

College bargainers jockey for favor

By TIM RICHARD

Collective bargaining at Schoolcraft College, like anywhere else, takes place behind closed doors. But there is a lot of jockeying for favor going on in public.

The faculty forum, bargaining agent for instructors, last week invited the elected board of trustees to meet with "forum officers and concerned faculty"; the board politely said no to a meeting but left the door open for communication; and the administration found a list of "basic errors" in the forum's argument that "the administration has obviously given priority to an increase of administrative personnel over an increase in fulltime faculty."

The forum's contract with the two-year community college expires at the end of summer. Negotiations have begun, and the college is seeking some major contract changes.

WILLIAM NICKELS, the probable

next president of the forum since he is unopposed on the ballot, has given the board three "position papers" from the forum in recent months.

Last week Nickels requested a full-scale meeting with the board because "the communication has been one-way."

But board chairman Paul Y. Kadish replied, "The time is inappropriate. We're getting into the throes of bargaining. We don't want to undercut our bargaining team."

Kadish added the board could run into problems with the new state Open Meetings Act if it didn't post notice of such a meeting and make the session public.

Trustees Harry Greenleaf, Nancie Blatt, Rosina Raymond and Mark McQuesten indicated they wanted to hear the forum's views. Mrs. Blatt added she was "leery" of such a discussion during bargaining, but McQuesten said "the board should

never feel limited to communication with the administration."

PRESIDENT C. Nelson Grote, replying to a forum position paper on alleged administrative growth, told the board the faculty paper had basic errors.

Grote said the forum sought to show a cause and effect relationship between growth of administration and holding the line on fulltime faculty hiring.

The faculty paper said that since 1970 the administrative staff has leaped from 23 to 36 while fulltime faculty positions had remained almost stable, rising from 157 to 162.

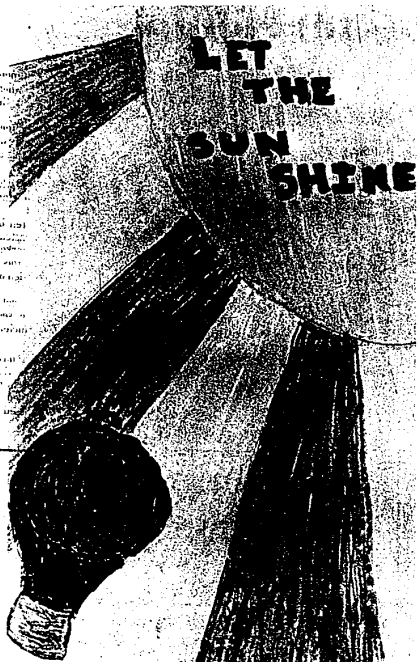
The actual growth in administrators, said Grote, has been 24 to 32. Meanwhile, the number of teaching jobs has risen from 215 to 256 when the "full-time equivalent of part-time faculty and fulltime faculty teaching under supplemental contracts" are included, he said.

Thus, while there are 162 fulltime jobs, the number of part-time instructors has increased from the equivalent of 58 fulltimers to 94 fulltimers.

SCHOOLCRAFT has had a policy of hiring holding level the number of full-time faculty and hiring many part-timers. While the faculty forum has complained about this policy, neither the administration nor the board has said why.

Privately, some trustees revealed the board and union talked about full-time versus part-time jobs during the last round of contract negotiations. Publicly, however, only the faculty is talking about it.

The forum's position papers have been presented by Nickels, a vice-president of the union. In current bargaining, Nickels is unopposed for the union presidency. He is a chemistry instructor who has been on the Schoolcraft faculty since 1968.



And the winner is. . .

Karen Schurgin, a sixth grader at Middlebelt Elementary School, took the blue ribbon for best poster submitted from youngsters throughout Farmington and Farmington Hills in the Solar Energy Contest. The event spotlighted Sun Day, a national celebration of the solar age, sponsored by Concern, Inc., East Michigan Environmental Action Council and the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. The area winner is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Schurgin, 25574 Briarwyke, Farmington Hills. Drawings were judged on artistic technique and ideas to draw attention to how solar energy can improve the quality of life. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

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