

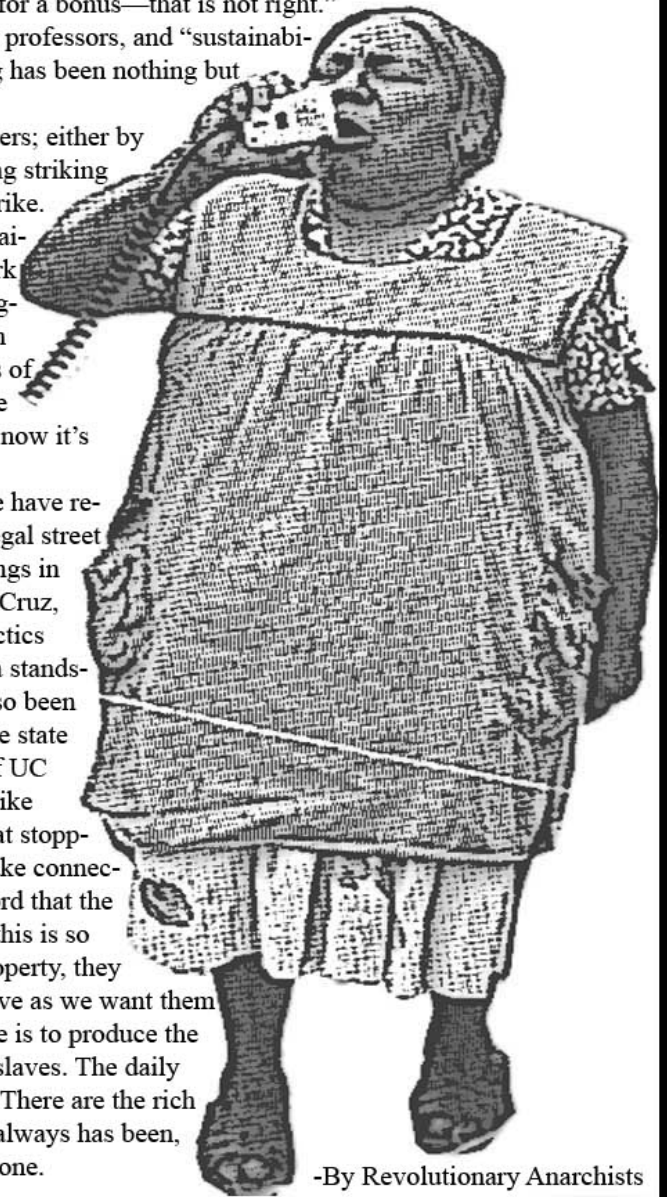
Smash the UC executives

On Monday July 14th, 8,500 service workers at the University of California's 10 school sites and five medical centers began a strike that lasted five days. The workers have been in negotiations with UC executives for over a year and in a 97% yes vote, decided to go out on strike against poverty wages that the UC bosses have refused to raise. The workers who are striking work jobs ranging from cleaning hospitals and dorm rooms, cooking and serving food in cafeterias, doing grounds work, and a host of other service related chores that keep the UC afloat.

Strikers have much to be angry about. Most make only about \$10 an hour (about 25% behind comparable jobs at other institutions) and roughly 96% of all workers are forced to fall back on food stamps, public housing subsidies, and subsidized child care. This pushes the cost of living for UC workers onto other poor and working people through taxes - all in the midst of the California budget crisis. Many UC service workers cannot afford to live in the same towns where they work (much less afford to actually attend a UC school) and are forced to commute from out of town to clean up spilled bong water and serve the sons and daughters of the rich. The combination of added costs from gas prices and low wages forces many UC workers to take two jobs just to make ends meet. "[W]ith a full time job and another part-time, I never thought I would be getting food assistance," said Patricia Olivares, a UCSF employee of 18 years, "Especially when the CEO gets over \$80,000 for a bonus—that is not right." The UC system is happy to shell out millions for fat cat executives, Marxist professors, and "sustainability" conferences - but the reality for those who keep this institution running has been nothing but day in and day out wage slavery and exploitation.

Because they live lavishly off of the continued exploitation of the workers; either by ruling that the strike is "illegal," trying to stall negotiations, or by threatening striking workers with firings if they do picket, the UC elites have tried to stop the strike. What is needed now is direct action and solidarity. We have to push hard against our enemies and hit them where they can feel it most. Our refusal to work is our greatest weapon - and our solidarity with others engaged in this struggle is our greatest ally. We must push to expand the strike into new areas with as many people as possible. We must push this struggle outside of the hands of those who would seek to contain the strike into the "proper channels." There are no such channels anymore. These parasites have fucked with our lives - now it's time to fuck with theirs.

Many strikers have already shown the way. At UC Davis, workers there have recently staged a long struggle against the university, using tactics such as illegal street marches, building occupations, protests, and disruption of executives meetings in order to push for higher wages and better working conditions. At UC Santa Cruz, strikers have continuously put pressure on the bosses using a diversity of tactics and during the strike were not afraid to get in the street and bring things to a standstill to make their demands clear. Sabotage and pro-strike vandalism have also been ongoing on state-wide campuses. We must not forget that students across the state are facing fee hikes that are pushing many poor and working students out of UC and CSU (California State University) systems forever. At some campuses like UC Berkeley and UC Santa Cruz, rebels are also involved in tree sits aimed at stopping UC expansion into wilderness areas. These are struggles that we can make connections with and build solidarity. *Their enemies are our enemies.* There is word that the strike will continue into the future and that ongoing pickets will be held. If this is so we must not let up in our pressure against the UC executives. They have property, they have homes, and they have addresses. Our actions can and will be as effective as we want them to be. The university is not and cannot be a "neutral" institution. It's purpose is to produce the future managers and bosses of society; the future exploiters of future wage slaves. The daily realities of work, poverty, and wage slavery make the line in the sand clear. There are the rich and there are all of us who are forced to make them so. Our struggle is and always has been, outside and against the university. If they want a class war - let's give them one.



-By Revolutionary Anarchists

victory to the strikers