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University students picket to support strikers

Campus groups aid union efforts

By Janis Joseph
Emerald Reporter

About 75 people, including 15 University students and one adjunct professor, walked the picket line in Springfield early Monday morning in support of the striking Morgan/Nicolai employees.

The strike, which began 16 months ago, was initiated when the company, a door and specialty wood products manufacturer, asked for a 30 percent decrease in wages and benefits and approximately 35 other changes in Nicolai employee rights.

Nicolai reduced the average hourly wage from \$11.64 to \$9.09 to become more competitive in the industry, according to a Morgan/Nicolai advertisement.

"We're fighting to maintain living standards and wages," said LeRoy Robinson, president of Local 3035 of the Western Council of Industrial Workers, the local union. "A decrease in the standards of living and wages will affect everyone in the community."

"Families are starving, and they can't pay their bills," said Heather Wright, a member of the University Democrats, one of the three student groups that support the strikers. "It's a shame and there's no reason for it."

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Photo by Andre Ranieri

Screaming at cars that drove through picket lines Monday, concerned University students and community members joined striking Morgan/Nicolai employees in a show of solidarity for the 16-month old strike.

Professor examines changes in Hungary

By Stephanie Holland
Emerald Reporter

The director of the English Department at Hungary's College for External Trade spoke at the University Monday night about political and economic changes in Hungary.

Istvan Butykay told a group of 12 in the EMU's Fir Room that many of the Hungarian revolution's goals in October 1956, such as gaining neutral status and pulling out of the Warsaw Pact, are now being implemented.

Butykay said a new system of economic management was introduced in Hungary in 1968, which called for unprofitable companies to be shut down, except when their profits could replace imports.

However, this economic reform did not coincide with any political reform. Hungary did not make any steps toward pluralism or democracy, Butykay said. In May of 1988 a new, more liberal communist party took over, which was one of Hungary's greatest events, he said.

"We're in a state of complete democracy now," he said. "There is absolute freedom of the media and individuals enjoy absolute freedom."

Butykay said Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev has influenced many of Hungary's major reforms. But, though the Soviet Union has "reached a democracy where anyone can say anything ... nothing has happened," Butykay said.

Hungary has politically and economically surpassed Romania, he

said, because Romania's people are starving and without freedom of speech, while Romania's leaders build large palaces and live in comfort.

"Today I would say that Romania is the worst dictatorship in the world," Butykay said.

The economic instability of Eastern European countries is attributed to the Stalinist system, he said. Hungary is economically ahead of all the Eastern European countries.



Istvan Butykay

Hungary is making changes and striving for a free market economy within the next eight to 10 years, he said. Peasants who wish to leave their farming cooperatives may take their money and go. Many businesses and schools are being privatized.

Hungary is trying to strengthen

the attitude of ownership, Butykay said, so Hungarian citizens do not feel they are just employees in the hands of the state.

In addition, the country is in the process of launching a stock exchange. As of Oct. 1, everyone is allowed to buy stocks.

These political and economic changes have had a great political impact on all aspects of Hungarian life, and especially education, Butykay said.

"Such an interesting time is very rare in a human being's life," he said.

Schools are being privatized and returned to the churches after their state of nationalization that began in 1950, he said.

As of Sept. 1, Marxism and Leninism were removed as mandatory subjects from colleges and universities. These teachings were replaced with philosophy and social sciences.

A 40-year law mandating that all students, beginning at age 10, study the Russian language was stopped. Students may now choose the languages they wish to study, Butykay said.

Butykay, who will remain in the United States for another month, has spent two months as an international senior lecturer speaking at universities in 17 states.

His lecture was sponsored by the professional educational fraternity Phi Delta Kappa, the College of Education and the Russian and East European Studies Center.

Jewish cultural events offered

In an effort to heighten awareness of Jewish culture, the Jewish Student Union is sponsoring Jewish Cultural Awareness Week through Friday.

Johna Bookstein, director of the JSU, said the purpose of the week's activities is to fill a cultural gap by offering events that are otherwise not available to Jewish and non-Jewish students.

He said the events of the week follow a particular order that start with the immigrant experience in New York and move to contemporary aspects of Jewish life.

The movie *The Chosen* will be shown tonight at 8:15 in the Walnut Room of the EMU. Bookstein said this movie shows the division between the old Jewish culture and the new culture.

A workshop on the problems of being Jewish will be offered at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday in the EMU. This keynote event of Jewish Cultural Awareness Week will feature a discussion with Dr. Jerry Diller, a local social worker who works on problems of ethnic identity. Contact the Jewish Student Union in Suite 5 EMU or call 686-4366 for location.

The movie *Annie Hall* will be shown on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in EMU Cedar Rooms A and B.

"This movie shows the ultimate clash in our culture of the problem of falling in love with someone who's not Jewish," Bookstein said.

On Friday, the final activity of the week will be a traditional Shabbat service at the Koinonia Center. The service will feature a vegetarian potluck, storytelling and "shmoozing."

"To shmooze is to react, chit-chat, or rap," Bookstein said. "This final act of the week is our solution to the problem. We hope to revive Jewish roots and culture through this traditional service."