



# U Strike Bulletin

OCTOBER 23, 2003 • DAY 3 • STRIKE BULLETIN OF U OF M AFSCME CLERICALS

## Strike Still Strong After 2 Days

On Day 2, our strike continued to shake things up at the University of Minnesota. We had over a thousand people picketing on the first two days. Many students and people from other unions have joined our pickets. Professors, doctors, civil service workers, students, etc., have all shown incredible support. Thousands of dollars have poured into our Hardship Fund this week. The picket lines are energetic and determined. Support for the union runs deep, while Bruininks is finding himself more and more isolated. Keep your spirits up – we are doing the right thing, and if we keep up the struggle, we will win!

### Effects on the U of M

Carol Carrier claims that everything is business as usual at the U. This is not true. Here are just a few examples of things that didn't go on as usual at the U on the first two days of the strike:

- 1) Over 160 classes with over 4,000 students were held off campus in solidarity with the strike.
- 2) Roofers from Local 96 stopped all roofing projects at the U, including a project in Moos Tower.
- 3) Construction work stopped on the Legal Clinic in the Law School.
- 4) UPS trucks were turning away at Campus Mail and other points around campus in honor of our strike.
- 5) Coca-Cola deliveries turned away or were in a few cases trucked in by supervisors.

And our strike is transforming the fabric of this University. Everywhere people are wearing our buttons and encouraging our picketers.

### Co-Worker Crossed the Line?

If there is someone you work with who you know is crossing the picket lines, you can do something very important for the strike just by calling them at home and talking with them about why they are crossing. Patiently help work through their issues and see if you can get them to be part of the strike tomorrow. The best way to convince someone to be on the picket lines is to talk directly with the people you know. We welcome people onto the picket lines with open arms!

**Support the Striking Clerical Workers!  
Rally for a Fair Contract**

**Friday, October 24**

**Noon**

**West Bank Plaza**

## The Numbers Game

On the first day of the strike, Carol Carrier claimed that only 45% of clerical workers actually struck. At the start of every strike, the employer always claims that the majority are crossing the picket lines. They say this to demoralize the strikers and to make the people crossing the line think they're in the majority.

What's the truth about the numbers? The truth is that at such a large and complex institution like this they could not have possibly known the precise numbers of strikers accurately by 3:00 p.m. on the first day of the strike. If they were honest, at best they could have put out an estimated range of how many people crossed the picket line based on a sampling of offices. The fact that they put out a hard number like that so quickly instead of a range shows they are making it up.

### Count the Non-Members?

In Minnesota, unions are "open shop", meaning people who work at a union employer can choose to be non-members of the union, or "fair share". Our union has about a 67% membership rate, meaning 33% are non-members. To get to their 45% crossing the line number, they would have to count all the non-members of our union in along with the members, and then inflate the numbers even more to boot.

The union didn't expect most of our non-members to strike – they chose not to participate in the vote to strike. But even if we were to accept the U's cooked numbers, we have about 70% of our members honoring the strike.

U Administrators are engaging in a cynical and predictable attempt to demoralize us. We won't fall for it!

The clerical workers on strike are fighting for what is right – a livable wage, job security, and affordable health care for our families. Striking gives us the power to win.

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

# Photos from the Picket Lines!



Strikers talk to a group of students outside of Donhowe on Tuesday.



Strikers arrive at Morrill Hall for Wednesday's noon convergence



Phyllis Walker talks to the press Wednesday at Noon outside Morrill Hall, backed up by a large group of spirited picketers who converged from around the East Bank.



Great response from passing cars on Washington Ave



A picketing pup wears sign that says, "U of M Administration, Don't Dog Me!"



Human Resources folks in Donhowe couldn't avoid the strike with this crowd outside their doors!

**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](mailto:mutualsupport@afscme3800.org)**

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