



# Federation of Hospital and University Employees

District 1199 SEIU • Locals 34, 35, GESO, HERE • 425 College Street, New Haven, CT 06511 • 129 Church Street, Suite 521, New Haven, CT 06510

## Major Events of the Week

**For Immediate Release**  
Monday, August 25, 2003

**Contact: Bill Meyerson, 203-214-9169 or  
203-624-5161 x309**

### **YALE WORKERS SET TO STRIKE AUG. 27 IF NO CONTRACT**

Thousands of secretaries, food service workers, maintenance workers, and researchers will walk off their jobs at Yale University on Wednesday, August 27—the day students return to school—if the Yale Corporation refuses to provide its employees decent pensions, competitive wages and job security.

The University-wide strike highlights the key issues facing American workers this Labor Day—job security and retirement. Workers are increasingly finding their benefits under attack. The workers at Yale are fighting back.

In 2002, a worker with 30+ years of service at Yale receives as little as \$506.02 a month from their Yale pension. And a custodian with 29 years of services takes home \$183.99, while Yale's pension fund enjoys a \$200 million surplus. Even with social security many Yale retirees are struggling to make ends meet.

- **Yale pays far less than other major universities.** At Harvard the lowest paid senior clerical workers make 5% more than the highest paid senior clerical workers at Yale.
- **Yale has a notorious history of strikes and labor relations**—resulting in eight strikes out the last 10 contract negotiations. Yale's own labor consultant said that must “redesign the way the way Yale manages, communicates, plans and makes decisions, trains, promotes, and rewards employees.”
- **The labor dispute has created a new and strong relationship between the workers at Yale, the clergy, community groups, and elected officials of New Haven.** One out of four jobs in New Haven is a Yale job, and Yale sets the labor market for the entire area and has tremendous economic and political clout in one of America's poorest cities.

*The following are the major events to date during the week of August 25, 2003 leading up to and after a possible strike at Yale if no contract is reached.*

- MON:** Negotiations.  
Strike tent set up on New Haven Green (College & Elm Streets).  
Fasting clergywomen to hold candlelight vigil to support workers at Yale Pres. office  
5:30 p.m., Woodbridge Hall, Wall St.
- TUES:** Negotiations.  
Strike preparations at Union Office.
- WEDS:** Strike begins. Rally with Rev. Jesse Jackson.
- THURS:** Jesse Jackson to give national address on 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s “I have a dream” March on Washington from Yale picket line.