

Teamster workers strike in Redford

By Lynn Orr
staff writer

Trash is piling up in Redford Township as striking employees continue their walkout.

Township officials consider the walkout that began Thursday as an illegal strike and have suspended employees who refused to report to work that day.

Other Teamster members who worked Thursday but honored the picket line Friday were not suspended, according to Township Supervisor James Kelly.

Teamster officials eliminated the wildcat status of the walkout by notifying the township that they were sanctioning the strike Friday afternoon.

The walkout began as a sympathy strike for Joe Perkins, a mechanic in the water and sewer department with 12 years seniority. Perkins was suspended Wednesday for gross insubordination.

"We feel the way discipline meted out to Perkins was illegal and against the contract," said James Markley, business agent for Teamsters Local 214. The union has filed a grievance on the suspension.

'They fired the guy and they shouldn't have. We're all Teamsters, and we've got to stick together.'

— Bill Wing
union steward

"IT WAS open-ended (indefinite), un-called for and he was not represented by anyone from the union. On the basis of those three things, we feel the suspension was illegal."

Markley also said he thought the township "was overreacting" suspending the other employees, and that "eventually cooler heads would prevail but at this time there's no settlement in sight."

"We started out with an isolated problem and now we have 150 issues," Markley is expected to meet today with Ron Aho, attorney for the township.

"The next step now is with the union," said Aho. "They have to get their people to come back to work. We be-

lieve the majority of people do want to work and don't support this."

"Why have a grievance procedure if you don't use it?" said Aho.

About 80 of the township's employees, excluding police and firefighters, are members of the union, including 40 employees who are paid with federal Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) funds.

The walkout began after employees in the department reported to work at 6 a.m. Thursday, then refused to begin work, according to Leo Snage, township public works director.

Snage said he asked the employees gathered in the garage to begin work three times without receiving an an-

swer. He then told them to leave about 6:55 a.m.

The employees were delivered letters of suspension by 10 a.m., according to one employee on the picket line.

"THEY FIRED the guy and they shouldn't have," said Bill Wing, one of the stewards. "We're all Teamsters, and we've got to stick together."

"We hope to negotiate some kind of terms to get the man back," said another steward, Dave Backus.

"If they could do it to one person, they can do it to anyone," said another picketer, who refused to give his name.

Snage said Perkins had received five reprimands within a 60-day period and was suspended for three days in February for gross insubordination. He had been counseled on attendance, reporting late to work, failure to do assigned work and gross insubordination.

Snage insisted many of the employees wanted to work and wanted to leave the matter to the grievance process.

"If this was a legal strike, you would find everybody on the picket line," Snage said.

Rouge River group to study flood water

The "legal maze" confronting management of storm and flood waters will be the subject of a workshop at 1 p.m. April 24 in the city of Wayne's community center.

The workshop is sponsored by the Rouge River Watershed Council.

Topics will include city legal responsibilities and liabilities, the legality of local ordinances, existing state and federal laws and a discussion of intergovernmental agreements.

Speakers are James Boulton, chief of the state Department of Natural Resources flood plain management section; Jerry Mitchell, an attorney for the Central Upper Peninsula Regional Commission; and John Sobetzer, also a lawyer and the director of the East Michigan Environmental Action Council.

Registration is \$5.50 for Rouge River Watershed Council members and \$8.50 for all others. For the mail-in registration form, contact Marcie Colling at 522-4340.

UM-Dearborn 'retrenches'; 20 jobs slashed

University of Michigan-Dearborn Chancellor William A. Jenkins has outlined the details of a fiscal retrenchment program that will "minimize adverse effects on university academic programs and personnel."

The retrenchment plan calls for a \$500,000 reduction in the university's \$16.2-million general fund budget, effective at the beginning of the 1981-82 fiscal year on July 1.

The university will eliminate 20 faculty and staff positions (16 of which are already vacant), suspend one undergraduate degree program, defer plant improvement projects and equipment purchases, and reduce some services to faculty and students.

"Our first priority is to not eliminate any academic programs or to terminate full-time faculty positions," said Jenkins. "Our goal is to minimize the negative impact on programs and services until such time as sufficient funding permits full restoration," he added.

The chancellor said it is particularly difficult for a developing campus such as UM-D to absorb such reductions. "Many of the programs and services for our 6,400 students are already operating on very limited resources. The programs and services offered and the staffing and support for many of them was minimal before these reductions," he added.

THE RETRENCHMENT plan calls for the following reductions:

- \$282,000 in the operational budgets of instructional and non-instructional units.
- \$65,000 in central administrative positions.
- \$60,000 in the library book acquisition budget.
- \$50,000 in plant improvement and equipment accounts.
- \$33,000 in other centrally administered accounts.

Elimination of the 20 positions will, according to Jenkins, affect the level of services to faculty, staff and students.

He added, however, that an employment freeze, started last September, caused about 25 positions to become vacant through natural attrition. Sixteen of these have not and will not be filled. The remaining positions to be cut involve primarily part-time staff and adjunct faculty, and will be terminated in "an orderly fashion by June 30."

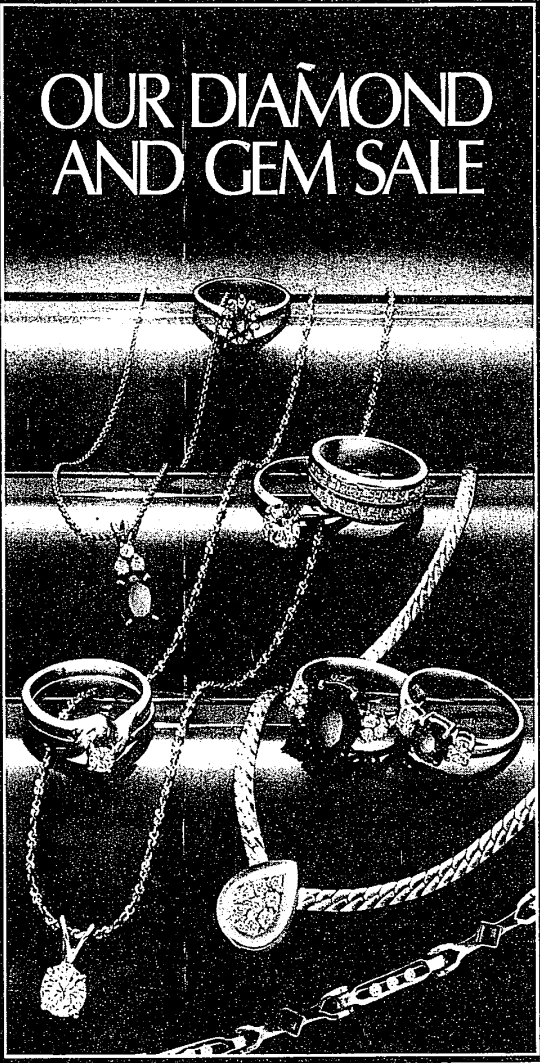
THE PLAN also calls for the suspension, but not termination, of the Urban and Regional Studies bachelor's degree program in the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Jenkins said that the 15 students currently enrolled in this program will be able to earn their degrees, but that no new students would be accepted into the program until further notice.

"Our intention is to restore this program when adequate funds are available if there is still a need for it," he said.

"Since the program utilizes faculty from various departments and disciplines, it will not be necessary to eliminate faculty positions," the chancellor added.

Reductions in central administrative positions, all of which are currently vacant, include partial salary monies for an associate registrar, the director of intramural athletics, an assistant to the chancellor and the director of facilities planning and construction.



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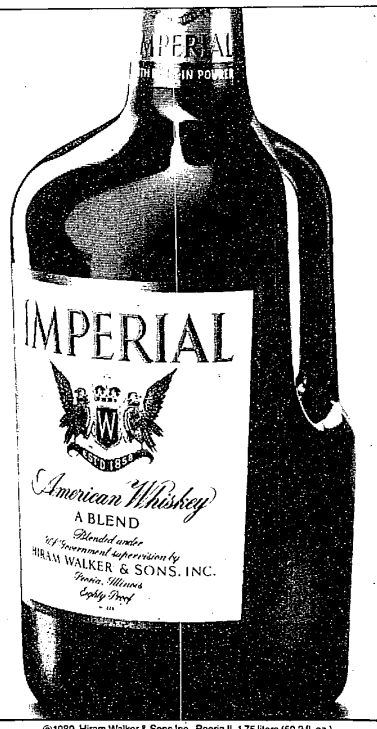
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