

In speaking with others from Psych Group Three, Attitude Change On Campus, I noticed a spirit of optimism which I have not encountered in months. The feeling of, "Well, we can't really do much," or "I'll try it but I don't think it'll work" wasn't at all apparent. There was a general sincerity and a hope-- more than a hope, a belief-- that this strike is indeed going to have a tremendous effect. The ideas below suggest some ways of realizing this effect. Still, the expression of this sincerity and optimism shown in that discussion is to me the most effective and most promising method to support the Strike and its demands.

We are generally agreed that talks in small groups are most effective. This can start in one's living group. The most meaningful discussion can be with a close friend. Encourage him to talk with others, thus multiplying possible effect. Outside groups are next. This ranges from other students by a doorway to the staff at Encina. Have you asked your dorm staff how they feel about the strike? Encourage the people with whom you talk to commit themselves through action. And we emphasize the effect of discussions with members of the Faculty Senate before Thursday's meeting.

The second general area encountered was the method of discussion. It Try to personalize the war. Wars are distant and can easily be forgotten, or easily be looked at in a cold tactical manner. Secondly, many discussions focus only on issues upon which both people disagree. Stress first where you both do agree, and work from there. A common basis is going to be especially useful with strangers. Lastly, the ability to offer an alternative is a powerful weapon. When someone asks you, "What would you do?" have an answer. More important, have answers when he asks you what he can do.

Reinforce the idea that he can change things. If he tells you that the individual is insignificant in his government, that there is nothing to be done but wait it out, don't turn and walk away, easy as that may be. Question his belief in his government and his own justification for accepting that belief without attempting to change it.

Optimism---"We can do something."---Tears of sincerity---smiling faces---fasts---meetings---a concern that shines----- It's so encouraging to see these again.

It is a difficult task to express the sincerity felt for this Strike and the hope it involves. Many times this is misunderstood or accepted as falsely dramatic. I would therefore encourage you to involve yourself and see this optimism which so impresses me. For further information, call PACG x2391.