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Salary Battle Looms In City

By Don Righetti
Sentinel Staff Writer

The Santa Cruz City Employees Association is girding itself for a running battle with city administrators as the time grows near for the annual haggling over wages.

This year the workers will have as their principal spokes-

man William K. Dick, a hard-nosed veteran of 25 years in labor relations and personnel administration. Dick already is general manager of the county employees association. He has worked both sides of the street—for management and for labor—and looms as a formidable foe for administration negotiators.

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, a union joined by many city workers in 1967, is completely out of the picture. The union failed in its efforts to gain any major concessions from the administration and its membership dwindled rapidly to nothing.

Dick is confident he can succeed where the AFSCME failed. "We can get the job done because there is more unity among city employees than ever before. On March 18 we had 116 members. Now there are 237. Since there are about 50 in the firemen's union, we have a potential of about 300, so our percentage is very good."

Dick already has crossed swords with the city. He asked the city to withhold association dues from the paychecks of members—a process which greatly simplifies union operation and is a key to continued membership.

During a closed bargaining strategy session, the city decided not to do it.

"This procedure is the prevailing practice and is so widely accepted, the only conclusion we can reach is that the city council has but one intent—to weaken or destroy the association," Dick declared.

Dick has asked that the dues collection matter be aired at the May 13 council meeting. He added that in his opinion "the city council is archaic in its labor-management philosophy, and a continuation of its present attitude will only lead to a further deterioration of the labor-management relationship."

"My relationship with city administrators is, frankly, poor," Dick continued, "and it's going to get worse before it gets better. We're going to have a real hassle. We submitted wage recommendations to them on April 1. For all intent and purposes, they have not responded to these proposals. If they don't respond soon by setting a date

to discuss them, they will be in violation of state law, and we will take the legal options at our disposal."

He said the option to which he referred would be to haul the city into Superior Court and charge administrators with violation of SB 1223, the law forcing

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A Fling In Spring

The annual UCSC Spring Thing opens tonight on the campus.

A benefit for the university's tutorial project for area disadvantaged children, including a summer outing in the High Sierra, the weekend of activities will feature a horror show tonight at 11:30 in natural sciences 3, a carnival in the field house tomorrow afternoon, and the showing of classic movies tomorrow night.

Tonight's horror films will include "The Wolfman," starring Lon Chaney, and "The Horror of Dracula."

On Saturday at 9:30 p.m. in the Cowell College dining commons, the original "Cleopatra," with Claudette Colbert, and "Never Give a Sucker an Even Break," with W. C. Fields, will be shown.

Sunday afternoon's events will include a dance, booths and other entertainment.

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