

Features



Hunchbacks

Staff photo by Brian Tate

When it comes time for a countermarch, the bass drummers find the turning tedious. Because of the close alignment of the columns, the only place for the bass drums to go is down. The Aggie Band has begun practicing

daily for their first public appearance this season which will be at the Louisiana Tech-Texas A&M football game on Sept. 26 at Kyle Field. The band is 350 members strong this year and will march 303 men when it takes the field.

Strikes, layoffs, fiscal problems to keep some teachers out of school

By PATRICIA McCORMACK
United Press International

Forty-four thousand teachers will not be going back to school this new school year. They are, said the American Federation of Teachers, "victims of layoffs due to a decline in enrollment and an upsurge in fiscal problems."

Other teachers — no one knows how many — will postpone the time they go back to school, engaging in strikes.

And still others will go back to school and strike later if an agreeable contract isn't worked out.

Terry Herndon, executive director of the nation's largest teacher's union, the National Education Association, said he feels the number of strikes will be about normal. That comes out to between 150 and 200 strikes a year, Herndon said.

A random survey by the AFT shows that school systems in Massachusetts will be the hardest hit by teacher layoffs. An estimated

7,500 teachers in Massachusetts are marked for pink slips. In Boston, 1,000 teaching jobs will be terminated.

The AFT said other states reporting major layoffs include:

Illinois, 2,700 layoffs; Indiana, 1,000; Louisiana, 2,500; Michi-

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gan, 2,000; Pennsylvania, 4,000; Wisconsin, 2,500; New York, 1,100; Ohio, 3,000.

But, it's not all bad news. Florida, Georgia and Texas all are in need of teachers.

On pending strike actions, the AFT reported:

—In Boston, teachers may have a strike vote on Labor Day, but later that week when school opens. At issue, among other things, are the layoffs, including notices to 750 tenured teachers. Many have 10 to 15 years experience.

—The Philadelphia Federation of Teachers is threatening to strike over layoffs. As in Boston, Philadelphia teachers are in the middle of a pact that stipulates layoffs. But, the school board ordered 3,700 dismissals. Teachers also are upset over the school board not granting a guaranteed 10 percent raise in last year's contract negotiations.

Herndon said it seems contracts are being signed more quickly this year, with raises of from 8 percent to 11 percent.

But, he estimates there may be fewer strikes among NEA affiliates this year.

The AFT record shows strikes staged last school year were the major ones in Philadelphia, Newark, Rochester, East St. Louis, Illinois and Woonsocket, R.I.

In several cities, local affiliates of the AFT have headed off strikes by reaching unprecedented settlements. They include Oklahoma City and Jefferson Parish, La.

The Oklahoma City settlement included a pay raise of between \$1,650 and \$3,100 for regular teachers and increases of between \$1,650 and \$5,698 for extended contract teachers such as librarians.

The board also has agreed in the one-year contract to increase retirement and other insurance benefits, provide for guaranteed planning time, limit class interruptions and establish improved student disciplinary policies.

Under the previous contract Oklahoma City's first-year teachers earned an average annual salary of \$14,200. Under the new contract, they will earn \$16,088.

The two-year contract ratified early in August by 2,000 teachers in Jefferson Parish calls for salary increases as high as 13 percent.

It also gives teachers more input in school affairs, the AFT said. Under the previous contract, first-year teachers earned an average annual salary of \$13,392. The new pact will give them \$14,250.

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As a result, property tax increases are voted down more frequently. Property taxes, traditionally, have been the major source of money for local schools.

"Increasingly, schools are going to be dependent on state and federal revenue sources," Herndon said.

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Behind every Schlitz is a man who knows his beer



"I picked Schlitz and not my Bud."

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Planting conditions now ideal

United Press International
MARYSVILLE, Ohio

Homeowners out to improve their lawns will find nature on their side this time of year, say agronomists.

Conditions needed for grass seed to sprout and grow are close to ideal around Labor Day, when the heat of summer begins to wane and cooler nights signal the turn of the seasons.

Even though nights are cool, the ground will remain warm many weeks, providing the seeds with the right temperature for germination. Grass seed sown now, say agronomists for O.M. Scott and Sons, will germinate readily and, in several weeks, will add bright blades of green to your outdoor carpet.