

The friendly skies?

Air traffic controllers ready to strike this morning

By H. JOSEF HEBERT
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — Air traffic controllers and the government gave the first indication of "serious bargaining" early this morning as they attempted to avert a morning strike that could ground half of the nation's air traffic.

A spokeswoman for the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, B.J. Yount, said there were "serious negotiations under way" but that she could not say whether there was movement toward a settlement.

The assessment was a sharp contrast to earlier claims last night from all sides that no progress was being made.

Meanwhile, controllers across much of the country began a strike vote, union spokeswoman Marcia Feldman said.

Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis during a recess in the talks last night said he saw little chance of averting a strike, threatened for this morning.

"Nothing has been accomplished," Lewis told reporters during the break. He said he considered a settlement almost impossible unless the strike deadline was extended.

Alluding to the fact the two sides were more than \$600 million apart in their proposals, Lewis said, "When you're 17 times apart it's fruitless to negotiate."

A controllers strike, targeted for 7 a.m. EDT, could ground half the nation's commercial flights and cause confusion and delays despite a government contingency plan aimed at keeping as many planes in the air as safely possible.

Federal mediator Kenneth Moffett said the evening recess, which lasted 3½ hours, had been requested by Robert E. Foli, president of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization. Asked if the deadline could be extended, Feldman replied, "I don't see any possibility of extending anything."

Lewis, who earlier characterized the union's demands as "nothing short of outrageous," said before resuming the talks at mid-afternoon that the administration intended to stand firm on its \$40 million offer, a figure nowhere near the amount the controllers had demanded.

Lewis said he briefed President Reagan on the talks earlier in the day and was told by the president to come down "with the full force of the Justice Department" against any striking controllers. He said the president

also instructed him to cut off negotiations if a strike is called and said there would be no amnesty for strikers.

Lewis urged the union to come up with "an offer anywhere reasonable" and extend the strike deadline another week to provide more time for bargaining. But Foli said there would be no extension and said it was time for the government to come up with a counteroffer.

As the talks resumed yesterday, the union stood firm on its demands, which included a reduction in the 40-hour work week, increased pay and improvements in the retirement plan. The union said its package would cost about \$500 million, but the government said it would cost \$681 million. Both figures are far beyond the \$40 million package offered by the administration.

Administration sources said privately yesterday that they believed the controllers were bent on a strike, unlike a month ago when the union failed to get the 80 percent approval for a strike and agreed to a tentative settlement. That settlement was rejected by 95 percent of the union members last week.

Poli said a strike vote by the union's 15,000 members was to begin at midnight.

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Local flight cutbacks possible

By DAVID MEDZERIAN
Daily Collegian Staff Writer
The effect of a possible nationwide air traffic controllers strike on service at the University Park Airport is uncertain, but some flight cutbacks can be expected.

"It could shut us down to about one or two flights per day," said Ray McGill, customer service agent for USAir's Allegheny Commuter. He said the flights would operate to and from Pittsburgh.

McGill said when contingency plans are developed for operations at University Park, they would be announced on local radio stations.

"We won't know until the strike is in effect," he said yesterday.

Air traffic controllers who remain on the job will allow only a limited number of flights, and will specify exact times for the traffic.

"I don't even know if reservations are going to hold true," he said. "It could be first come, first served."

Rick Morgan, facility chief for the Federal Aviation Administration at the Philipsburg

Slate Airport, said a contingency plan has not yet been developed.

But Bill Clark, executive vice for Pennsylvania Airlines, which operates Allegheny Commuter's service out of University Park, said two plans have been developed.

Clark said the percentage of employees who walk out will determine which plan goes into effect. One plan will go into effect if 50 percent of the workers walk out, and the other if 25 percent go on strike.

"At State College, (with 75 percent of the controllers working) we're only talking about losing two round-trips to Pittsburgh," he said. In case of a 50 percent walkout, four round-trips and one one-way trip to Pittsburgh would be canceled, along with one flight to and from Washington.

Clark said because flights out of University Park have been operating at about 60 of capacity, passengers should be able to make alternate plans.

"If a person's flight is canceled, we should be able to accommodate them on the flight before or the flight after," he said.

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WDFM campaigns to offset budget cuts

By JUDD A. BLOUCH
Daily Collegian Staff Writer
Shortages in the funding of public broadcasting — caused mainly by President Reagan's budget cuts — have prompted WDFM, the student radio station, to campaign for funds with "Challenge '81."

The campaign to raise money through special programs and events and pledges from listeners began yesterday and continues through Saturday.

Reagan's cuts in aid strike directly at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the umbrella group for National Public Radio. The cuts will force the cancellation of some programs, WDFM subscribes to, and an increase in the cost of the surviving shows.

Although the effect on WDFM is not as direct as other stations, the impact is no less severe, said Daniel G. Mushalko, director of development. He said the syndicated expenses of NPR added to the cost of keeping up the station's supply of recording and other materials will affect programming availability.

"We can't provide as much at the same price," Mushalko said.

Much of the funding cuts, according to the Reagan administration, are to be made up by money from private interests, such as businesses and foundations. Private money for public radio often comes through underwriting or non-commercial sponsorship for programs.

But Mushalko said that it is hard to get support from businesses.

"In the past underwriting by downtown businesses such as Quickdraw Accessories Inc., the Lazy J and the University Book Centre was enough to let us clear the fiscal year by our fingernails," Mushalko said.

"Unfortunately, not enough businesses feel underwriting is worth their while."

Major corporations like Mobil and Texaco sponsor programming, (like Texaco's Metropolitan Opera series)

but these shows are a very small part of WDFM's total schedule.

Mushalko said it is difficult to raise a lot of money from private sources in a community like State College because tastes are so diverse. He said he is constantly asking himself, "What audiences do I gear my pitches to?"

"Because most of WDFM's 'alternative sound' is geared to one group or the other, already hard-to-find private money becomes even more scarce."

"We have so many speciality shows that companies aren't willing to (sponsor us)," he said.

Mushalko said WDFM receives from \$10,000 to \$13,000 a year from the Associated Student Activities budget funds and the sponsorship of the show "Options" from the Undergraduate Student Government. However, he said that the station can't get additional money from these groups.

"We would be taking away from other student organizations and that's not our goal," he said.

As of 6:30 p.m. yesterday, pledges and donations had reached about \$295, Mushalko said.

Station Manager Mark Giesen said the first goal of Challenge '81 is to reach the break even point of \$500.

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting estimates that stations should be able to raise \$26,000 from such a campaign, but Giesen set his sights much lower. He gave an optimistic estimate of between \$2,000 and \$4,000.

Mushalko said Challenge '81 is being held during the summer as an experiment. A larger campaign is planned for February.

A table is set up at the base of the Mall, where staff members are accepting donations and broadcasting WDFM. The station will also be giving away T-shirts, buttons and membership cards for discounts at local businesses to those who pledge support.

Promenade

The 28th annual Penn State Square Dance Festival was held this weekend. Square dance clubs from Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia participated in workshops as well as recreational dancing. The "Squares," as they call themselves, finished the weekend with a four-hour hoodown in the White Building and in the HUB.



Photo by Suzanne Yrrel

Freshman acceptances up 3.2%

By DAVID POLIN
Daily Collegian Staff Writer
About 500 more freshmen than anticipated have admitted to University Park for Fall Term because a higher percentage of people accepted offers of admission than in previous years, the dean of admissions said.

"Last year at this time the proportion of people who had accepted University Park was 48.4 percent," Donald G. Dickason said. "This year at this time it's 51.6 percent — a shift of 3.2 percent. That's an enormous shift in our world. Historically, those data will shift in any one year fractions of 1 percent one way or the other."

The University made a few more offers of admission than it did last year, Dickason said, but the largest factor for the increased number of freshmen was the yield — the percentage of students who accepted offers.

"We're 500 over our goal," he said. "Fifty of the 500 are attributable to more offers... (but) the other 450 would be roughly attributable to the higher percentage yield."

Another surprising trend was a 15 percent increase in the number of applications and a change in the timing with which they were received, he said.

"We were way behind in December," Dickason said.

"It was in late January that we got, on a percentage basis, equal to last year."

"Other universities had the same experience — not as extreme as we did — but a similar phenomenon," he said. "We'd love to take credit for having done a better job — being better communicators — and I think the office has done a tremendous job this year. But there's something else in the water. It's not just what we did."

Enrollment projections in a survey sponsored by The Chronicle of Higher Education indicate an increase of 7 percent at public institutions.

"The number of freshmen has been growing despite a decline in the country's 18-year-old population — the prime source of college freshmen," it stated.

A number of reasons have been proposed for the increase in applications, James T. McKeel Jr., director of undergraduate admissions, said.

"There's a larger age spread of applicants," he said. "There are more applicants coming from community colleges and possibly there's a larger percentage of high school graduates that aspire to have a higher education."

Because of the large number of applications, offers of admission, except those for special programs, were not

made after Feb. 25. The final acceptances were based on applications that had been received by Jan. 13.

"It was the earliest in at least 10 years," Dickason said. "We were trying to skid to a stop, but there's a lot of momentum in this outfit."

The trend of the higher percentage yield was not apparent until after the last acceptances had gone out, he said.

To avoid overloading the University's capacity, about 260 fewer advanced standing students were admitted this year, Dickason said.

The University is also being much more restrictive with non-degree students, he said.

"Non-degree students are able to register on a space available basis and we're running out of space."

"We're referring them to continuing education."

Dickason also said the number of applications from women increased drastically.

"For the first time, if not in history at least the first time in a long time, we'll have more women than men in the freshmen class," he said. "It probably will be over 52 percent this year."

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Lobbyist discusses Common Cause

Editor's Note: Jay Hedlund, a federal congressional lobbyist for Common Cause — a citizens lobbying group supporting governmental openness and accountability — was interviewed by Daily Collegian Staff Writer Charles M. Tocci on Saturday. The following has been edited for length and clarity.

interview

COLLEGIAN: How many Common Cause lobbyists are there in Washington?

HEDLUND: Three full-time and one part-time lobbyists whose main responsibilities are lobbying. We have a number of other folks who are registered as lobbyists who may have a little contact on Capitol Hill and with the executive branch.

COLLEGIAN: Do you have any specific responsibilities as a lobbyist for Common Cause? For instance, would you cover the House of Representatives or the Senate or any specific aspect of the federal government?

HEDLUND: Various lobbying groups divide lobbyists up in certain ways. Some will be assigned to the House and some to the Senate. We divide up by issues. A lobbyist is assigned a chunk of the issues we work on.

I work on voting rights legislation, a lot of the ethics legislation and House and Senate codes of conduct. Right now we are pushing for the televising of Senate sessions — the House sessions are

televised, but the Senate sessions cannot be, right now. I usually have about six or eight issues assigned to me.

COLLEGIAN: What are your group's priorities right now?

HEDLUND: Probably our main priorities right now would include the Voting Rights Act passed in 1965, extended in 1975 and due to expire next August. We're working to get it extended to 1992.

COLLEGIAN: Is there opposition to this extension?

HEDLUND: Yes, it seems remarkable that there would be. The Voting Rights Act covers parts of 22 states, wherever there had been a demonstrative action of discrimination regarding voter registration and voting prior to 1965.

A number of the southern states would like to let the Voting Rights Act be terminated. President Reagan has appointed Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Thurmond said he would like to kill the Voting Rights Act.

COLLEGIAN: Did Thurmond give any reason for this?

HEDLUND: He said that we don't have any problems anymore. The act worked, so why pick on one section of the country?

As I say, a number of the provisions apply nationwide. The ban on a literacy test, the ban on a poll tax and other kinds of discriminatory techniques are banned nationwide.

The main enforcement provisions of the act cover parts of 22 states, although it's mostly focused on the south. So he's saying (the act is) picking on the South.

Thurmond also said, "If we don't kill it, we'll love it to death. We'll extend it nationwide and have a lot of the procedures of the act."

Those 22 states, before they can make any changes in their voting laws or requirements, have to send those changes to the Justice Department for what is called "pre-clearance." Essentially, they send changes to the Justice Department and if the Justice Department does not act within 60 days, the changes are automatically approved. It's a small group of 14 people in the Justice Department who administer and it's not a costly program at all.

Thurmond said this should be extended nationwide — even to places where there have been no discriminatory voting practices. These voting changes would include the re-drawing of district lines, changes in voting hours, voting places and precincts.

The bureaucracy would simply expand and they would not be able to enforce it. This would take the focus of the law away from what it was designed to do.

COLLEGIAN: If the Voting Rights Act were terminated in 1982, do you believe there are places that would actually go back to literacy tests, as well as other such provisions?

HEDLUND: Literacy tests and poll taxes, etc., were banned as a part of the law, so other kinds of more sophisticated kinds of discrimination would



Photo by Steve Shaw
Jay Hedlund

simply to determine if it causes racial discrimination or not.

If the law expires, you will see a continuation of these areas where there have already been objections and you won't be able to object anymore. You'll see an increase in the drawing of lines, annexations, and voting changes. There was one case in Alabama that has been in court for 14 years.

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inside

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weather

Intervals of clouds and hazy sunshine, continued warm and more humid today with the chance of an afternoon shower and a high of 84. Tonight will be partly cloudy and mild with some patchy fog and a low of 64. Hazy sunshine tomorrow, warm and humid with some increasing afternoon cloudiness and again, the chance of an afternoon shower with a high in the mid 80s. Tuesday night will be fair and mild with a low in the mid 60s.