6-The Daily Collegian Monday, September 13, 1976



Where the sun follows

With the sun following them through the trees, students leisurely stroll along the HUB grounds returning from classes.

Speakers, Information

OPEN HOUSE

UAW, auto makers face talks deadline

DETROIT (AP) — Faced with a mountain of unresolved issues, Ford Motor Co. and the United Auto Workers today began a final attempt to reach a new three-year contract before a strike deadline of 11:59 p.m. tomorrow.

If there is no settlement by the time the current pact expires, the UAW will call 170,000 Ford workers in 22 states off the job and force a crippling shutdown of the nation's second largest automaker.

Bargainers met through the weekend and were to meet today in what could be roundthe-clock sessions if there were any indications the talks could reach a settlement before the deadline.

After eight weeks of talks, both sides say they are still far apart on major issues, ranging from a company proposal that workers pay some of thier health costs to a key UAW demand for reduced time.

Other matters involve wages, sup-plemental layoff benefits and pension. The union has said each could cause a strike.

Ford has made two contract offers within the past two weeks — the latest on Friday and has assured the union there still is room to negotiate. Ford's top bargainer, Sidney F. McKenna, said Friday's offer is not "the final word," and he expressed continued hope of resolving contract differences peacefully.

However, UAW President Leonard Woodcock said the latest offer left him with "little optimism" that a walkout could be averted.

Observers noted that such statements are traditional at this stage in the talks and no one would speculate on the outcome of tomorrow's final meeting. Although UAW contracts with all four U.S.

makers — covering 700,000 workers — expire at the same time, Ford is the union's 1976 target for a pattern setting agreement to cover General Motors, Chrysler and American Motors as well.

Photo by Chris Newkume

There has not been a strike-free settlement since 1964, the last time the talks came in a presidential election year. Ford was struck 66 days in 1967, GM 67 days in 1970 and Chrysler nine days in 1973

Ford's latest wage offer, up six cents an hour from the first proposal, provides an average 581/2 cents an hour increase over three years — about a three per cent annual hike. It also provides another nine cents in 🎋 the first year either for wages or new benefits, and continues the current cost-ofliving formula.

The company has called its offer ""reasonable," noting that the average Ford worker now makes \$6.88 in base wages and 3

has fringes estimated at another \$4 an hour. The union has not made a specific wage demand, but says Ford's offer is shy of the 'substantial" increase it seeks.

The union also wants a cost-of-living for-mula that will provide full protection from inflation. The company says the present formula — with general wage increases has kept workers ahead of inflation.

Ford workers have received wage hikes under the 1973 pact averaging \$1.70 an hour, including \$1.14 in cost-of-living adjustments. A thorny issue involves the UAW's top

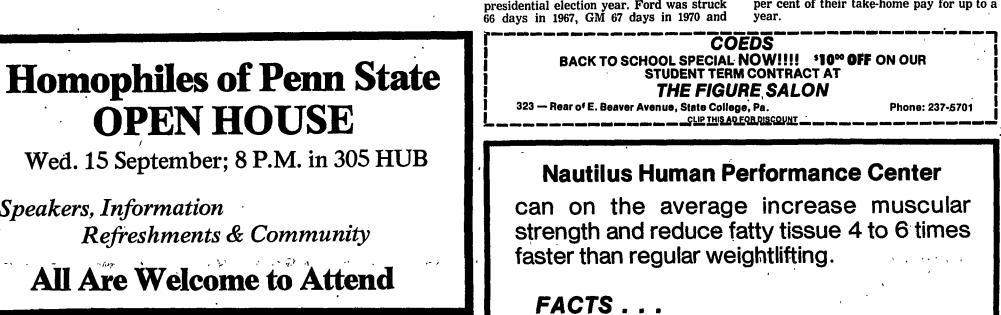
demand for shortening work time to preserve current jobs and create new ones. The union has hinted it would like an additional 12 days 👔 off each year at full pay — on top of the 30 in holiday and vacation time off workers now get.

This demand, in response to the extensive layoffs during the 1974-75 recession, is part of a long-range drive toward a four-day work week.

Ford says additional time off with pays would mean higher costs and higher car prices, dampening sales and causing more layoffs

The two sides also are in a tussle over health care insurance. Ford, citing skyrocketing premium costs, wants the workers to share the cost of their medical roverage - now paid by the company. Another difficult problem involves the

company-financed Supplemental Unemployment Benefits (SUB) fund, which normally guarantees laid-off workers nearly 95 per cent of their take-home pay for up to a



HPER MAJORS!

Student Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday, September 14 **Time:** 7:00 P.M. Place: 2 White Building

THE PATHFINDER

137 E. Beaver Ave. 237-8086 Open Daily Till 5:30 , Monday & Friday Till 9

