

No big labor

An editorial appeared in Wednesday's Emerald, concerning labor and GTF's. I too feel the GTFs should have a fair contract, however, big labor is not a positive factor.

The low pay problem could very well be corrected with an increase in enrollment. Labor has a frightening grip on our nation's job market.

Many high school students contemplate furthering their education. Often, they decide that college is hardly worth the money and effort. Why waste that time if one can grab a good paying job as a carpenter, painter, electrician, garbage man, maintenance worker, etc.?

The average Chicago garbage man makes \$8,000 annually. This is more than many college-educated professionals are making in their respective fields.

Organized labor is only chipping away at the economic foundation this nation is built upon. We have seen union representatives arouse discontent among workers. This often has led to walkouts and violence among railroad workers, postal employees and coal miners. These to mention only a few.

I say that we owe no debt whatsoever to labor; individuals who never knew of high tuition or lengthy hours of work and study.

Douglas Zuercher
Freshman, Architecture

Ugly stalemate

With growing disgust we watch the stalemate in the negotiations between the University administration and the Graduate Teaching Fellowship Federation (gtff).

While we understand the importance of such negotiations to both parties involved, we feel it is also necessary to understand the plight of an additional party—the students.

Our position is classically between the rock and the hardspot. Any support given to the GTFF's cause by the students, means neglecting an important group investment—our own education. And because investing in an education is so costly these days, it puts a greater burden on us all to really get our money's worth.

It is unfortunate that some of the GTFF's members fail to consider our position.

Write letters

You are being short-changed by the University, if you are taking a class from an over-worked and underpaid GTF. The fate of the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation (GTFF) in its negotiations with the University directly or indirectly affects every student on this campus.

You can support the most important movement to affect the University in many

years, and at the same time increase the value of your educational dollars.

Don't be on the outside when decisions that will affect your life are being made. Support the GTFF by writing a letter to President Boyd.

Why should you write? If you show your support for the GTFF, you will be showing both the Federation and the University that you care about the quality of your education.

The average GTF on this campus is likely to believe that the University does not care about teaching quality, but indeed only cares about the dollars represented by the enrollment "body count."

What else can your GTF instructor believe when forced by low salary to "moonlight" as a waiter or typist in order to survive? Or when a teaching appointment with an estimated 12 hour per week workload in reality has a workload of 30-40 hours per week? Or when pressured by his/her department to give priority to his/her own studies rather than to the educational needs of his/her students?

Remember, your GTF instructor is a graduate student carrying a full course load. When your teacher is over-worked by the University, you suffer.

Consider this. The University may believe that the GTFF has very little support from the students on campus. They may

Your support of the GTFF will be the most effective way to avert a strike and to persuade the Administration to come quickly to an equitable settlement such as that outlined in the impartial fact-finder's report.

If the Administration sees that the students are refusing to be the passive victims in this labor dispute, they may be less inclined to force a strike.

Remember, you need the GTFF as much as the University needs your tuition dollars. Now, within the next week, have a voice in what affects you. Support the GTFF. Write to President Boyd.

For further information contact 344-0832 or the Union office at 868 East 13th Ave.

Mari T. O'Rourke
Doctoral Student,
Comparative Literature

Don't boycott

I am a long-time member of the GTFF and wish to re-affirm my complete support for the union's position on all matters pertaining to current contract negotiations.

I certainly hope that the majority of undergraduates will support the GTFs in the event of a strike, but I must take issue with the union's position that a boycott of classes would be an effective way to demonstrate such support.

howls and moans all the way to Salem, and I imagine a settlement would soon be forthcoming.

Robert Jordan
Graduate, Biology

No compromise

On Tuesday night, October 10, the GTFF Executive Council voted to hold a strike vote on Thursday, October 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom. The reason for this decision is that the administration is refusing to move beyond its original salary proposal of 5 percent for 1978-79.

The University's position is that they never intended to compromise on salary, even though they agreed to bargain on it. We don't regard this as very serious bargaining. It should be made clear that the University's offer would fall far short of keeping us up with current inflation. Let alone make up for the 50 percent pay cut we have suffered since 1969.

The administration has attempted to palliate the growing impatience of GTFs by offering to establish an outside-the-contract health-care fund of \$25,000, to be financed by the "private sector." Such a fund would amount to no more than \$33 per year for GTFs covered by the contract; hardly enough for three stitches in a cut finger, to say nothing of a meaningful health plan.

The GTFF's demands are not extravagant. We have accepted the recommendations of an impartial fact-finder for a \$40 per month salary increase for all GTFs—an average increase of 10 percent, which would still leave us over 20 percent behind the increase in the cost of living since 1969.

The Administration, however, has rejected the fact-finder's proposed compromise, claiming that it has no money. The University predicates this claim on its view that GTFs are too low a budget priority; a classification we find objectionable, since we teach a high proportion of the tuition-paying undergraduates. We question just how high a priority is given to teaching by the administration of this University.

We feel that the university can, and should, give us the budget priority we deserve, and accede to our modest demands. If \$25,000 could be found for an offer of a health fund, it seems likely that out of a multi-million dollar budget, they could find the additional \$125,000 that would provide all GTFs with a liveable salary or health plan.

Yet if the University refuses to make the necessary compromise, we have no choice but to hold a strike vote.

None of us wants a strike. It will be a hardship on students and on ourselves, which we deeply regret. However, we are presented with only two alternatives—either we accept the meager offer made by the University and continue to suffer a decline in our already low living standard; or we indicate to the administration that we have had enough, and are willing to take strong action to see that our needs are met. We are tired of being a low budget priority, and strike may be the only way to impress upon the university how important a function we fulfill at this school.

We need the support of everyone now. We would ask all GTFs who have not yet joined the GTFF to do so. Further, it is extremely important that all members who currently hold GTF appointments come to meeting and vote on the 19th.

Those who find it impossible to attend the meeting can vote by absentee ballot between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday, in the GTFF office at 868 E. 13th. Absentee ballots will also be available between 10 and 3 in the EMU on Wednesday.

Students interested in supporting Graduate Teaching Fellows should contact Sonja Lucky at 485-9364. For more information about the GTFF, call the office at 344-0832.

Tom Ellis
Charlie Aker
and **Jeff Edmundson**
for the Graduate Teaching Fellow Federation.



believe that the GTFF picket lines will not be honored, if there is a strike.

If nothing happens to make the University believe differently, they may force the GTFF into a strike position in the hope that the union will be destroyed by a lack of support. Of course, the University is taking a calculated risk. But the risk is not really theirs. They would be gambling with the money that you have paid for your education.

For, whether or not there is a strike, if the current state of GTF salary and workload is not improved, only you and your GTF instructor will be hurt. The University has nothing to lose.

First, students do not constitute an organized labor group, so no legitimate pressure can be placed upon them to honor union picket lines. But more importantly, I believe that a classroom full of undergraduates vigorously demanding an instructor would put a great deal of pressure on the university to provide one by coming to terms with the GTFF.

Should no one attend class, the professors could get back to their research, which many of them prefer anyway. But if the faculty, such as those in the English Department for example, actually had to get out and teach a couple of sections of English composition, you could hear their

theirs

