



U Strike Bulletin

OCTOBER 27, 2003 ★ DAY 7 ★ STRIKE BULLETIN OF U of M AFSCME CLERICALS

Strike Enters Week Two!

We gained momentum and support throughout Week One of the strike, and we ended on a strong note with the awesome rally and barbeque on Friday at West Bank Plaza. Now we're starting on our second week of the strike, and we're ready for another strong week on the picket lines!

There are lots of activities planned this week to keep the pressure on Bruininks to negotiate a fair contract with us. Faculty, students, religious leaders, politicians and others

Songs From the Picket Lines

When it started raining on Friday morning, the strikers on Wash. Ave in front of Moos didn't get gloomy – they got creative and wrote this new song (to the tune of "Singing in the Rain"):

We're striking in the rain
We're striking in the rain
We're fighting for a contract
We want Bob to share the pain

We know that we're right
We're ready to fight
We're striking, striking in the rain!

–by Sandi Sherman & Linda Kingman, the Moos Crew!

will continue to support us.

Our cause is just. No matter how Morrill Hall or newspapers spin it, the fact is that the majority of union members have stood up to fight back. And most people on the inside are not there because they want Bruininks's concessionary contract – they're there because of fear or poverty. Our strike is strong, our support is growing, and we will fight until we get a fair contract!



graphic: riniart.org

What's Happening This Week?

Monday – 11:00 - 3:00 – Faculty Join the Picket Lines

Monday – 11:00 - 12:00 – Student Car Caravan

Thursday – 4:30 - 6:30 - Community Mass Picketing

Friday – 12:00 – Rally at Gateway to Pressure Regents

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.

Yale Strike Leaders Visit, Inspire U of M Clericals

Yale Leaders Bring Inspiration & Lessons for Success, Help Fundraise for Our Hardship Fund

Laura Smith is the President of the clerical workers union at Yale, and Shirley Lawrence is a community organizer from the Tech & Maintenance union at Yale. The two of them helped lead the workers at Yale through a two-year long contract fight (including two strikes) to a great victory just last month.

Laura and Shirley came to visit clerical workers at the U of M this weekend. They visited our picket lines, talked with our members, and spoke at our rally on Friday. They strategized with some picket captains and they spoke at our fundraiser on Saturday night (where we raised about \$5,000 for our hardship fund!).

They generally inspired us by showing us that it is possible to win, even in this economic climate. They

did it from a situation very similar to ours. They won a large wage and pension increase, as well as significant changes in the way Yale works with its workers and the surrounding community.

Those of you who met them know how inspiring their visit was. A great bond of solidarity was built between workers at the U of M and at Yale this weekend.



Laura Smith and Shirley Lawrence, Yale strike leaders, at our rally on Friday on the West Bank.

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

Photos from the Picket Lines!



Workers on strike outside of Moos Tower!



West Bank Office Building is on strike!



West Bank clerical worker's daughter's sign says "I must suffer so Bruininks doesn't have to."



They don't teach *this* in Carlson School of Management, do they?



Sandi and Linda didn't let the rain get them down Friday morning – instead they wrote the new song, "We're Striking in the Rain"! (see lyrics on front).



Workers from Humphrey and Carlson School on the picket lines together on Friday morning.



A new group appeared at Friday's rally – Billionaires for Bruininks. Their slogan: "Work More – Less Pay"!



Getting ready for halloween on the picket lines: "We Can't Live With a Bare Bones Contract."



Part of the crowd at Friday's inspiring noon rally and barbeque on West Bank Plaza.

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