

# Faculty Improved Yet Far From Acceptable

The actions of the faculty around here during the past week have indicated both great promise and great hypocrisy. If you compare the meetings held now with those held even as long ago as last spring, there is no doubt that only one conclusion can be arrived at - the faculty have been amazing in the way they have

opened their eyes to the inequities and injustices in the world around them and yet they have been unable to leave smug little cocoons to speak out or act about these elements of existence.

Hence, the faculty voted virtually and unanimously to give \$1,000.00 to the strike fund, for the workers and yet strike the words "in good faith" from the following motion: that the university administration returned to the bargaining table and negotiate in good faith with the workers".

It may be noted that without good faith, collective bargaining is a meaningless process. At any rate, by the time they had voted this motion, university had already returned to the table, so it was nothing but a wordy piece of pious crap.

If the words "in good faith" are struck from that motion, what does it mean? That profs., threatened by the student actions, desire to get it over with as soon as possible. Irrelevant is the question of whether or not the strike has accomplished anything. The only consideration is to return to the cocoon as soon as possible. It's time profs. around here broke the bond and came out as butterflies. The position our mentors

have taken is perhaps understandable. Their single reason for the job they presently hold is to teach classes. Aside from the question of the fat salary they would be losing if they joined the lines, many feel they have a moral requirement to hold classes - an obligation to the students who do wish to continue to take the course.

This obligation truly contradicts the other one which they have to the world out there, and they know it, although they'll never admit it, not even to themselves. Hence, the only possible reaction is to shrink further into the cocoon.

Thus, Owen Sharkey charges the lines; a danger to life and limb, Mujib Rahman lies his way through; citing a quick trip into campus (of five hours) and a bad ankle, and Bob O'Rourke parks in the K-Mart parking lot and sneaks past Blanchard.

These reactions all come from fear. Would anyone do anything that humiliating and degrading if there was not a great-

er motivation? Would in any other case: Glen Palmer hold a class or Frank Bolger scream at his fellow human being with his finger pressed against his nose?

Of course not yet fear does strange things to people. They attempt to hide from the facts and ignore the reality which exists all around them. It makes them uncomfortable.

To relieve that discomfort they vote \$1,000 for a strike fund - \$10.00 apiece from a group of people whose average salary is about \$17,000.00. There, now they can go home satisfied that they have done something sufficiently concrete to ease their conscience. Meanwhile, they refuse to censor the administration for giving workers subsistence wage over the years and allowing the situation to come to such a head, nor do they walk the lines, even in their spare time.

It is absolutely necessary in their world to keep reality out; otherwise it impinges too heavily upon their conscience and forces them to act.

WE ARE PRESENTLY STUDYING FOR MID-TERM EXAMS. WHICH IS A CRUCIAL TIME FOR MOST STUDENTS. ARE YOU WILLING TO GIVE UP THE PRIME TIME PRE-MID-TERM CLASSES TO SUPPORT THE MAINTENANCE WORKERS.

IF YOU BOYCOTT CLASSES IS THIS REALLY GOING TO SOLVE ANYTHING??? DOES THE ADMINISTRATION CARE IF YOU ATTEND CLASSES. YOU WILL HAVE THE SAME EXAMS AT THE END OF THE TERM. YOUR COURSES ARE PAID FOR.

ARE YOUR PROFESSORS GOING TO KEEP CLASSES GOING. AND ARE YOU GOING TO GET BACKED UP IN YOUR WORK: ARE THE MAINTENANCE WORKERS GOING TO APPEAL TO THE PROFESSORS TO BE MORE LENIENT WITH YOU AT EXAM TIME BECAUSE YOU DID NOT ATTEND CLASSES TO SUPPORT THE MAINTENANCE WORKERS.

IS THE REAL PROBLEM THAT THE MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT IS OVERSTAFFED AND UNDERWORKED????

Example of anti-strike literature distributed on Campus during the 1975 strike.

## UPEI Is People

Unusual events often can serve to clarify social reality. Our strike in support of the Maintenance workers certainly does this.

First, it seems obvious that, as students, we are customers and pay for our credits and degree. As a side benefit we can take courses which sometimes are interesting and worthwhile; this, however, is not our prime objective since we could easily develop methods of learning and skill which are a great deal less expensive and less boring/oppressive/stultifying (take your pick.) As education consumers we accumulate potential economic and social power in an unjust and unequal stratifying society. This is consumer education and job training in the worst possible sense. Whether we can break this

consumerism ethos and systematic inequality is a fundamental question of our society.

Secondly, it is clear that WE are the university. Without us, it just don't go! We may, in fact, need people to take care of administrative details but they should be accountable to us, i.e. both elected and recallable. Steps to make all administrators responsible should be taken further.

Finally, the strike points out how we are dependent on others for our education and for making decisions on the social well - being of our fellow men (Maintenance workers). We should be men and women not dependents.

Well, what can we do? As responsible and free people - anything we want.

Art Reddin