

# Letters to the Editor

## Dear Editor

My letter is in reference to the ongoing strike by Marriott workers. I am a residence student and as a result I am required to purchase a meal plan. As of Feb 7, the unionized workers went on strike, primarily over the issue of wages. Although, I respect the workers right to strike, I am very concerned by the current turn of events.

I have crossed the picket line to get to the Dining Hall to get my meals. I was under the belief that there was to be no picket line established there, but there is. I don't have a problem with a strike, but the picket line and picketers have no right to harrass students.

As students we have paid for meals, and I feel that I should get those meals. When I cross the picket line, it is not because I am supporting Marriott's position, it is because I want my food. I find it very disturbing to have the

union members offer me a bread and butter sandwich for lunch because that is all they can afford on their salary. Unfortunately, I do not pay their wages, so it does little good to harrass me. As I was leaving the Dining Hall, I had an apple for later, and I heard a picketer remark "stealing a green apple." This really bothered me. I have paid for this food and I was taking it to have later, so the picketers should not be saying such things to me. Personally, this harrassment does not make me support the union. I am not to blame for their grievances, and as such do not deserve to be put in the middle.

I hope there is a resolution to this problem soon. In the meantime, I request that the union members, whose cause may be well and just, remember that the students are not the enemy, and harrassing us is not the way to make Marriott respond; it may in effect have the opposite result.

-- Yvonne MacKean,  
Bernardine Hall

The employees of the University's food service department are preparing for a strike vote on February 6th, 1996. Negotiations broke off in December and conciliation was set for January 16th and 17th, 1996. In the course of conciliation the company, Marriott corporation made their first and final monetary offer. This offer was 0% the first year, 0% the second year and 1% the third year.

Some people could probably live with this offer if they were making \$15.00 or \$20.00 an hour. Did you know that 65% of the workers in the food service department are earning \$4.75 an hour and that the average wage of all their employees is between \$6.00 and \$7.00 an hour.

The company is hoping that the university students that are employees in the food service department as part-time workers, will cross the workers' picket line and do the work for this anti-union company. We are urging these

students to honour our picket line and to apply for their strike pay the same as all the the workers at Marriott Corporation.

We sincerely apologise to all the university students for any disruptions that may occur during the strike but the workers in this department deserve a fair wage for the work they do and for the service they supply. A raise of four or five cents over the course of three years is nothing short of an absolute insult to workers who have served this community for as many as 20 years.

As you are probably aware, the union, U.F.C.W local 864, will be recommending that the workers vote in favour of a strike and again we would ask that the students employed with this company to honour our picket line.

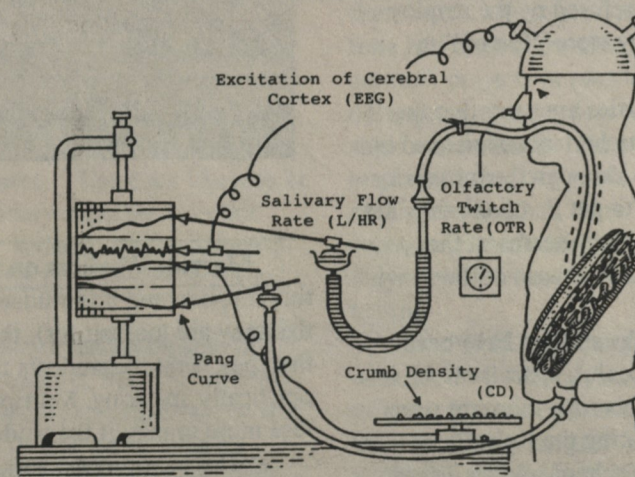
Ray Gallant  
Union President  
U.F.C.W. Local 864

## Dear Editor,

I am writing to let you know about my concern for the environment. I am sure most people have heard about the caf strike. That is not my issue. The complaint I want to publicize is the use of Styrofoam in the cafeteria. I acknowledge the fact that due to the strike there is no staff to wash dishes. I still want to point out the damage that will be caused to our environment. Styrofoam takes seven and a half years to break down, yet the cups, plates, and bowls are made of it. Many individuals take 3 or 4 cups per meal as they are accustomed to doing so with the regular glasses. If our environment is going to be damaged in the process of this strike please, Marriott, give the workers what they want, what they deserve.

-- Concerned in Bernardine

*Fig. 2. The Hunger Response*



*If you crave something really satisfying, experiment with a Subway Footlong sandwich. With our fresh-baked bread and loads of fresh fixin's, we're sure it will be a success.*

**SUBWAY**

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