



U Strike Bulletin

OCTOBER 21, 2003 ★ DAY 1 ★ STRIKE BULLETIN OF U of M AFSCME CLERICALS

U of M Administration Refused to Move at the Table...

We're on Strike



U of M clerical workers started our strike on Tuesday morning at 6:30 a.m. We are striking for step increases, job security, affordable health care. We are striking for dignity and respect from our employer. We need you on the picket line to make our strike a success. Together we are powerful!

Stay informed as the strike develops. These Strike Bulletins will come out regularly. Check the union website at www.afscme3800.org. If you want to help, if you hear a rumor, or if you just have a question, call Strike Headquarters at (612) 331-6420.

What Happened in Negotiations?

The union negotiating committee spent Sunday and Monday in negotiations attempting to come to a fair settlement. But management would not meet us half way in negotiating a fair contract to avert a strike.

U management did not offer anything different than the final offer that union members had already rejected in our strike vote on October 1st and 2nd. The University's only 'offer' on Sunday and Monday was just a shell game, putting different names on what they offered us before without offering anything new.

The University again refused to make a single change to their health care plan, refused to put any more money on the table for wages to compensate for their proposed health care cuts, and refused to agree to step increases,

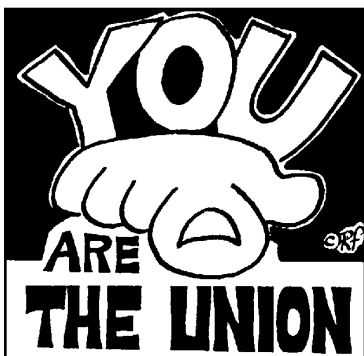
which even Gov. Pawlenty agreed to retain in the state workers' contract. They also refused to accept any job security language that the clerical union proposed and that state workers already have in their contract.

The union negotiating

committee made significant movement at the negotiating table on Sunday and Monday on wages, cutting our proposed wage increase in year 2 of the contract from 6% down to 2.5%, in an effort to move toward an agreement. But management's response to all of our movement was that there was not another dime available. By saying they would not put another dime on the table, the University negotiators were saying they did not want to even hear our proposed ideas on wages and health care. The employer demanded acceptance of their health care plan with no room for discussion of any changes at all.

The University Administration continued their 'just say no' approach to bargaining. Clerical workers voted to reject the U's offer. The U administrators didn't change that offer. So clerical workers are on strike for a livable wage, affordable health care, and job security until the U administration negotiates a fair contract. ★

graphic: riniart.org



Stay in Touch with Strike Headquarters

Got a Question?

Call (612) 331-6420

Wanna help?

Come to the HQ at
1219 University Ave SE
(at 13th & University on the East Bank)

