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"The strikers and their family members are not getting basic nutritional care. Their children are having to pitch in to help them survive," said Robert Kenneth, publisher of the Student Insurgent.

Members of the Survival Center and the Student Insurgent also picketed in support of the workers. Both organizations want to help "bring the issues home to students" who believe the strike is unrelated to them, Kenneth said.

Kenneth stressed it is not just a company, but a community issue. He said he wants to increase student visibility and involvement. Last week, the three groups set up an information table in the EMU trying to rally support for the strikers.

"We're committed to making this a top priority and a regular activity," Kenneth said.

"The direct income loss to the community is over \$1.5 million per year," according to a newsletter by the Solidarity Network, a local support group for the strikers.

Solidarity Network, composed of local citizens, is a leading force behind the strike. It is one of the "legacies of the strike" which will continue to support other strikes after the Nicolai strike is over, said Dennis Gilbert, University physics professor and chairman of the Network.

Gilbert said he is not an ordinary physics professor. He became involved in the strike last summer when it "seemed like a real showdown struggle in the community," Gilbert said commu-

nity support is an important step in the labor movement. He became involved with the Solidarity Network and ended up as chairman.

Gilbert said the Network believes the strike can be won.

"Long strikes sometimes win," he said. "There is definitely a chance that they'll win."

Morgan acquired Nicolai Doors in 1986, insisting on wage reductions to be competitive in the door industry, according to a written statement by LeeRoy Pasquini, human resources manager for Morgan/Nicolai. The Nicolai company had lost money for three of the last five years before the take-over. These losses were a "direct reflection of ...Nicolai's inability to compete on price due to higher-than-market labor costs," according to the statement.

The company met with the union Friday to negotiate a contract settlement. But Nicolai representatives said they would not agree to a contract that requires employees to join the union.

This disagreement is a major issue with the strikers, Robinson said. If employees were not required to join, the union would still have to represent them without them paying union dues, he added.

No further talks are scheduled, according to a memo from Pasquini.

Of the 300 Nicolai employees who went on strike, about 10 percent have crossed the picket line, Gilbert said.

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