

Teacher's union nixes strike plans

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the future."

Kee said administrators were pleased with the no-strike vote. "The teachers were just honoring their contract," he added.

A provision of the current contract is a clause which prohibits teachers from striking. Cotner said Monday the clause could possibly leave teachers open to a damages lawsuit, but the provision has never been tested in court in Michigan.

The no-strike cause was the biggest reason for the teachers' decision to start work, Cotner said after the vote.

PCEA president Mickey Edell said, "I'm disappointed. I thought (a strike) was the only way to reach a settlement."

Other employe unions who had joined with the PCEA to form the Plymouth Canton Employes Coalition decided Monday not to go ahead with earlier plans to authorize a strike. Bargaining stances within the coalition were closely dependent on the PCEA decision.

Trav Griffin, UNISERV of Western Wayne County director who negotiates for custodians, cafeteria workers and teacher's aides, said those units have revoked their contract extensions.

"Since the other groups are going back, we will too," he said after Monday's meeting. "That doesn't mean we'll stay."

Griffin said the big issues for those

units included salaries, payment for unused sick leave, extended benefits for retirees, vision benefits and sub-contracting.

Talks between the district his units have also stalled, Griffin said. "The Board of Education has submitted nothing in writing to the custodial and maintenance unit since January."



TOM COTNER resigned his position as chief negotiator for the PCEA after the strike vote. (Crier photo by Rick Smith)

Program thefts probed Cable TV scofflaws?

BY CHERYL EBERWEIN

It is, without doubt, a crime of the times.

But it has been taken no more lightly by Omnicom of Michigan than conventional crimes of theft and property destruction.

Kip Paul Mac, 18, of Bradner Street in Northville, has been charged by Omnicom with the alleged stealing cable television programs. Mac, the company alleges, tampered with cable television equipment in order to receive premium Omnicom services without paying for them.

A theft of service law was adopted by Michigan last year. Under the new law, persons found guilty of stealing cable services face a \$500 fine and up to 30 days in jail.

Mac was arrested and accused of avoiding charges for telecommunication services July 15. He was arraigned before Judge Dunbar Davis of 35th District Court and freed on a personal bond. Last week, Mac's exam before Judge James Garber of 35th District was continued over to Sept. 9 at 11 a.m.

Rick Coleman, general manager for Omnicom said the suit may be the first time the company has brought charges of this nature against a subscriber.

"I'm not really sure if we have pressed charges like this before," Coleman said. "But I do know that if we keep running across cases like this, we'll continue to press charges."

Coleman said Mac allegedly tampered with the cable equipment on his home in order to receive premium services he was not subscribing to. The alleged theft was discovered by mistake, Coleman said.

"Mac's neighbor called us because he

wasn't getting a picture on his screen," Coleman said. "When we went to check on the problem, we discovered that the Mac's had been spliced and tampered with. This was affecting his neighbor's system."

"We shut off his service and went back the next day only to discover he had allegedly done the same thing again," Coleman continued. "The third time we went back to his house we went back with the police."

Coleman estimated that approximately 10 per cent of all cable television customers Omnicom services tap cable programs they are not paying for.

"We color code our equipment and use plastic seals like the phone company does," Coleman said. "We have an auditor who constantly checks the seals to see if they have been tampered with. We're being robbed and this is a serious issue."

Coleman said as cable television systems are built better, the companies will be able to keep a more accurate account of services. The ultimate goal, he added, was to convert nonpaying service customers into paying customers.

"People are lumping us in with the phone company in thinking we can absorb this kind of loss," he said. "We can't."

"If we press charges a few times, maybe people will begin to realize that this is a state misdemeanor and we're serious about them breaking the law," Coleman added.

Coleman said he would have no trouble in re-offering services to those people found guilty of telecommunication theft "if they are paid up and don't owe us money."

Custodial workers have been working 14 months without a contract, Griffin said. Cafeteria workers, aides and secretaries have worked a year without an agreement, he added.

Transportation workers, who have also been working without a contract, picketed the Board of Education offices early Monday morning. They later decided to

start work on schedule.

PCEA leaders met Monday afternoon to discuss bargaining strategy. Both PCEA and administration negotiators have asked the Michigan Employment Relations Commission to provide a mediator to help settle the talks.

Representatives of other coalition bargaining units are scheduled to meet with administrators later this week.

Strike vote meets mixed reaction from CEP students

BY DAN BODENE

News that school would open on time this week was greeted with mixed emotions by many students at Centennial Education Park (CEP).

Some wanted a strike; some were relieved it didn't happen. And their reasons were all their own.

"I'd rather they strike just a week," said Dave Swykert, who nonetheless began his senior year at Canton-High this week. "It would give us a few more days - I don't like starting school so early."

Salem sophomores Kari Caira and Carrie Mermuys agreed. "The summer just wasn't long enough."

On the other hand, Canton senior Noelle Murphy was happy with the teachers' decision. "I'm glad, because

we're seniors and if teachers had gone on strike we'd have to go a lot longer in the summer. That's not fair to us."

Canton junior Lisa Roberts and sophomore Darien Bowie agreed that making up lost time next summer would be awful. "But I was getting kind of bored over this summer," Bowie added.

Salem sophomore Leanne Becker remembers the delay caused by the last teacher's strike, in 1979. "We went late, and the summer gets long after awhile. I'm glad (teachers voted Monday not to strike), so we can get school started."

Todd Worscheck, a senior at Salem, had mixed feelings. "I'm happy the strike didn't happen because we would have had to make it up, but I would have looked forward to a couple of weeks off."

Early deadlines set for Crier Fall Fest edition

The Fall Festival edition of The Crier will be coming out Sept. 7. Due to the size of the paper, deadlines have been changed.

Deadlines for that paper are as follows: display ads, 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 31; classified ads, 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 2; news items and what's happenings, noon on Friday, Sept. 2.

The Crier office will be closed Monday, Sept. 5 for Labor Day and Friday, Sept. 9 for Fall Festival.

5 escape from DeHoCo

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have been wounded by shotgun fire, and area hospitals have been advised to be on the lookout for patients with gunshot wounds.

"I'm very upset about this," Baylor said. "We take great pride in our maximum security being of a non-escape nature. It has been 10 years or more that anyone has gotten out of maximum security successfully."

Baylor said the last escape attempt from maximum security was made about four years ago. In that attempt, the prisoner was returned to his cell within hours.

Plymouth Police Commander Ralph White said there is little likelihood the men are still in the area. "If the escape was planned in advance, they probably had transportation arranged ahead of

time," he said.

DeHoCo currently houses approximately 700 prisoners.

Volunteers needed

If you are interested in community involvement, this is your opportunity to participate in a community affair which is critical to the success of the Plymouth Community Fund United Way.

This year's Plymouth Community Fund United Way campaign is in need of people who would be willing to volunteer a little of their time to participate in this worthwhile community effort. They will provide the training.

If you can give a few hours of your time during the months of September and October, please call 453-6879 or write P.O. Box 356, 595 Forest, Plymouth.