

DANGER
HIGH
VOLTAGE

Power at Work!

Beaverton Workers Give New Meaning to "Employees Recognition Day"

We want to hear from you!

Power at Work celebrates the power every worker enjoys through collective action in the workplace. Whether its a unity break to send a message to a problem supervisor or a march on the boss to help move bargaining, our power comes from our united action. If you have a power at work story to tell, call Dave Mazza, Communications Director, at 1-800-452-2146 or (in Salem) 581-1505.

Members of OPEU Local 198 gave new meaning to the City of Beaverton's "Employees Recognition Day" on May 29, 1997. Over 25 workers joined in a march that day on Sandra Miller, human resources director for the city and chief negotiator at the bargaining table. The march by City of Beaverton workers was the latest in a series of worksite actions aimed at moving contract negotiations.

Local 198 members are facing many of the same issues that OPEU's state bargaining unit recently faced in their contract fight. Health insurance has developed as a major source of contention between our Union

and the city. At the most recent bargaining session the city refused again to commit to maintaining 100% employer-paid health

Right & Below: OPEU Local 198 turnout to protest sick leave policy at April rally.



benefits due to the uncertainty at this time of how high premiums will rise. These complaints of growing health insurance costs are at odds with the picture the city painted in it's February/March 1997 issue of *Your City*,

Continued on Page 7 - See "Beaverton"

Parry Center Workers Turn Up Heat on Bargaining

OPEU's Local 987 turned up the heat again on the Parry Center for Children this month following only minimal movement at the bargaining table. The local's first contract fight has proven to be long and contentious. Negotiators for the Parry Center for Children, Portland's oldest private, non-profit

agency treating emotionally-disturbed children, have until very recently resisted moving any substantive items at the bargaining table or to meeting more than 1-2 hours per bargaining session. That is why Parry Center workers voted to deliver a 30-day strike notice on the Center June 3, 1997 and have

stepped up their campaign in the community.

Parry Center workers have started up regular leafletting again outside the center as well as outside the offices of key Parry Center board members. Workers intend to raise the ante to full-fledged informational picketing should bargaining remain at its present pace.

Local 987 is also working to broaden community support for this struggle. In addition to those community organizations which supported our members during the recognition fight, other community groups are being approached by Parry Center workers for the purpose of obtaining endorsements and support, as well as educating community members on the issues around this struggle.

"Our community outreach campaign seeks more than winning

support for the struggle at Parry Center," stated OPEU Organizing Director Amy Stear. "We're looking at strengthening OPEU's ties with the community and in moving towards a community consciousness in which violating workers' rights is considered unacceptable behavior by anyone within or profiting from the community."

Meanwhile, Parry Center workers continue to show they're ready to do what it takes - even strike - to win justice, dignity and a contract which fairly compensates them for the important work they perform.

How You Can Help

If you belong to a religious, community or labor organization that might be interested in supporting this struggle, contact OPEU Organizer Susan Koshy at 503-235-5210.

It's about kids, not cash flow...

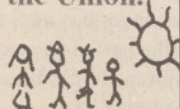
OPEU

For the workers of OPEU Local 987, kids come before cash flow.

Now it's time for the Parry Center to do the same.

"Put kids before cash flow. Bargain fairly with the Union."

Parry Center Local 987
Oregon Public Employees Union
SEIU Local 503, AFL-CIO, CLC



Commuters on Portland's SE Powell Blvd. be getting the message on Parry Center from an OPEU billboard.