

# Teachers await superintendent's plan Protests of DISD continue

DALLAS (AP) — More than 200 teachers laid off in a Dallas Independent School District budget crunch awaited word Tuesday of the superintendent's plan to put them back on the job.

About 75 teachers picketed the DISD administration building Monday to protest the 270 layoffs.

Superintendent Marvin Edwards has announced he will submit a plan to school board trustees during a meeting Tuesday evening that will restore the job cuts.

"We kind of have to be in a wait-and see attitude," said Bob

Baker, the president of Classroom Teachers of Dallas.

"I've heard just about everything in the way of rumors about the plan. But the bottom line is that the teachers have to go back to work."

A state district judge last week declined to issue a restraining order requested by the teachers' union and other groups. But Judge Frank Edwards said the layoffs would not be effective until after trustees met to review the budget and, if necessary, ratify the job cuts.

Edwards has been meeting

with staff members since his announcement Saturday. Larry Ascoug, a DISD spokesman, did not immediately return a telephone call Tuesday from The Associated Press.

"I don't think there is anything, anywhere, that can make everybody happy," Edwards said Monday. "We're just trying to solve the immediate problem."

Baker said trustees could decide to raise property taxes by 19.5 percent, rather than the 17.5 percent tentatively approved last month, to make up for a \$47 million shortfall in state aid.

# Legislator seeks job as Speaker of the House

AUSTIN (AP) — A state representative said Tuesday he will run for House speaker in 1993 in hopes of reforming a legislative body now too easily swayed by special interest lobbyists.

"What we've got is not right. It's not democracy," said Rep. Billy Clemons, D-Pollock.

"The system should be one that caters to the will of the public and not to the will of special interests," he said. "The public wants ethics in government. And for some reason, we're not representing what the mainstream of society of Texas wants."

Clemons, first elected in 1982, said his beef isn't with five-term Speaker Gib Lewis, D-Fort Worth, but with the rules under which the House operates.

He also branded as "unfair" a Travis County district attorney's investigation of Lewis that led to two misdemeanor ethics charges. Lewis has pleaded innocent and a trial is pending.

"I'm a big fan of Gib Lewis ... (But) he doesn't feel like the system's broke, so he's not going to want to fix it," Clemons said.

Lewis responded that all lawmakers, including himself, sometimes are frustrated by the legislative process.

# Universities could award faculty salary increases, association says

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas college faculty members deserve a 5 percent pay raise, and most public universities have the funds tucked away to pay for it, the Texas Faculty Association said Tuesday.

University faculty and staff have been awarded a 2 percent salary increase from the Legislature. But faculty association members said universities should pitch in another 3 percent from their local funds.

During his audit of state gov-

ernment earlier this year, state Comptroller John Sharp criticized universities for holding more money than necessary in reserve.

He said they should use those local funds for faculty salaries, instead of asking for more state tax dollars.

Charles Zucker, director of the Texas Faculty Association, said a 5 percent pay hike would "barely cover the rate of inflation over the next academic year."

"Clearly many of our universities have been saving money for a rainy day. From the faculty's perspective, it is now pouring," Zucker said.

Failure to increase faculty salaries will hurt attempts to recruit and retain top professors for Texas schools, he charged.

The faculty group criticized Southwest Texas State University in particular, which members said had amassed more than \$13.5 million in unrestricted current funds.

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would be designed, how many astronauts would go and what kind of educational backgrounds they should have, what they would eat, how long it would take and what they would do once they arrived on Mars.

"We have even gone into the psychological impact it would have on the astronauts and how to cope with it," says Korb, a general studies major.

The proposal includes one hour of hypnosis each day to ease stress. The trip to Mars would take about three years.

"Basically, we've approached every aspect and everything that could possibly go wrong," he says.

The proposal even outlines how other countries could assist in the expedition, which would be too costly for the United States to

fund entirely.

The team's adventure began their junior year in high school when French's mother, the school librarian, suggested they enter the competition.

That year, they won the state competition and a chance to go to the Marshall's Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., for research.

They re-entered a revised proposal their senior year and won again. This past spring, they won at the national level and will travel to Washington D.C. next week for the National Space Science Symposium. There they will present the proposal to a committee of Congress, as well as other groups, including students, within the symposium.

They have other plans for the trip, such as a Baltimore Orioles vs. Cleveland Indians, baseball

game and a visit to the Smithsonian Institution.

"I want to talk to Congressman Greg Laughlin," says French, a general studies major. "I've met him once and want to see if he still remembers me."

In high school, the four friends were involved in debate, band, drama and auto mechanics, among other things. Only one team member, Kieschnick, has always expressed an interest in science.

Winning the competition, however, has furthered their interests in science technology and definitely has had its rewards. All four received numerous scholarships upon graduation, which helped defray college expenses.

When asked how much time was put into the project, which they describe as a "book," Ki-

eschnick, a computer science major, said "countless" hours.

"We would just sit down and think about it, even during class," he says. "We tried to calculate how many hours it took once and we almost needed a bigger calculator."

All four of them say they enjoy A&M so far, although the studying is more extensive.

"When I walked into one of my classes on the first day, I admit it was a little scary," says Rhodes, an aerospace engineering major. "But so far, I love it. It really is the friendliest school."

As for the next several days, the Giddings team will be preparing for their presentation for the congressional committee and their trip to Washington, D.C., an event Kieschnick calls "a pretty serious ordeal."

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subject are needed for the program. Most of the graduate students presently working have a mechanical engineering background.

Students chosen for the project are involved with the leading building monitoring program in the United States, Turner said.

The program has received national recognition, and two faculty members from A&M have been involved with the DOE to monitor its Forestall building in Washington, D.C.

"It's a tremendous experience for the students," Turner said.

Dr. Warren Heffington, an associate professor of mechanical engineering, is one of the faculty members involved with the program.

Heffington agreed that the program is excellent experience

for the students involved, because it allows them to become familiar with a different area of engineering.

"They get exposed to the real world of engineering," he said. "Most students think of working in


engineering as working with a big industry. They don't think of becoming private consultants."

The students are involved in reviewing the audit reports by the engineering firms and see what consulting engineers do, Heffington said.

One energy report the A&M researchers worked on saved that state agency \$180,000 per year, which means savings for taxpayers.

"It's very important because it's going to save the taxpayers money," he said.

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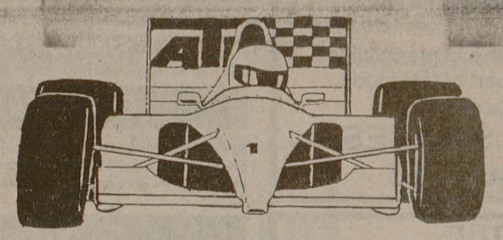
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