



College Workers Association

NEWSLETTER no. 2 --4/19/73

on strike!

College workers at Queens College and C.C.N.Y. are planning job actions for the week of April 23. There are several reasons for this, one of which being the impossibility at this time of negotiating through the Office of Collective Bargaining (see section on No-Strike Pledge). Another is the impending new budget beginning July 1. Unless we act now, we may not be able to have any effect on it wages for the next year. We also feel that it is important to show our strength and solidarity, to prove to the Board of Higher Education, to Albany that college workers will not sit by idly while they are getting the raw end of the deal. We must show that we are willing to act, to do something about low wages, budget cuts, lay-offs, poor working conditions, the threat of tuition, etc.

On Tuesday, April 24, workers at the Queens College library will hold a 1 day walkout. Picket lines will be set up at the library entrances and possibly at the Financial Aid Office. A rally will be scheduled for 1 PM (probably in front of the library). Workers throughout the Q.C. campus should, if possible, stay away from work that day and either join us on the picket lines or (depending on your job situation) possibly picket your own place of work. Students who wish to use the library on Tues. are urged to do so.

Workers at City College's Cohen Library will walk out on Wednesday April 25 through Fri. April 27. Picketing will begin on either Thurs. or Fri. at the library and most likely the administrative offices. It is hoped that on Friday all workers on campus will walk out.

At the Q.C. library, it is possible that administrators will call other library workers to get them to fill in for striking workers on Tues. Workers who are called should refuse to work on that day. It is important that we exercise complete solidarity on this job action to prove our strength. If we all stick together on this, we will be able to effectively demand what we want and, of course no one will be fired. Workers at Queens or C.C.N.Y. who are staying away from work during the job actions should call in sick. If anyone is threatened because of strike or organizing activity, please contact the Organizing Committee immediately; It is illegal to fire anyone for organizing activity, and we will defend anyone who is threatened or fired.

No-Strike Pledge--why we won't sign

Recently we contacted the N.Y. Office of Collective Bargaining in order to discuss our demands. We were informed that we would first have to file for recognition and were sent the forms to do so. Well, included with these forms was a no-strike pledge, which, according to the Taylor Act (prohibiting strikes by government employees) we would have to sign in order to gain recognition. The forms were filled out and sent back, including no-strike pledge, on which we explained why we insisted on the right to strike. We are now awaiting further discussion with the OCB.

We feel that if we were to sign this pledge, we would in effect sign away all our power to win what we deserve. A union that cannot strike can't hope to defend the rights of its members. The Post Office strike of 1970 was successful only because postal workers had the courage to defy the law and stick up for their rights. In fact, at this point, as long as we are not recognized (as we won't be until we sign the no-strike pledge) we are not breaking any law.

At the March 22 C.W.A. meeting our decision to not sign the pledge was ratified unanimously. We feel that the only real recognition we get will come from our organized power, not through selling out our

membership .

SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO STRIKE FOR ALL GOVERNMENT WORKERS!
Organizer threatened

*the library
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to do so in order
to have an effective
shutdown.*

**Error P. 1 2nd paragraph: Students who wish to use*

About a month ago, C.W.A. organizer Russell Harris was talking to workers in the Rathskeller in the Q.C. Student Union. There were no customers and the waiters and waitresses were just sitting down. Upon seeing this Gene Grossman, ass't manager of the Student Union (Russell had been speaking to him about recent firings of workers there and had identified himself as a C.W.A. organizer) began to eavesdrop on his conversation. Well, he didn't like the fact that we were trying to organize there and called the Student Union security guards. 2 security guards, one carrying a 4-foot chain, and proceeded to escort Russell out the door. Since the Rathskeller is a public thoroughfare and since he wasn't disturbing anyone in the process of working, Russell protested that he was being removed illegally.

Anyway, after some discussion, quite a bit of which was done through other people, things have settled down a bit, though Gene Grossman still isn't very fond of us and makes sure all of his employees know it. We still intend to keep organizing at the Q.C. Student Union and to defend our right to organize.

MONEY!!!

The College Workers Association is going to need money to keep putting out this newsletter, to put out other info, and generally to keep the organization running. Since at this point we don't charge dues we depend on contributions to keep us going. (Including large contributions from some of our organizers). If you can give anything or take up a collection where you work or know some way in which we can raise money please let us know. Please send all contributions to:

Steve Rabinowitz

135-17 Jewel Ave.

Flushing, NY 11367

A C.W.A. party is being planned for Friday evening, May 4. We would like to have folksingers, L.I. farmworker organizer Gino Perente to speak, and most of all a good time in general. If you might have anything to contribute to it (i.e. live music etc.)

please contact the Organizing Committee

C.W.A. ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Russell & Ann Harriss 793-8420

Steve Rabinowitz 263-0188

Again, we are not able to publish everyone's number. Please contact one of the above people if you want to get in touch with any of our organizers or contacts around CUNY.

C.W.A.---HERT TO WIN & HERE TO STAY!

