lawsuit has the potential to strip OSPIRG of its student fees and possibly alter the entire process by which the University disposes out incidental fees.

On Wednesday, defendants in the lawsuit, including the ASUO president and vice president, were served with a sum-

mons to appear in court. Thus far, the University has made no official statements.

Peter Swan, assistant to the president for legal affairs, said if the lawsuit goes to trial, the trial division of the state attorney general's office will defend the University.

"The only way I could think for the University to avoid going to trial is to remove OSPIRG from the mandatory fee process on its own," said Martin Fisher, graduate student in law and one of the

plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

According to the lawsuit, the plaintiffs, many of whom are representatives of the recently formed group Students for Legal Government, disagree with the "political philosophy" of OSPIRG and don't believe they should be forced to fund the group.

Students for Legal Government asked the Individual Rights Foundation for its support earlier this year, and the Los Angeles-based organization, which spe-

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■ GOOD MORNING

► PORTLAND (AP) — President Clinton will visit Portland early this summer to lead a regional economic conference on Pacific Rim trade, the Oregon Democratic Party chairwoman said Wednesday.

Specific dates were not final, but the conference would be either the last week of June or the first two weeks of July, Jana Doerr said.

"It was moved back once because it conflicted with the Rose Festival," she said. "I probably won't know anything more for another week to 10 days at the least."

The president will be joined by public- and private-sector leaders from Oregon, Washington, California, Alaska and Hawaii.

"We'll be talking about Pacific Rim trade issues and economic policies, what policies have worked and what haven't," Doerr said.

Vice President Al Gore and several Cabinet members also will attend, she said.

► PORTLAND (AP) — Thieves in Portland have found something new in old news.

A surge in the price paid by recyclers for old newspapers — up to \$120 a ton from \$40 a ton a year ago — has led to thefts at drop bins and along recycling routes.

The city's Environmental Services Bureau has received dozens of complaints from citizens and haulers.

"Newspaper thieves have wiped out entire routes recently," said Bryan Engelson, the general manager of Eastside Recycling. "This kind of theft will hit every ratepayer in the pocketbook."

About 1,700 tons of newspapers are collected at curbsides in Portland each month. City officials reported a 10 percent drop in collections last month.

"Sooner or later, losses will have to be covered by higher rates," said Bruce Walker, manager of the city's curbside recycling program.

Taking \$50 to \$75 worth of

old newspapers is punishable by a maximum of one year in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

► SALEM (AP) — Forty to 50 gallons of raw goat's milk from a Canby dairy were recalled because of bacterial contamination.

The recall affects only Tall Talk Dairy cartons stamped May 13.

Consumers who bought the goat's milk at grocery or health food stores in the Portland area should return it immediately, said Bruce Pokarney, spokesman for the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Listeria monocytogenes, a disease-causing bacteria, was discovered in one batch of the milk during state tests, Pokarney said.

The bacterial disease can cause flu-like symptoms, including fever, chills, headache, abdominal pain and diarrhea.

"It's got the potential to be very serious," Pokarney said.

Computer research center signs its first two partners

Science: Mentor Graphics and Sierra/Dynamix join the local facility

Colleen Pohlig
Oregon Daily Emerald

The University-based Oregon Software Engineering Research Center on Wednesday welcomed its first two corporate partners which are expected to prove fruitful for state higher education and Oregon's economy.

Mentor Graphics and Sierra/Dynamix signed on in partnership with the research center, which is housed in the University's Riverfront Research Park, adjacent to campus.

Oregon was chosen last September to become the site for the nation's third Software Engineering Research Center as part of the National Science Foundation's Industry/University Cooperative Research Center

program.

Besides the University branch, centers at Purdue University and the University of Florida are the only other locations officials have chosen.

The goal of the research center is to combine the problem-solving resources of universities with the real-world needs of various industries.

"We are especially pleased because SERC establishes Oregon as a major center of academic expertise," said Steadman Upham, University vice provost for research and graduate education. "This will draw leading researchers to the state and we'll be working with the top minds in the industry."

The research center is funded at \$700,000 over a five-year period and is a consortium of about 50 computer science faculty members and their graduate stu-

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