

TEACHERS ON STRIKE!

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Jambar Editors

Early Wednesday morning, pickets in the University's first-ever faculty strike could be seen around the campus brandishing their signs: "No Contract, No Work."

Their contract expired in June and a state-appointed fact finder at that time reviewed the issues of the contract negotiations which had been underway since October of last year. His recommendations were rejected by the Administration and endorsed by the YSU-OEA.

The most important issues were insurance and benefits, salary, workload and early retirement.

According to a statement released Wednesday by the Administration, the maximum salary increases and benefits were proposed to the YSU-OEA. "The final proposal was for a 6.5 percent increase in salary each

year for two years or, if the Union preferred, a 2 percent increase, each year plus across-the-board increases of \$1,800 for 1989-90 and \$1,960 for 1990-91."

The Administration in their release also stated, "The health insurance issue has already been resolved by the administration with drawing its proposal for employee participation if the premium in 1990-91 increases more than 12 percent over the present premium." Because of this action the YSU-OEA took the Early Retirement Incentive Program (ERIP) off the table. Salary and workload are still unresolved issues.

The negotiations have been marked by allegations that the Administration has not been bargaining in good faith. Mark T. Shutes, sociology, anthropology and social work, chair of the strike committee, said the faculty had been upset by insufficiently supported

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No contract, no work: University teachers take to the picket lines in an attempt to settle their contract dispute. At press time, no agreement had been reached with the Administration.

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arguments being presented by the Administration.

Dr. John B. Russo, business president of the YSU-OEA, said the faculty wanted the facts necessary to evaluate the proposals and added that they "want to be treated with something other than contempt by this Administration."

The issues which remain on the bargaining table are salary and workload.

Dr. Sidney Roberts, history, chief negotiator for YSU-OEA, said "The Administration seems to be able to come up with funds for athletics, with funds for athlete's dorms, and with funds for a steel museum, but they can't fund their own faculty."

Russo said "According to statistics, we have the highest work load of any faculty in the state of Ohio and we are the most productive." YSU, unlike other state universities does not

have ERIP and if YSU did in fact have such a program, Russo said that the faculty would not rank eighth out of the eleven institutions in salary but "the lowest."

In the middle of all the confusion are the students, some of whom are supportive, but most are angry. Student Government held an emergency meeting Wednesday afternoon to determine if legal action should be taken against both the Administration and faculty on behalf of the student population.

Student Government President Brian Fry said that a number of students are concerned that their rights are not being taken into consideration. Fry said, "The students of this University are victims... and the students of this University are outraged."

Fry said that he has not been given any information on what actions will be taken against students who do not attend classes. "We're completely in the dark."