



U Strike Bulletin

Sept. 17, 2007 • Day 13 • U OF M AFSCME Health Care, Technical and Clerical Strike

Administration's "Settlement Offer" Unacceptable Strikers and Supporters Turning Up the Heat

On Friday, September 14, hundreds of strikers overflowed the church sanctuary at the strike headquarters to hear and discuss the "settlement offer" that the union negotiating committee received Friday from the U administration via the mediator.

The overwhelming response from strikers to the administration's offer was negative. The union's chief negotiator called the mediator late Friday afternoon to tell her the offer is unacceptable and the strike continues. Strikers expressed a strong determination to intensify the fight this week.

Barb Bezat, President of AFSCME 3937 said, "The offer represented no additional money for the cost of living increase, remaining unchanged at 2.25% for clerical and technical workers and 2.5% for health care workers. The offer, which does not differ significantly from the last proposal by the University, included a \$300.00 lump sum for everyone and a conditional offer of a \$300.00 lump sum in each year for people at the top of the range."

Cheryl Schrader said, "A \$300.00 lump sum turns into \$175.00 after taxes. When that money is not part of the cost of living increase it does nothing to help me keep up with inflation over time." Nancy Wiswell added, "The University has now put a sum on the table nearly equal to what it would take to give us the entire 3.25% increase allocated by the legislature. Their refusal to use the state allocation the way it was intended is inexplicable."

Saturday Fundraiser Raises \$20,000 for U Workers Support Fund

On Saturday evening, hundreds of labor and community supporters packed the CWA Union Hall on East Lake Street in Minneapolis for a program and fundraiser for the U Workers Support Fund. This fund is to support U of M workers on strike.

Many unions stepped up with donations in the thousands of dollars. And many individuals gave what they could - \$200, \$100, \$50 or even a few dollars. Over \$20,000 was raised in total at the fundraiser. This show of concrete solidarity is what the labor movement is all about at its finest.

**All Strikers
Mass Meeting
Tuesday, Sept 18
3:30 p.m. sharp
at Strike Headquarters**

U Students Have 'Last Supper' Before Starting Hunger Strike

On Sunday evening, U of M students planning a hunger strike in solidarity with striking U workers had their 'last supper' at St. Francis Cabrini Church, where the Strike Kitchen is located. The student hunger strike starts Monday at noon in front of Morrill Hall. The students will maintain a presence at Morrill during the day and at University Baptist Church in the evening. The students released a press statement Sunday that reads in part:

"At least 10 University of Minnesota students will begin an indefinite hunger strike on Monday in support of a fair settlement of the clerical, technical and healthcare workers' strike entering its third week... After exhausting all possibilities of communicating their message to President Bruininks and his administration, the group of students has organized the action as a HUNGER STRIKE FOR JUSTICE.

"The Hunger Strike for Justice aims to highlight the growing problem of wage inequality on campus, in which the University is unwilling to pay the relative pittance it would take to keep its lowest paid workers abreast of inflation, an issue at the heart of the current labor conflict. "We refuse to let our sisters and brothers in AFSCME go hungry alone," explained Kyle Johnson, an undergraduate in fine arts. A survey conducted by the union in 2005 found that 25% of union members working at the U had difficulties affording to feed their families. "We want justice for our community, and that means nobody in our university should go hungry," Johnson continued. "Our hunger strike is meant to highlight a bigger crisis that needs a resolution now: hundreds and hundreds of invisible workers are going home to their families without a paycheck every day this strike drags on," he concluded."

**Strike Headquarters: University Baptist Church, 1219 University Ave. 612-378-3750
Hotline 612-234-8772 • afscme3937.org • afscme3800.org • afscme3260@gmail.com**

What if its cold?
We picket.

What if it rains?
We picket.

What if the administration comes back
to the table with a reasonable cost of
living offer?
We go back to work, and organize,
organize, organize.

-- by Rick C.



Strikers from VMC on St. Paul Campus

Strike Haiku Corner

*Sign in hand, trucks stopped.
Passersby give cheers and honks
Morning at the U.*

- Mary B., Gateway and dock picketer

*Alone together
How long must this go on, Bob?
We keep U in biz.*

- mmschalles

Send us your strike haikus!
SecretStrikeEmail@gmail.com

The Labor Movement

Gave us
Eight-hour workday
Minimum wage
No child labor
Safe working conditions
Paid holidays
Benefits and
The two-day weekend

Brought to you by
The American Federation of Labor
Congress of Industrial Organizations
The Western Federation of Miners
The Laundry Workers Union
The International Ladies Garment Workers Union
The Brotherhood of Pullman Porters
The Teamsters
The United Farm Workers
And American Federation of State, County and
Municipal Employees

Special funding provided by
Eugene Debs,
Asa Randolph,
Cesar Chavez,
Mother Jones
And Jimmy Hoffa

Funding is also provided by numerous workers like you
Who still believe in the labor movement.

- Lori Young-Williams, 9/15/2007



Lori Young-Williams read two poems
inspired by the strike at Saturday's
labor solidarity event to raise funds
for strikers.

Sung to the tune of the Minnesota Rouser

Hey Bob Bruiniks why can't you be
fair to the working people of AFSCME?
The strike's been long but UNITED ARE WE!

Bob you have been such a jerk!
Let us all get back to work.

Shame on the U of M!

- R., VMC, St. Paul Campus

Are you in a bad spot financially while your're on strike? Contact the Mutual Support Committee for advice and possible financial help. Email mutualsupport@afscme3800.org

Ask your friends, family and non-union co-workers to donate to the U Workers Support Fund. Donate online at www.uworkers.org or mail a check to U Workers Support Fund, 1313 5th St SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414