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Clackamas Community College

Thursday, September 29, 1977

CCC faculty sets strike date



Photo by John Schrader

Almost done. CCC student nears the end of the long registration lines. This year saw record enrollment on Sept. 15 as 715 students registered. During evening registration one student was registered every 30 seconds.

Mandi Bacon
The Print

Business contract negotiations are met with Clackamas Community College's Board of Education, CCC's faculty has filed certification of its intent to strike on or after Oct. 20.

"By a vote of 101-0, the faculty members instructed us to notify the board that we would strike on or after Oct. 20," said Shirley Cressler, president of the Clackamas Community College Education Association (CCCEA) which represented CCC's 120-member faculty (19 members were absent from this meeting).

Cressler said the vote came after CCCEA learned word that the board rejected the contract terms recommended by a neutral factfinder appointed under state law.

The factfinder, William Babcock, was brought into study bargaining statements of both the CCCEA and the CCC Board of Education after no agreements could be made through mediation.

"What the factfinder recommended was a cost of living increase of 6.7 per cent and an increase in fringe benefits (insurance) of 1.5 per cent, for a total of 8.2 per cent," said Cressler.

The official factfinders report states the board's position as "a flat \$70 a month (\$44 a year) per employee, total package, inclusive of employees on step 10 of Levels 1 and 2. This figure is to include any incremental raises given, as well as additional fringe benefits to be elected by the Association in a dollar certain amount."

"The cost of living from April 1976 to April 1977 increased 8.2 per cent alone," said Cressler.

This is the second straight year that the board has pushed the faculty into factfinding and then rejected the factfinder's recommendation, according to Cressler.

Last year we compromised because there was only a 1 per cent difference between what the board offered and what the faculty

wanted," said Dick Andrews, member of the CCC faculty senate. "This year the board again rejected the factfinders report, but 5 percentage points away from faculty demands. If we accept less this year, we'll have to go through this year after year."

"We want the board to bargain in good faith and to pay attention to the factfinders report that the faculty paid for and they (the board) requested," said Andrews.

According to Andrews, when the faculty phoned the board's lawyer, Mike Montgomery, and told him of their decision, to accept the factfinders report, he hung up on them saying that in that case they had nothing to talk about. Montgomery then went on television and said the faculty refused to talk to him.

"The board sees us (faculty) as a very ex-

pendable and not very useful tool in the education process," said Andrews. "But what they're really playing with is you (the students)."

According to Andrews if the faculty doesn't get what they want, they won't teach as well.

"If the morale is at rock bottom, instructors won't teach as well," said Andrews. "What really bothers me is that students are coming out on the short end."

"Striking for most of them (faculty) is the very last thing they'd want to do," said Cressler. "But they'll do it if they have to."

"What I would personally like to see is that students, faculty and support staff bring pressure so no strike occurs," said Andrews.

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