

Almanac Supplement

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STRIKE BACKGROUND

OPEN EXPRESSION

May 10, 1971

To Members of the University Community:

The Committee on Open Expression, having observed the activities today related to the strike of Local 54, wish to call the attention of the University community to the fact that the Guidelines on Open Expression provide that "The right of individuals and groups peaceably to assemble and to demonstrate shall not be infringed."

This is subject, however, to the provision that "Demonstrations should not interfere with free and unimpeded movement in and out of buildings and rooms and through all passageways. This will generally be satisfied if at least one-half of each entrance, exit, or passageway is free from obstruction of any kind."

Philip G. Mechanick, Chairman
(Department of Psychiatry)

William G. Owen
(Secretary of the Corporation)

William Keller
(College '73)

Frederick G. Kempin, Jr.
(Vice-Dean, Wharton School)

Marc D. Jonas
(Law School '72)

William Tortu
(College '72)

FROM THE STRIKE SCENE

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS ISSUED BY THE STRIKE SUPPORT COMMITTEE MAY 10:

Last Thursday the University announced its plans to lay off 96 of its 155 cafeteria workers. Many of the University cafeteria workers are paid only \$1.59/hour. This is a yearly salary of less than \$3,300, so low that it qualifies them for welfare. They do not have Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage for their families.

The Cafeteria Workers, members of Local 54 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, have called a strike in protest. This strike is legal. The non-professional Librarians of Local 590 (AFSCME) are honoring Local 54's picket lines which surround all University libraries.

(over)

FROM COLLEGE HALL

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS ISSUED BY THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION MAY 10:

1. The dining service employees of the University of Pennsylvania are members of Local 54, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO. They have a three-year contract with the University expiring this June 30, with a minimum wage of \$1.74/hr. including a .15/hr. meal credit (the average wage is \$2.35/hr. including the meal credit). The contract contains a clause recognizing a pattern of a period of "seasonal layoff" caused by the small summer enrollments.

2. University records indicate that there are 158 dining service workers. About 49% are expected to be laid off this summer, compared to last summer's

(over)

From the Strike...

The University has been exempted from paying for unemployment compensation (it will be required to do so starting in January 1972, because of a change in the law) so when employees lose their jobs they receive nothing until they can get another or go on welfare.

Normally, the University has laid off about a third of its dining services staff for the duration of the summer, after negotiation with the union. Those laid off have worked for the University for one or two years at most. This year 96 out of a total of 155 are being laid off. This includes all who have worked here for less than five years. There have been no negotiations and they get only 3 weeks notice. There is no guarantee of re-employment.

BULLETIN

As Almanac went to press, President Meyerson scheduled a meeting for 8 a.m., Tuesday, May 11, with a group of students supporting the striking cafeteria workers. Joining Mr. Meyerson at the meeting will be Provost and Vice-President Curtis Reitz and the Vice-President for Business and Financial Affairs Harold Manley.

The phone number for up-to-date strike information is

594-8721

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From College Hall...

approximately 46% (91 of 199 employees). Each year the University makes its best efforts to find other employment for those laid-off who request such a service. Although the actual number laid off is smaller this year (78 vs 91), the summer job situation is also tighter than usual.

3. The contract provides that any grievance or disputes between the Union and the University concerning the interpretation of the contract shall be settled through a grievance procedure leading to binding arbitration. The University has made it clear from the outset that it is prepared to be bound by an arbitration procedure. The University continues to be prepared to follow this path.

4. An additional concern has been expressed by Union officials that a staff member of the computer center in the University has been dismissed because of union organizing activities. That is not so. Furthermore, the University has offered to have this case decided upon by the National Labor Relations Board. The position along with others in that office has been eliminated primarily because of automation. The person involved had been informed of the opportunity to seek other positions in the University. She has not taken advantage of this opportunity.

5. Meanwhile, in support of the dining service employees, the library workers who belong to local 590 of the same union have gone on strike. Unfortunately, members of local 54 and 590 are presently involved in illegally blocking the entrance of students, faculty, and staff to the main library. The University Committee on Open Expression is looking into this matter now.

Almanac is edited by Karen C. Gaines at the University News Bureau, 524 Franklin Building.