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Texas A&M The Battalion

Serving the University community

Vol. 75 No. 89 USPS 045360 32 Pages In 2 Sections

College Station, Texas

Thursday, February 4, 1982

Union resumes negotiations, proposals called 'interesting'

United Press International
DETROIT — Ford Motor Co. says the United Auto Workers should accept its proposal to freeze cost-of-living allowances and eliminate paid personal holidays so a third of its work force — now laid off — can begin returning to work.

United Auto Workers and company bargainers planned to return to the main bargaining table today as the pace of early contract negotiations at the No. 2 automaker picked up.

Earlier in the week the two sides planned merely to hold subcommittee sessions on specific issues but now are concentrating efforts in full meetings.

Ford officials confirmed Wednesday they have a contract proposal that calls for a freeze on the cost-of-living allowance for its union workers and elimination of paid time off. In exchange, they said, veteran workers would get at least 50 percent of their base pay until retirement.

Chief union negotiator Donald Ephlin admitted the union found portions of the proposal "interesting" but he said the union has "no intention" of accepting Ford's offer without substantial modifications.

Peter Pestillo, Ford's vice president for labor relations, called the plan "defensible" despite the concessions requested by the company.

"It's not the kind of plan our employees have become accustomed to, but then we are not accustomed to having one-third of our work force on the streets," he said.

In another sign of the auto industry's gloomy state, carmakers said Wednesday the January car sales rate was the worst in 21 years with combined monthly domestic sales of 368,138 — down 18.5 percent on a daily rate basis from the 469,832 cars sold in 1981.

Ford's sales dropped 6.1 percent last year and the company is expected

to lose \$1.1 billion when 1981 books are closed. Pestillo said even the company's concessions proposal will not make it competitive with General Motors Corp.

"It's designed to begin to meet our competitive problems," Pestillo said. "It's a major start but we're realistic. We can't get all the way back at one time."

The Ford proposal calls for a 2½-year contract that includes a 15-month freeze on cost-of-living allowances; workers now receive \$2.03 an hour on top of base wages.

Paid personal holidays — now about nine per year — would be eliminated and vacation time would be cut by a week. Some senior workers now get five weeks a year.

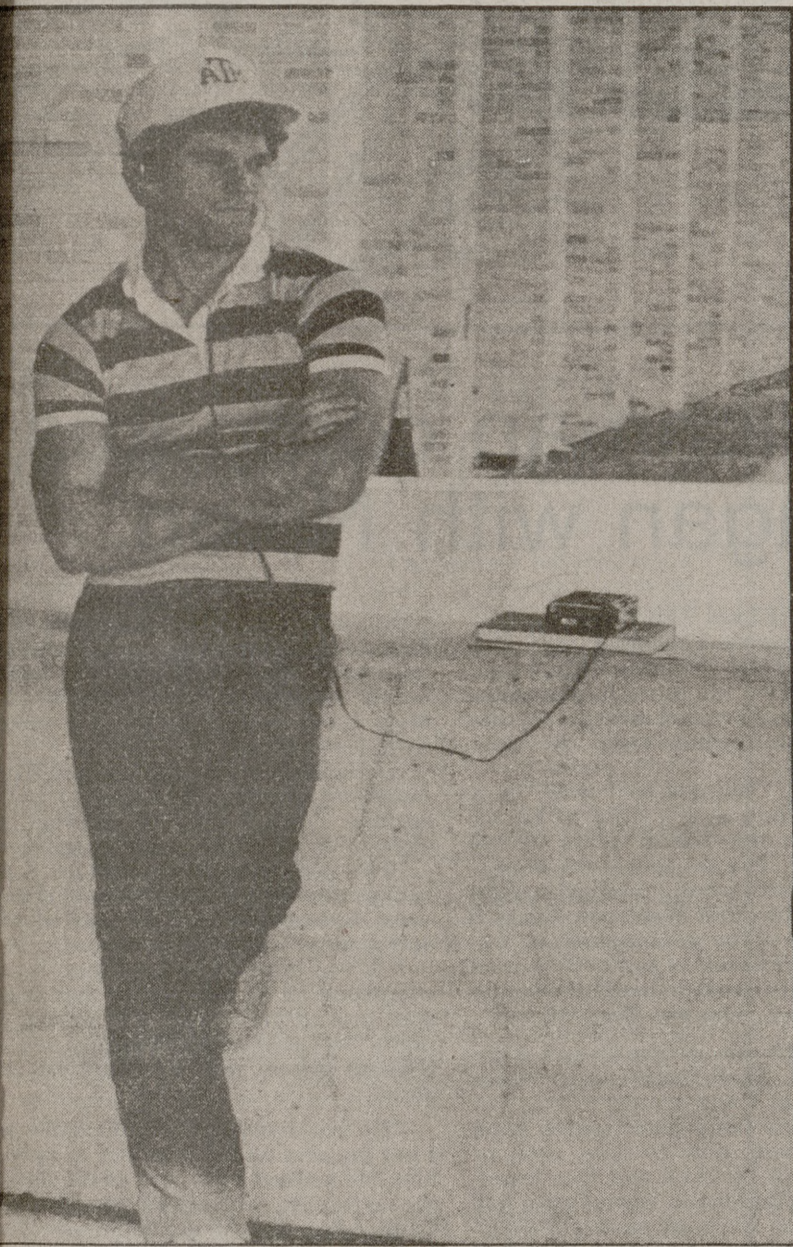
The company also wants workers to put in five years service before receiving full wages and cost-of-living benefits; new workers would be hired in at slightly less than 80 percent of the full wage.

In return for the givebacks, Ford offered to guarantee workers with 15 years seniority at least 50 percent of their base pay until retirement. Workers with more seniority would receive a greater pay guarantee.

Ephlin called the so-called "guaranteed wage stream" plan "one of the more interesting features." He said the plan could help many of the 55,100 Ford workers on indefinite layoff and 25,325 on temporary layoffs.

Other parts of the Ford plan call for improvements in the union's pension program that will encourage employees to remain on the job beyond 30 years service, when they are eligible for full benefits.

The proposal also calls for a one-year moratorium on plant closings not yet announced and preferential hiring for workers displaced by the previous shutdowns.



staff photo by Eileen Manton

Boy Meets Girl

Joe Block, sophomore psychology major from Wylie, was enjoying his Walkman radio outside the Memorial Student Center last week. Moments later ...

Finals

Policy authorizes exam for grads

by Hope E. Paasch
Battalion Reporter

Confusion still surrounds the policy regarding finals for graduating seniors at Texas A&M University, despite a revision in that policy last year.

Current policy authorizes an end-of-semester exam exclusively for graduating seniors, said Associate Registrar Donald D. Carter, but several restrictions limit the exam procedure.

University regulations specify that an end-of-semester exam:

— must be scheduled to comply with the registrar's schedule for submission of graduating seniors' grades

— must be given during a regular class period, and should not be a direct substitution for the final exam. (Content of the test should include material covered since the last major exam.)

— must be announced by the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

A graduating senior's average, without a final exam, counts as that student's final grade. If a student's grades do not meet graduation requirements, he can take the regularly scheduled final exam in any course in

which he wants to improve his grade. If the grade on the final exam meets graduation requirements, he will receive his degree the next time degrees are granted. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor of his intention to take the final exam.

Dr. Bryan R. Cole, associate dean of the College of Education, said many faculty members consider the policy revision a minimal compromise. A non-comprehensive exam fails to properly assess a student's progress in many courses, Cole said, especially in professional courses.

A solution to the problem of proper assessment, Cole suggested, would be to give the instructor the option of giving a comprehensive final to graduating seniors. The exam would be administered the week before dead week in order to comply with the registrar's schedule, he said.

Samuel M. Gillespie, assistant dean of the College of Business Administration, said the current policy also places excessive pressure on the registrar's office, the instructor and the marginal student.

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Fewer parking tickets issued in fall 1981

by Sandra Kay Gary

Battalion Staff
Last semester University Police issued 537 fewer parking tickets than were issued during the fall 1980 semester, which could be attributed to an increase in fines or a decrease in the number of police officers.

Last semester 40,343 parking tickets were issued, as compared to 40,880 issued during the same period in 1980.

University Police Chief J. Russ McDonald said: "We wrote fewer tickets this year, but I don't know if that's due to the increase in the cost of parking tickets or if it's because of the shortage of officers that patrol the parking areas."

"I don't think the increased price has had much impact on the number of parking violations."

The price of parking tickets was raised from \$5 a ticket to \$10 a ticket at the beginning of the 1980-81 academic year. This increase was instituted by the Traffic Panel to discourage students from parking illegally.

Another possible reason for the decrease in parking tickets is the fact that the police department has been understaffed.

"Generally, last semester we ran 10 to 12 officers short of what we normally run, which means a third fewer officers to patrol the parking areas," McDonald said.

More officers have been hired, but they're in training school and won't be available for full duty until March, he said.

University Police records show 16,226 parking tickets issued in September; 9,883 in October; 11,198 in

November; and 3,036 in December. During this period, \$153,210 was collected for parking violations.

But, not all students who receive tickets pay their fines, and the University Police has a way of dealing with them.

"Students who don't pay their parking tickets can be blocked from registration," McDonald said.

"They can also be referred to academic affairs as chronic violators," he said. "And after a student has received at least three tickets, his car can be towed from campus."

"We tow anywhere from 60 to 100 cars a semester."

If a car is towed from campus, however, students aren't forced to pay their tickets, but they do have to pay the towing fee, McDonald said.

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"We have some students whose cars are towed from campus, and they go down and pay the \$25 to get it out," he said. "Then they bring it right back and park in a no parking zone, and we tow it off again."

Money collected from parking ticket fines goes into a parking facilities account which is used to build and maintain parking facilities because state funds don't cover such projects, McDonald said.

There are 18,100 parking spaces on campus, he said. Of these, 3,200 are marked specifically for staff, about 10,000 spaces are reserved for students and about 4,000 spaces are for joint usage.

Thomas R. Parsons, director of security and traffic, said 25,750 parking permits have been issued to students and staff this year.



staff photo by Eileen Manton

... Sheri Hope, a sophomore physical therapy major from Austin, joined him to listen in.

Vandiver receives retroactive raise

by Daniel Puckett

Battalion Staff
Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver received a \$10,000-a-year raise retroactive to Jan. 1 at the last meeting of the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents.

This raises Vandiver's salary from \$90,000 a year to \$100,000 a year. He now receives \$5,000 a year more from the University than new Head Coach and Athletic Director Jackie Sherrill.

Sherrill, hired last month from the University of Pittsburgh, receives a base salary of \$95,000. However, other benefits promised in his contract reportedly will raise his income from this position to more than \$200,000 a year.

During the same meeting, the salary of System Chancellor Frank W.R. Hubert was raised from \$100,000 a year to \$135,000 a year. Hubert announced at the meeting that he will retire in August.

When asked whether the pay raise was meant to induce Vandiver to withdraw his resignation, which he offered to the board last month, Regent Royce E. Wisenbaker of Tyler refused to comment. Other regents either could not be reached for comment or refused to answer questions concerning the pay raise.

Vandiver originally offered to resign Jan. 18 after regents decided to hire Sherrill and instructed Vandiver to fire Head Coach Tom Wilson.

Vandiver offered his resignation again Friday during a closed meeting of the Academic Council. However, the Council gave Vandiver an informal vote of confidence.

Vandiver, who is in the Dominican Republic, could not be reached for comment.

He is attending an international conference on higher education which opened Wednesday in Santo Domingo. Also attending the confer-

ence is Dr. Terrence R. Greathouse, vice president for international affairs.

The two left Monday for a meeting of CAMESA, which translates to Ajjic Center for the Improvement of Higher Education in America.

The organization of North and South American universities is dedicated to advancing higher education in the Western Hemisphere, said Dr. Donald M. Boucher, director of international services.

Boucher said the trip was arranged to allow Vandiver and Greathouse to attend the CAMESA meeting and to inspect University projects in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The University is providing assistance to the Haitian Ministry of Agriculture on soil conservation.

Vandiver and Greathouse will return from their trip Sunday evening.

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forecast

Thursday's forecast: partly cloudy and cold with the high near 40 and the low in the mid-30s. There is a 30 percent chance of rain. Friday's forecast calls for cold temperatures again and a 40 percent chance of rain.