SC settlement in hands of mediator; classes resume

By TOM LONEIGAN

Schoolcraft College students are back to the books, and a state mediator has one month to propose a settlement between 350 back-to-work instructors and the community college.

Wayne County Circuit Judge Michael L. Stacey Tuesday signed an order which returned striking teachers to their jobs and which also sent a primary salary dispute to a so-called "fact-finder."

But Stacey did not issue an injunction as requested by the Schoolcraft Board of Trustees.

Both sides have five days to agree on a mediator, who will act as the fact-finder. If there's no agreement, the Michigan Employment Relations Cummission (MERC) will appoint one.

County votes GM road funds

Oakland County commissioners last week unanimously approved spending \$1 million for road improvements for General Motors Corp.'s new auto plant in Orion Township.

The county share of the estimated \$16.2 million in road improvements matches the \$1 million for perliminary engineering being spent by the Oakland County Road Commission. The bulk of the road funds will come from the fed-eral and state governments.

the road funds will come from the fed-eral and state governments.
Earlier this year, the county sold its Orion Airport property to General Mo-tors for \$2,005,500.
The \$1 million approved last week will come from the county's airport capital fund. That fund, for airport im-provements, will be reimbursed from the county general fund during 1981 and 1982.
GM's proposed ultramodern, three-million-square-foot assembly plant, to be built on the site of the former Oak-land-Orion Airport, will replace the Pontiac Division assembly plant and

Pontiac Division assembly plant and the Fisher Body plant, both in the city

the Fisher Body plant, both in the city of Pontiac.
About 7,000 jobs would be moved to the new plant, northeast of Pontiac.
GM wants to begin full production in Orion by September 1982.
Roads which will be widened for the plant include Giddings, Silver Bell and Brown.

"WETE PLEASED with the concept of the back-to-work order," said Delavan W. Sipes, president of the Faculty Forum, the teachers' union." It gets us back to work, and and we still have a mechanism for getting a settlement." A two-week strike in 1978 also was ended when a judge ordered the dispute to fact-finding. Schoolcraft President C. Nelson Grote said Tuesday, 'Tim very condient that a settlement will be reached. What the judge has done is in every-body's best interest."

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Monday, Judge Stacey ordered both sides to bargain rather than proceeding with a hearing on the college's request for an injunction to force 160 full-time and some 189 part-time instructors back to work.

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According to one faculty negotiator, there was no progress at Monday's bargaining session, which was held in the downtown MERC offices. Grote said the two sides were "very close to reaching a contract" Monday but would not elaborate.

The bound beautiful.

"The board hasn't budged one bit," said Richard Arlen, chief faculty nego-

But, Arlen added, because an injunction wasn't ordered, "the faculty is feeling pretty decent. Since it's not a binding fact-finder, the board can say no and we can say no.

Both he and Sipes are full-time in-structors at the two-year college.

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The teachers are seeking a two-year contract with raises of between 9 and 10 percent each year for full-time instructors. According to the faculty, the college is sticking with its offer made before the strike began Sept. 2 — 8 percent the first year and 7.25 percent the second.

An estimated 90 percent of School-craft's full-time instructors make the maximum allowed under the expired contract — at least \$43,300 a year.

The majority of the faculty, however, are part-time instructors paid on a "contact hour" basis. They are now paid about \$14 an hour, which Grotch has said is 'extremely low.

The college said in a percent the said is the strength of the said is the said in the said is the said in the said in the said in the said is the said in the sa

vide a larger than 7.25 percent second-year increase for full-time faculty without taking the money from the pro-posed part-time faculty raises. Faculty negotiators have refused to agree with

latest strike. According to the faculty, other unrethe proposal.

Grote said the Board of Trustees believes the college has offered the teachers a "fair and reasonable offer."

"The board has not given us any new
parameters," he said, "but they are suficiently flexible that we can make
movement. He said in terms of a "takemovement. He said in terms of a "takemovement offer," the college has not
made a final proposal.

DESPITE TWO strikes at Schoolcraft in the last two rounds of negotiations, Grote maintains the faculty and

administration have a "good working relationship.
"This is not necessarily symbolic any long-term problem," he said of the latest strike.
According to the faculty, other unresolved issues are continuation of fully paid medical benefits for full-time instructors and an optical plan.
During 1978's contract dispute, the faculty eventually accepted a 7 percent raise the first year and a 6 percent raise the second for full-time instructors.

situation, Sipes would only say, "We have reason to be more optimistic."

Should there be no agreement after the fact-finder's proposal, Sipes said that Stacey may enter the picture

"He (Stacey) has made it very clear he will take a hand in obtaining a set-tlement," said Sipes. "He's interested in seeing the thing settled."

A COLLEGE spokesman estimated Tuesday that "75 to 80 percent" of Schoolcraft's students attended the first day of classes since Aug. 29. The college had expected a fall se-mester enrollment of 10,000, including

2,000 in continuing education courses.

The five class days lost due to the strike will be made up, said David Heinzman, director of College Relations. College officials still intend the fall semester to end prior to the Christmas holidays, he said.

The Board of Trustees had approved full tuition refunds for those students who could prove "undue hardship" if the strike had extended beyond 8 a.m. Tuesday.

Grote said fall enrollment is likely to be down because of the strike, but add-ed that the college as yet "doesn't know the data."





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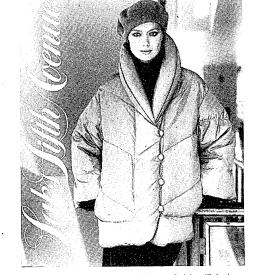
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