

SUPPORT the STRIKE!

WHY AFSCME IS ON STRIKE:

With rents, utilities, and food prices all going up, workers can't live on what the University is offering. This is what the proposed contract included: 1) a 55% wage increase spread over 2 years (this doesn't even make up for the 57% that the workers lost in the last contract due to inflation and the ceiling on cost-of-living payments); 2) no cost-of-living payments this time (the last contract had cost-of-living provisions with a 15% ceiling); 3) no improvements in medical insurance or sick time---no eyeglasses or dental; 4) the classifications that were upgraded were compensated by an equal number that are scheduled to be downgraded; 5) no increase in the number of holidays; 6) a 100% increase in the cost of parking. This "package" is being accompanied by elimination of jobs, and speed-up for those who remain. The workers felt strongly enough to reject the contract by an overwhelming margin, and voted to go on strike, despite the absence of strike benefits.

WHY WON'T THE UNIVERSITY OFFER A DECENT CONTRACT?

There is an economic crisis in this country, and the University is affected. The crisis is resulting in cuts to education and other social services, and the U. is responding by cutting back in the areas they consider the least important and which offer the least resistance. On the one hand, they raise Fleming's salary and build presidential libraries; on the other, they raise dorm rates and tuition yearly, and refuse to give the workers a wage that keeps up with the rate of inflation. It's convenient for the U. to blame these hikes on the increase in workers' wages, but what are the facts? The current dorm rate hike of 8.4% was made official before any settlement had been worked out with the union, and in the past, they have raised tuition whether the workers have gotten an increase or not. They can be expected to try to do the same thing in the future regardless of the outcome of the strike. What is happening, then, is part of an over-all attempt to make us pay for a crisis that is caused by the system itself. In fighting for a decent contract, AFSCME workers are resisting this attempt; when students organize to resist tuition increases, they are doing the same; and these belt-tightening measures by the administration and by the rich who run the government, cease to be the avenues of "least resistance."

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- 1) Don't scab for the University. Refuse to cooperate with efforts to have us empty garbage, fix meals and fill in for AFSCME. If you're a STUDENT EMPLOYEE, stay off the job or avoid doing union work.
- 2) Help PICKET---the best places are at the loading docks and at the hospital.
- 3) If you would like to help with leafletting or other activity, call us at 995-8957 or 663-5364.

****The purpose of the picket line is to publicize student support, and to present Fleming with a petition demanding that the U. concede to the strikers.

Come to The PICKET LINE - FRI. noon
on the Diag & march to Fleming's.

(THIS RALLY WAS ORGANIZED BY THE STUDENT SUPPORT COMMITTEE).

-Revolutionary Student Brigade