

Strike or no, classes start at OU

By Pat Murphy
staff writer

Classes continued today at Oakland University with faculty members working under a tentative contract reached in early-morning talks last Thursday, after a strike was officially declared but cancelled five hours later without disrupting that day's start of classes.

The tentative contract enabled classes to begin as scheduled, but the swift chain of events left the faculty and administration differing about whether a strike actually took place.

"We were out," said James Briggs-Bunting, an associate professor of journalism and spokeswoman for the OU chapter of the American Association of University Professors. "We were calling people and getting ready to picket when they reached an agreement."

"Classes started on time and there were no disruptions," said OU spokesman James Llewellyn. "We are delighted, but how can you have a strike when services were not withheld?"

Strike or no strike, the AAUP held an informational meeting on the tentative contract late Thursday, with a ratification meeting expected to be held after copies of the proposed agreement are printed and distributed, probably later this month, said Briggs-Bunting.

While details of the pact were not made public, negotiators were reportedly within \$700 of agreement on salary increases when the final round of contract talks started at 2 p.m. Wednesday, according to Jack Barnard, AAUP president.

The AAUP was demanding yearly increases of \$1,600, while the university was offering about \$900 annual-

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—James Llewellyn

ly, he said during a press conference. Pay hikes were the last unresolved item, Barnard said.

As talks continued through the night, the AAUP vowed its members would not report to the classroom without a contract and the administration said classes would begin at 8 a.m. Thursday as scheduled, "one way or another."

Both sides apparently won, but not without some anxious moments. About 11:25 p.m., AAUP members were informed that talks had broken

down and the strike was definitely on, said Briggs-Bunting. "We had a phone tree and people were told we were on strike and advised to get ready."

The phone tree was reactivated about 6:45 a.m., with faculty members told of the tentative agreement and advised to report for classes as scheduled, she said. No pickets actually walked the line, she said, "but we were ready."

No attendance figures were taken to determine whether students

stayed away from early classes because of confusion or sympathy for striking faculty members.

"But I talked with one (social science) professor who said her 8 a.m. class was full," said Llewellyn.

The old faculty contract expired Aug. 15, with faculty members complaining that their \$37,000 annual salary was as much as \$10,000 lower than wages paid in nearby public school systems to teachers with comparable education and responsibilities.

OU administrators said they had to cut expenses — including salary

hikes — because of a \$1.6 million budget deficit caused mainly by a rollback in proposed tuition increases. Officials first announced a 19.3 percent hike in tuition, but scaled back to 9.7 percent under pressure from Gov. James J. Blanchard.

OU has about 12,000 students enrolled this year, with about 400 faculty members, including 346 who are members of the AAUP.

OU has been hit by three strikes. In 1971 a dispute delayed classes for 12 days, and strikes in 1976 and 1985 disrupted classes for three days each.

Walking, cycling beat swimming

DID YOU know that...

• The incidence of heart disease among diabetic men is about twice that of non-diabetic men. Among diabetic women, the incidence is about three times that of non-diabetic women.

• Most Americans don't know their blood pressure and cholesterol levels. According to a recent survey, only 23 percent knew both readings; 46 percent knew neither.

• Researchers now suggest that, to lose weight, you're probably better off with walking or stationary bicycling than swimming. Why? Water prevents your body temperature from rising, reducing the total calories expended. In addition, cold water may stimulate the appetite, resulting in a higher food intake.

• Overexposure to the sun is responsible for 90 percent of the most common forms of skin cancer. How can you protect yourself? Wear sun glasses, a hat and protective clothing made of fabrics you can't see through. Also, use a sunscreen and lip balm with an SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 15, even on overcast days.

• The Puma Co. makes a running shoe with a built-in electronic device that records time, distance and calories expended. After your workout, you simply connect the shoe to a computer and the information is stored on a floppy disk. Suggested retail price: \$200.

• World Airways now offers "Fitness in Flight," a 30-minute exercise routine that allows passengers to



fitness
Barry Franklin

tone muscles and reduce tension without leaving their seats. The program is offered over its audio system and includes discreet isometric and relaxation exercises.

• Drinking alcoholic beverages such as beer, wine or hard liquor before or during exercise can promote dehydration. Heat stroke and related complications may occur.

• Measured cholesterol levels may be abnormally elevated if the

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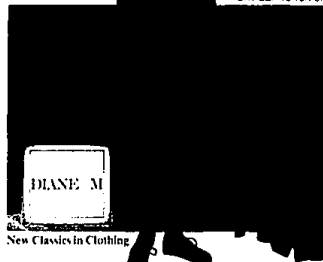
Barry A. Franklin, Ph.D., is director of cardiac rehabilitation and exercise laboratories, William Beaumont Hospital, and associate professor of physiology, Wayne State University School of Medicine.

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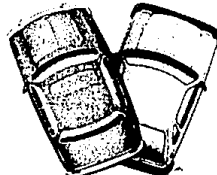
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