

## Promotes boycott for farm workers

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Madeline Rogero draws the same salary her boss does. Five dollars a week, plus room and board.

**HER BOSS?** Cesar Chavez, founder and leader of the United Farm Workers.

Madeline, 20, an OSU senior, put her political science credits into cold storage last spring to work full-time on Chavez' 2,000-member staff.

**BECAUSE** so many thousands of farm workers are still living in poverty, filth and sickness, Chavez doesn't believe he and his union staffers should live in luxury, explained Ms. Rogero.

Many western growers of grapes and iceberg lettuce do not even provide cool drinking water in the fields for their workers, she said. One of the first things UFW does, is to supply decent working conditions.

**PRESENTLY, THE UFW** staff members "work entirely on donations."

"When we had 200 contracts, we had dues coming in from 50,000 people."

**MOST OF** those contracts were lost last year when growers signed sweetheart agreements with the Teamsters, without asking workers which union they wanted to represent them, she said. At present there are only 10,000 farm workers under UFW contract.

The Columbus UFW exists entirely on support from Metropolitan Area Church Board, the Ohio Council of Churches, and from individual donations.

**MS. ROGERO** foresees the possibility of a long career ahead with the UFW, because there still are still so many farm workers who need help. Some people, she said, have been in the struggle since 1965.

Lettuce and grape growers in California are now hiring illegal immigrants from Mexico as replacements for striking Chicanos to harvest crops, thereby keeping grocery stores back east well-supplied with iceberg lettuce, table grapes and wines.

**PRIMARY BOYCOTTING** is the only solution left, said Ms. Rogero.

Chavez has been sending his people into the cities to

boycott and to raise money for the California UFW. Most strikers are not receiving any kind of benefits, at present.

**AREA BOYCOTTING** is beginning to build and she credits backing from the Columbus and Franklin AFL-CIO as the positive moving force the UFW has needed.

"People are apathetic and tired of movements," she admitted, "but we are asking them simply not to buy grapes, iceberg lettuce and Gallo wines."

**LEAF AND bibb** lettuces are okay, she says, because they are not grown in California and Arizona, the two big trouble scenes.

The UFW is also encouraging shoppers to patronize small fruit and vegetable markets to "support Ohio farmers."

**ANOTHER WAY** people can make others aware of the boycott is to ask waitresses to substitute leaf lettuce in salads, "or ask them to leave lettuce out, and include more ham, cheese and eggs."

UFW plans a collective consciousness-raising session Sept. 14, which has been designated as International Lettuce Grape Boycott Day.

**A CITY-WIDE** rally, sponsored by the labor support committee of the AFL-CIO, is scheduled at the IUE Hall on Graze-st. Area church and labor officials are expected to speak, she said. Times will be announced later.

The products boycott will continue, she said, until growers recognize the UFW as the legitimate collective bargaining representative of farm workers.