

WHY WE

Strike:



UC Lied to you

zine By autonomous students



EVC ALISON GALLOWAY
(EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR)

Would these faces

LIE to you?



UCSC CHANCELLOR
BLUMENTHAL

On Nov 21, the day after the UC-wide service worker and TA strike, EVC Galloway sent us an email to tell us how **SORRY** she was that workers prevented us from going to class and thus deprived us of an education.

But that's **NOT HOW IT WENT DOWN** on the PICKET LINE. We are Autonomous Students, an undergrad student collective responsible for mobilizing students to support the strike, and were here to tell you what really happened that day.

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Join our FB group to hear what we'll get up to next quarter and to get involved! We're at:
Autonomous Students UCSC

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There comes a time when the operation of the machine becomes **SO ODIUS**, makes you so sick at heart ♥, that you **CAN'T** take part, you can't even passively take part, and you've got to put your bodies upon the gears and upon the wheels, upon all the apparatus, and you've got to make **IT** stop!!

And you've got to indicate to the people who run it, the people who own it, that **UNLESS YOU'RE FREE** the machine will be prevented from working, at all.



- MARIO SAVIO, BERKELEY
FREE SPEECH MOVEMENT (1964)



As Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (M.E.Ch.A) de UCSC, a student run, student led organization that promotes higher education, cultura, and historia, we believe that political involvement and education are the avenue for change in our society. M.E.Ch.A was founded on the principle of self-determination for the liberation of our people, and as such, we are proud of the solidarity between workers and students shown during the Wednesday November twentieth strike. M.E.Ch.A de UCSC has been closely following the struggle of the University of California workers, and many of our members were present at the strike from beginning to end.

We read your position on the recent campus shut-down this morning and this is our reply: Your intentional use of misinformation criminalizes a community that is simply attempting to advocate for itself. These workers are essential to the University, and they had full right to protest against the unfair labor practices to which they have been subjected, but you EVC Galloway, Chancellor Blumenthal and your offices have shown through this campus wide e-mail and through your use of dishonest tactics that you have no intention of understanding the struggle of the workers, or the students who stand in solidarity with them. We are offended by the reckless disregard for truth in the message. You intentionally relayed false information to the campus community for the sake of keeping with an image of the University of California that does not correspond with its actions. While your statement accused the striking workers of blocking off campus entrances, the fact was that the entrances were blocked by independent students, who were demonstrating in SOLIDARITY. Your intentional misinformation of the campus community is a transparent attempt at slandering the workers and delegitimizing their voice. Additionally, while the message clearly implies that the students blocking campus entrances could have potentially been responsible for emergency situations on campus, you failed to mention any of the considerations the students made, including the fact that emergency response vehicles -other than the police- were allowed full access to the campus, as were all medical personnel, students who required medical attention, students who required access to on campus child care, or who live in family student housing, as well as any person who was willing to walk. The omission of this information in your message portrays student organizers in a way that is, once again, obviously meant to sway public opinion away from the side of worker and student organizers

Furthermore, we recognize that ALL workers at the University of California are an essential part of campus functions and community. We recognize the severity with which persistent cuts on resources and inadequate contracts have affected the workers. We recognize the importance of organization, and the urgency with which the strike was NEEDED. We stood in solidarity with the workers on strike, as well as with the STUDENTS who blocked the two entrances to our campus- and will continue to stand in solidarity with worker-student coalitions. Our only hope is that your actions thus far are not indicative of what we can expect from your offices, and that you can progress beyond this toward joining us in standing for honest representation and the fair treatment of University workers and students. La Union Hace La Fuerza!

-Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (M.E.Ch.A)

When UC campus workers went on strike Wed Nov 20, UCSC students struck in solidarity, shutting down campus by blocking vehicle entry.

Below is an explanation and defence of that tactic.

The campus shutdown was a demonstration of where the power lies in the University: students and workers.

Students and workers keep the university running, but we have no formal say in how it runs. A small number of rich and powerful UC Regents, along with highly paid administrators, control the UC's budget and functioning, with no accountability to students and workers. By shutting down campus, **we declared our rejection of the Regents' and administrators' authority over the university.**



We shut down campus to stop business as usual, to show the direness and urgency of the present situation under austerity, with workers facing pay low enough to require government assistance and so overworked that 1 in 10 workers is injured on the job. **Students share this fight against austerity:** UC tuition has tripled in 10 years, and there have been more than \$1 billion in cuts to the UC budget over a decade.

The ability to withhold their labor, to strike, is the workers' only response to management's complete control over all other aspects of the work environment and illegal tactics of intimidation. The stakes are enormous. Striking is the only tactic left for workers to fight for their livelihoods and for their humanity.

Blocking cars from entering campus kept management from bringing in scab workers to break the strike. As well as physically stopping cars, the picket line served as **a symbol of student-worker solidarity.** True, the picket line made it difficult if not impossible for many members of the campus community to access basic resources: attend class, teach, go home, get lunch etc. That is the power of protest - to make individuals think twice about the members of our campus community who are not afforded those privileges.

You are part
of the
struggle.
Love,
Autonomous
Students xoxo

THE STATE OF THE STRUGGLE

OAKLAND, CA: Home of UC President Janet Napolitano

UC is paying Napolitano's **\$9,950 per month rent**, on top of her \$570,000 yearly salary. To put this in perspective, our TA's earn \$17,000 per year.

UC BERKELEY: Grad Student on UC Management Intimidation

"Vice Chancellor George Breslauer recently sent an email [asserting] that graduate students are not legally permitted to strike. Regardless of what those who manage the University say, graduate student instructors, readers, and undergraduate tutors have a **legal right to strike in sympathy** with service workers. The success of the strike is up to us. We can decide to stand together with co-workers, **even in the face of unlawful intimidation.**" – Amanda Armstrong

UC SANTA CRUZ: Campus Shutdown

From 5am, undergrad students stood with service workers and TA's in the pouring rain and did what the workers legally couldn't: we held what is called a "hard picket line" and successfully prevented cars from entering campus. **Thanks to everyone who came out to support!**

UCLA: AFT Lecturer on Changing Universities

"... People in power must know that a coalition of organized professional and service workers could be one of the only groups strong enough to stop the neoliberal political economy, and when you throw recent immigrants and indebted students into the mix, a **very threatening progressive coalition emerges.**"
- Bob Samuels

UC SANTA BARBARA: Grad Student on the Sympathy Strike

"... In music... 'sympathetic strings' often sound like a **rippling chorus of accompaniment.** [They] amplify and sustain—but they also have a certain autonomy and unpredictability. Perhaps 'sympathy' can be thought of along these lines... a renewal of the 'sympathy strike' as the key tactic—seems like the most promising path to a world we are not ashamed to live in." - Kurt Newman

UC San Diego: Undergraduate Students Facing Repression

When a number of undergrad students from the UCSD Strike Committee interrupted a UC Founders' Day event, **administrators took pictures and trolled Facebook to identify the students.** Now they're being charged with Disruption of the Peace. Admin is still deciding how to punish them.

Emily, one of the targeted students, said in response: "**No way in hell am I going to grovel at [EVC] Gary Ratcliff's feet so he can use that to keep me from protesting further and create an environment of fear for future student activism.**"

Interview Angela Davis

professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz and a leftist activist on social and human rights issues

"I think the importance of doing activist work is precisely because it allows you to give back and to consider yourself not as a single individual who may have achieved whatever but to be a part of an ongoing historical movement."



"I think that has to do with my awareness that in a sense we all have a certain measure of responsibility to those who have made it possible for us to take advantage of the opportunities. The door is opened only so far. If some of us can squeeze through the crack of that door, then we owe it to those who have made those demands that the door be opened to use the knowledge or the skills that we acquire not only for ourselves but in the service of the community as well."

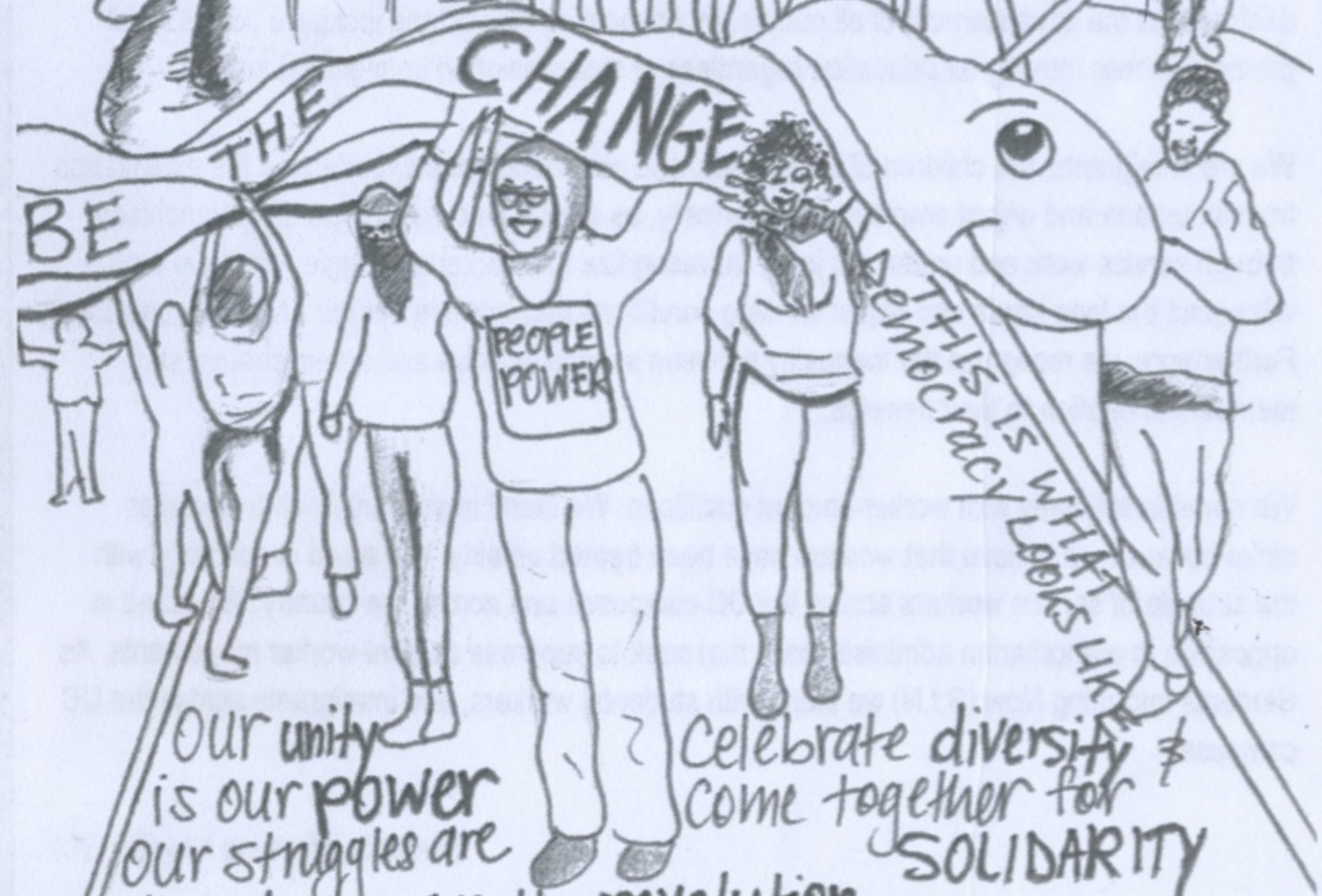
SOLIDARITY

IN ACTION

UNITED FOR JUSTICE



Students & Workers
unite
one STRUGGLE
one FIGHT



Our unity is our power
Our struggles are shared. We are the revolution
Everyday is our day to OWN IT

Celebrate diversity & Come together for **SOLIDARITY**



We are Students Informing Now (S.I.N), a student organization at UC Santa Cruz that is dedicated to the advancement of all people, by advocating for just and inclusive policies that promote access into higher education regardless of state assigned immigration status.

We are immigrants, the children of immigrants, and allies who have experienced the exploitation from inhumane and unjust employers. Historically, as people who have been disenfranchised through service work and underpaid jobs, we recognize the worker's struggle. We have also witnessed the long hours and unjust working conditions that workers endure on a daily basis. Furthermore, we recognize the inequality between service workers and administrative staff members in relation to their benefits.

We stand in solidarity with worker-student coalitions. We stand in solidarity with the worker strike because we believe that workers have been treated unfairly. We stand in solidarity with the struggle of service workers across the UC campuses and across the country. We stand in opposition to authoritarian administrations that seek to suppress student-worker movements. As Students Informing Now (S.I.N) we stand with students, workers, and immigrants across the UC campuses!

Students Informing Now (S.I.N.)

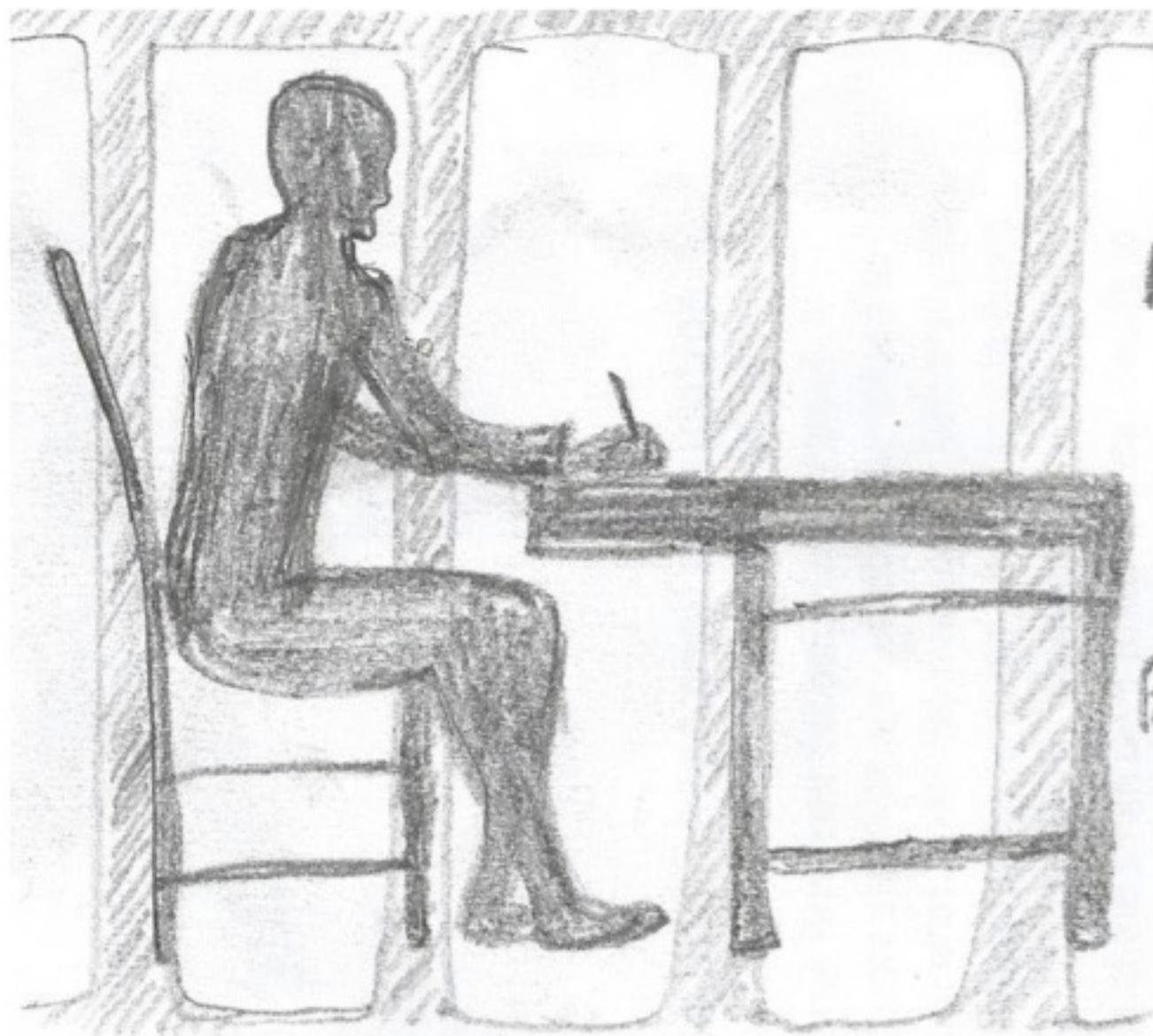
We Know Strikes Work!

(An incomplete list of our victories for students and workers in recent memory.)

- Fall 2009: After a series of strikes, walk-outs, shutdowns, and building occupations, students forced California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to **break the 5 year cycle of budget cuts** to higher education. In his speech announcing the changes, **he specifically cited student protests as the tipping point** for the decision.
- March 2010: At a UC Regents meeting following the **undergraduate strike and campus shutdown**, CA Governor Schwarzenegger was pressured to announce an even more generous **\$370 million dollars** of restored funding to higher education.
- 2011-2012: Following a statewide series of strikes, shutdowns, walk outs, and building occupations, particularly **the undergraduate strike and shutdown of the UCSC campus**, **students have successfully staved off further tuition hikes by the Regents**
- **The strikes helped create a sense of crisis** that motivated politicians and voters to pass Prop 30, **which refunded education by \$6 billion dollars** in money that would have been cut from the statewide budget.
- November 2013: When undergrads and workers successfully halted business as usual at UCSC and statewide, **it advanced the unions' power in the bargaining room**. Already, service workers, graduate students, technical maintenance workers, and even striking engineers at a nearby hospital, who were planning to coordinate with us on campus, have **won tremendous gains in their contract negotiations**.

Strikes and shutdowns motivate students and workers to halt business as usual, putting incredibly direct pressure on the powers that be – UC administrators, the UC Regents, as well as state and national politicians – to respond to our demands for a safe and democratic university!

These kinds of actions bring different parts of our campus community together, in tandem, in ways that wouldn't be possible with other kinds of protest. In shutting it all down, we build relationships and learn lessons that persist long after the day itself. These build the conditions of possibility for a sustainable opposition to the exploitation of workers, and the privatization of the university.



From
Martin
Luther
King, Jr.'s
"Letter from
Birmingham Jail"

"You may well ask: 'Why direct action? Why sit ins, marches and so forth? Isn't negotiation a better path?' You are quite right in calling for negotiation. Indeed, this is the very purpose of direct action. Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and foster such a tension that a community which has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue. It so seeks to dramatize the issue that it can no longer be ignored."

"Education is the most
Powerful weapon which
you can use to change the
World."



Nelson Mandela

"Lighting Your Way to a Better Future"
Johannesburg, South Africa
July 16, 2003