

# Benefits: Layoffs may affect talks

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Cinniger, Gillespi and representatives from three other unions made up of city employees approached the council four years ago with a contract for these benefits, but he said the city refused to negotiate because it believed the population would not support it.

But Cinniger said the city's agreement to negotiate this spring may be used as bargaining leverage with the union.

Gillespi said the leverage the

city may be seeking will involve a demand that unionized employees co-pay the premium for their domestic partners, a payment that will continue to be assessed for non-unionized employees when benefits begin in July. He said the payment for this normally costs employees \$30 to \$50 a month and is based on the number employee dependents.

"It's the union's belief that employees should not have to co-pay," he said.

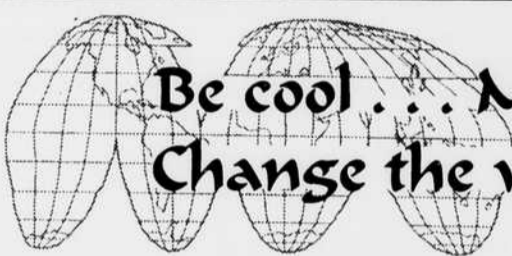
However, Dat said the Ameri-

can Federation and other unions must first negotiate with the city before any decision can be reached.

But Gillespi said the city's recent layoff of employees because of Measure 47 and 50 cutbacks might affect contract talks on both sides of the table.

Dat agreed that the extension comes at a bad time because of job losses.

"It is unfortunate that they are laying off employees and extending benefits," she said.



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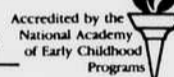
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Application deadline: Friday, January 23, by 4pm



## EMU News

Check out the EMU WEB PAGE  
<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~emumain/>



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Thursday 1/22/98 -  
Walnut Room  
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### AIKIDO GASSUKU CLINICS

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