



U Strike Bulletin

OCTOBER 30, 2003 ★ DAY 10 ★ STRIKE BULLETIN OF U of M AFSCME CLERICALS

Bruininks on Hot Seat in Thursday Meeting with Students

Student Sit-in to Continue Until U Negotiates with Union

The student sit-in in Morrill Hall continued into Thursday. On Thursday morning the administration gave into the students' first demand, which was a meeting with President Bruininks.

At 9:00 a.m. today, students met with Bruininks while about 100 students and clerical workers protested noisily outside.

In the meeting, Bruininks would not pledge to return to the negotiating table. A student who was in the meeting said that Bruininks at one point declared that the situation was not entirely under his control.

It is not clear what he meant by that, since he is the president of the University. Either he is just passing the buck, or he is being honest that there are other interests controlling what is going on at the U and he is

just a figurehead.

The students declared that they will continue their sit-in until Bruininks negotiates with striking clerical workers.

The U has reportedly warned them that they might be ejected at 6:00 p.m. today. One student reported that they will decide at that time whether to stay in Morrill Hall anyway.

Meanwhile, other U administrators are saying in the press (on MPR) that they are willing to come back to the table to talk about job security and hiring priority contract language.

As always, the union is ready to negotiate and is in communication with the mediator (see article below).

These feelers in the press show

that the U is clearly starting to feel the pressure. Clerical workers on strike for two weeks, and dozens of students sit-in are wearing them down.



Students sitting-in at Morrill Hall on Wednesday

Union Negotiators to Meet with Mediator Friday

The mediator has contacted the union chief negotiator and requested to talk with us on Friday morning. Our chief negotiator and negotiating committee co-chairs will be meeting with him on Friday morning at 8:00 a.m. The meeting is only with the mediator, not with the Administration negotiators. We will report on what happens in that meeting at the 9:45 a.m. Mass Strike Meeting at Strike Headquarters. Be there!

Health Insurance Continues Until Nov. 14

If you are on strike, your health insurance continues until the last workday of the next pay period. A few people have asked for clarification on this. We do *not* lose our health insurance next week. Call Strike HQ if you have any questions.

Songs From the Picket Lines

To be sung to "Bye Bye Blackbird".

Don't take all our steps away,
Raise premiums, Slash take-home pay,
Bad Boy Bruininks

AFSCME fights for justice, you see,
supported by students and faculty,
Bad Boy Bruininks

Oh, how billionaires love and understand you,
Checks for stadiums and flower gardens they hand you,

I'll carry my picket sign, fight the fight,
Till it's dark at the University tonight,
Bruininks, Bad Boy! Bruininks, Bye Bye!!

What's Happening This Week?

Thursday – all day – Vigil Outside Morrill to Support the Students Sitting-In Inside

Thursday – 4:30 - 6:30 – Community Mass Picketing at 15th & University, East Bank (across from Dinkydome)

Friday – 9:45 - 11:00 – Mass Strike Meeting @ Strike HQ

Friday – 12:00 – Rally & BBQ at Gateway to Pressure Board of Regents & Bruininks to Settle a Fair Contract

Events subject to change. More will be added throughout the week. For details on any of these events contact Strike Headquarters at 612-331-6420.

STRIKE HEADQUARTERS: (612) 331-6420 • 1219 UNIV. AVE • WWW.AFSCME3800.ORG

Photos from the Picket Lines!



Wednesday's rally at St. Paul campus marches by Biological Sciences, with Spitfire Sam leading chants on the bullhorn.



Strikers march past Coffey Hall on St. Paul campus



Strikers and supporters gather outside the St. Paul Student Center at noon on Wednesday



This picketing pup is ON STRIKE at the St. Paul Student Center!



Strikers march past McNeal Hall on Wednesday.



Inside Morrill Hall, students continued their sit-in on Wednesday until they get a meeting with Bruininks. They opened up the administration building for classes to be held there, like this one pictured above.



Strikers march past the big cow statues on St. Paul campus on Wednesday.

Are you in a bad spot financially while you're on strike? Contact the Mutual Support Committee for advice and possible financial help. Call (612) 331-6420 or email mutualsupport@afscme3800.org

Ask your friends, family and non-union co-workers to donate to the U Clerical Hardship Fund. Donate online at www.afscme3800.org or mail a check to AFSCME 3800, 1313 5th St SE #121B, Minneapolis, MN 55414