

Declaration of Solidarity With Maintenance Workers



Editorial

dave macrae

Of all segments of the "University Community" (to use a pet phrase of the administration) none has been so consistently given the short end of the stick as the support staff. They are forced to accept orders which are all too frequently contradictory, whimsical, self-defeating or just plain arrogant.

In return they get wages which would not feed a dog living in an outhouse, let alone a family attempting to live with some measure of respect and dignity. The present wage scale ranges from \$4700 to \$8300 per year with most workers making less than \$6000. Not surprisingly the maintenance workers are going for an increase that

even a postal worker would not have the gall to ask for.

While the demand may appear high in terms of what other settlements have been, it is completely justified to enable them to catch up with others. Indeed, when considered in those terms, it is actually less than needed.

While it is at least understandable that the administration would stall in giving the wage increases (university budgets are tight this year). it is difficult to comprehend why they would not immediately accede to the other major union demand - that increases be in dollar terms rather than percentage terms. The workers at the

bottom of the totem pole have barely enough to survive on; those at the top make at least a tolerable wage. Any attempt to lessen the difference should be applauded rather than scorned.

Could it be that such a settlement would establish a dangerous precedent?! The administration generally makes the highest wages on campus. If the maintenance workers are granted increases of this nature, then it might just be that a movement would start to spread it campus-wide. Dangerously communistic? No, dangerously just and humanistic.

The Cadre further deplors the administration's action in demanding great amounts of overtime from workers (this week amounting, for some, to three nights and both Saturday and Sunday). This action not only seriously restricts the amount of time that workers may spend with their families also contravenes the spirit of both the present contract and the collective bargaining process itself.

While the expired contract states only that workers shall be expected (what does that word mean anyway - must or may?) to work overtime no union would have agreed with it if it had even dreamed that over-time meant thirty hours per week. Further when the only pos-

sible explanation for the action is to lessen the effects of a strike vote then it subverts the major weapon which the workers have - refusal to work.

This, practice, while common is, at the very least an indication of bad faith, at worst it is forcing the workers to campaign against their own cause. Of all organizations, a university, supposedly being a rampart of the future, should not engage in such practices.

To follow up these tactics by suspending a worker who refused to be trampled on is an indication of the type of arrogance which we have become used to receiving from the administration. It is certainly to be hoped that in the coming arbitration of the case that he will be reinstated with full pay. Such blatant attempts to cow workers can only backfire in the long run, not to mention the demoralization that they can cause the workers.

And so we fully support the maintenance union in its attempts to win the workers a decent living standard. For too long the support staff has done without the encouragement of their natural allies - the students. Give your support to them. They do their job well.

In solidarity,
Dave



Enough of Cafeteria

Dear Editor,

The cafeteria hours on this campus have always been reasonable until this year. Take for example the morning meals, normally attended by very few people indeed. The breakfast hours are from 7:15 to 8:30 (although some manage to stretch them out another half-hour). I don't know about anyone else; but all my classes start at either 9:30 or 10:30. This

means I have the choice of getting up two hours early or doing without the most important meal of the day.

The football players must also find it exasperating to discover that after practice the doors are closed and their appetites satisfied. It is a shame that we pay such abominable prices in order to be forced to maintain certain hours or strave.

Sausages droop, eggs run. Having never mastered the art of fishing, I'm not a-

bout to begin. Ever try to stab a slippery egg? Oh for a perky sausage and a variety in cereals! How can a normal healthy person exist on the s--- you dish out? Cherios does not have any nutritive value and certainly won't give you any added energy. We dream of succulent thighs (chicken, that is); we see textbooks through bleary eyes. Early signs of malnutrition? "Food, glorious food!" Anything. Muted taste buds diving through strach and grease. That must be the goal - blanched taste buds. I say this with vehemence - the hell with Beaver Foods!

C Woodhall

Thanks For Help At Klondike

Dear Editor,
As the member of the Freshman Orientation Committee responsible for Klondike Nite, I wish to express thanks to the following departments for taking part: Chemistry, Economics, Eng-

lish, Mathematics, Athletics, Student Services, Administration, Philosophy, Sociology, Home Economics, and Engineering. This particular evening during Freshman Week was devoted to bringing faculty, students, and administration together on an informal basis, in an atmosphere of fun, to enhance the communication between them. Many faculty and were active in the various booths, and I'm sure they had an opportunity to talk with many of our Freshman students. Other booths were operated by students from the various departments, which in one way defeated the purpose.

Should this event continue in future years, it will only be as good as the support given it by faculty and administration. Thanks very much to those who have been very co-operative thus far. I'm hoping other departments will see their way clear to becoming involved in the future.

I remain,
Marion Morrison