

OPEU

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for dependents and spouses and a \$38 salary raise per month.

The University OPEU has been at the bargaining table with OUS since December. OUS refuses to comply with the above mentioned package, claiming its budget is too low to pay for both the rise in HMO premiums and the total-salary increase.

But last biennium the OPEU was given a six-percent wage increase during the two-year period. Bart Lewis, the University's OPEU representative at the table, wonders why OUS could afford the raise last biennium, but it can't this biennium. This is especially distressing to him in light of an expected \$73 million Legislative increase to the higher-education budget.

The OUS' latest offer to OPEU included a four-percent wage increase during the next two years and full HMO coverage, but it failed to include the \$38 salary increase that the rest of the OPEU has now.

This enrages the University OPEU, because not only do these numbers still fall below the market level, but many of its workers had been receiving a \$60 salary increase per month as an incentive to take a lower-cost health-plan insurance. This extra money was roughly equal to about three percent of some of the workers wages, said Sue Martinez,

an University OPEU member.

"[This cut] is mean-spirited and nasty," she said.

To make matters worse, the OUS refused to extend the OPEU's contract after it expired June 30. According to Lewis, this means the OPEU is operating without a grievance procedure or fair share, yet it is expected to do business as usual.

"We see this as an attempt to bust our union," he said, "because other state agencies got extensions to their contracts that [expired the same time ours did]."

Mark Zunich, employee-relations manager and Lewis' counterpart at the table, was unavailable for comment.

The OPEU's next step is a strike-preparation vote on Tuesday, July 27. If it passes, the union will create a hard-ship fund and form a strike-strategy committee.

"We're trying to give Higher Ed. the message that it might come down to that ... but of course we don't want it to actually happen because we'd be out of a salary," Lewis said.

If it does happen, Lewis predicts the OPEU will strike just in time for some 17,000 students to come rushing back to campus in September. The University will have a lot more to deal with than it's used to at the beginning of a new year, considering the Graduate Teaching Fellow Federation is also willing to strike if it doesn't reach a contract negotia-

tion agreement before the beginning of fall term.

"We all know the office workers are the ones who really run most of the departments on campus, anyway," said Yaju Dharmarajah, GTFF vice president for University relations and part of the GTFF negotiation team.

In addition to the GTFF, the University OPEU is supported by other OPEU members. Mark Gronso, an ODOT worker and member of the OPEU from Pendleton, has taken it upon himself to get people across the state fired up about this issue.

Gronso spent the day driving his "Contract Express" flat bed truck around the state. Arriving on campus at about 3:30 p.m., he was met by an enthusiastic group of about 50 University classified workers. The highlight of the mini rally was when Gronso, dressed up as University Chancellor Joseph Cox, addressed the group.

"I'm the evil Chancellor Cox, and I think temporary workers should take precedence over you people," he yelled.

"Let's have disposable chancellors," Dorothy Attneave, a University bookkeeper, yelled back.

The University is telling us that "they think we are all disposable," she said. "They are taking away our job security. The people who are making the decisions though, are so well off, they don't know the real issue."

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Moon

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department on campus said he was home from his sophomore year at the University that summer, and he remembers it well.

"It was an amazing thing," he said. "In the realm of the unbelievable at the time. And it was really special, I think, because we were the first ones to do it."

Professor of chemistry Geri Richmond can likewise recall watching the historic moment on television. She was attending a cheerleading camp "somewhere in rural Missouri" at the time as a high school student.

"All of us girls huddled around a television set watching it," she said. "It had such an impact and was such an important event because you had a sense of how phenomenal it was to accomplish what they did."

Astronomy professor Robert Zimmerman was working at Boeing in the summer of 1969. He believes the event held a particular significance and "mystery" to it as it was the first time humans left the Earth's atmosphere.

"I was very impressed," he said. "I recall the feeling around the world. It was an exciting time."

Launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on July 16, 1969, the eight-day mission was the first to bring back samples from another planetary body, opening new frontiers in science and exploration.

Commemorations of the 30-year anniversary of Apollo 11 will be held around the country today by NASA, Boeing and other space agencies and in Washington, D.C.

Anarchy

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ing heard."

City councilor David Kelly was on hand Friday, listening to concerns and offering to communicate them to city officials. And Carla Newbre, newly appointed to the police commission, announced that she would mediate between the activists and police in her new position.

"I offer my service, liaison work and my voice to this cause," Newbre said.

In general, the activists were pleased with the outcome of the peaceful and productive gather-

ing. "A lot was accomplished here, and it was a good show of unity," said a young man asking to be called "Sane" as he left the park. "It's a starting point."

Representatives from the different groups plan to hold a debriefing session later this week and determine the logistics and agenda for upcoming meetings. As a continued gesture of goodwill, the aforementioned banner that Berg called "a sort of thank-you note," will be presented to the mayor and city council July 26.

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