Point / Counter-Point

Writers have Right

Strike Necessary for Writers' Fair Pay

Renee Macdonald
Layout Editor

Viewers throughout the states are in shock and awe at the writers' strike taking place in Hollywood. The idea that new television programming will not be available until the strike has ended brings a cold sadness to many a TV watcher's heart. Well, my sympathies toward the viewers, but the writers have every right to strike.

DVDs of America's favorite shows are being sold all across the United States, that is a given. What people don't know is that little to none of that money goes to the writers of the scripts. Taking into consideration hard work the writers put into the scripts, I do not find such an act of withholding pay fair at all.

Presidents of huge corporations like Fox and TNT don't need (or deserve) all of that money. With a comfortable salary of roughly $2.6 million a year, CEOs can sleep peacefully without worry. The writers, with a salary around $32,000 a year, are only asking for a minimal amount of money, four cents, from the DVD sales of shows and movies that would not exist without them in the first place. It will not hurt the publishers that much, even if the writers get everything they are asking for.

This situation is as if you created the recipe for a soda and did not get any money for making that recipe when the soda is sold. It's simply unfair and un-American. Americans are supposed to be paid for the work that they do. The producers pay the writers to write and that's what they do. They write. It's only fair that they receive some of the fruit from their toils.

The writers have every right to protest their unfair pay. Other protests due to underappreciated pay have occured in the past, this protest has the same right to commence.

Comedian Sarah Silverman from Comedy Central made comments to the press that were excerpted later on the Writer's Guild of America site: "It's so crazy ridiculous. All the writers want is a small percentage of the money the producers are making on things they're writing. The producers will still be incredibly rich, even if the writers get what they deserve."

Silverman was holding a sign at the protest spot in Hollywood that said "AMPTP [Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers] : I hate you so much right now."

Even actors have joined in on this strike along with the writers. How long will it take the producers to figure out that hard labor should be paid? It's not complicated, it's really rather quite simple.

Unfortunately, due to the strike, there will not be any new shows for viewers. New episodes of favorites such as "House" and "Desperate Housewives" have been put on hold until the end of the strike.

Such a small thing could easily be fixed and calm the outrage across America. All the producers have to do is pay their employees what they deserve

Hit by the Ricochet

Writers' Strike Leaves Workers Unemployed

Alison Alessi
Feature Editor

It's a romantic vision: under appreciated writers from New York City to Los Angeles coming to together to fight the injustice of low wages. Filming of television sit-coms comes to a staggering halt and the corporate big shots are getting nervous. This is an enchanting image to Americans because protesting is one of our most valued rights. This romantic vision gives way, however, to a less than enchanting reality. Writers are not the only ones who are out of work and it's probable that the job sacrifice forced on the many behind the scenes workers is going to be in vain.

Now that the strike has outlasted the store of scripts already written and purchased, various television shows have ceased production leaving all kinds of workers without jobs. Production crews and office staff are some of the people to be affected by the writers' strike. The number of people that work behind the scenes is larger than most people realize. It is understandable for the writers to want compensation for their work. It is not understandable for them to force other people out of work for a cause that does not affect how much those other workers will be paid.

Sit-coms and dramas such as "Desperate Housewives" and "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" are not the only shows affected. Talk shows and news programs are suffering, as well as movie productions. Movie scripts undergo changes throughout the filming process, and now that the writers are striking, rewrites are impossible.

The only shows to remain strike-proof are reality shows such as "Dancing with the Stars" and "American Idol." This begs the question; if there are no new episodes of popular television programs, will those viewers turn to reality TV? This is exactly what writers don't want. If reality TV continues growing in popularity, it won't matter how much a contract says the writers need to be paid; writers will be unemployed.

If a strike could solve problems involving union contracts then striking would have worked the last time the writers decided to walk out. The last writers' strike occurred in 1988 and was considered a lose / lose situation by both sides and many shows such as "Moonlighting" did not survive the hiatus. Chances are that this strike will not mean anything in terms of negotiations and, in the process, people will lose their jobs when programs get canceled. Many viewers have too short of an attention span to wait for new episodes.

If writers think they can make a difference by walking out and protesting, they have the right to do that, but history has proven that a writers' strike yields no positive results for anyone. Writers are just shooting themselves in the foot and thousands of other workers are getting hit by the ricochet.

Fans Show Their Support

Pencils 2 Media Moguls- Over 500,000 pencils were sent by fans to NBC and Walt Disney CEOs on December 11th to symbolize their support of the writers.

WRITE AID- A Benefit Concert to Provide Assistance to Industry Employees Affected by the WGA Strike Performers include Sarah Silverman and Tenacious D

'Tis the Season to be Greedy?

Americans Often Forget what the Holidays are Supposed to be About

Emily Rooney
Editor-in-chief

While walking through the mall in the middle of October, I could already see the first signs of the impending holiday frenzy; giant wreaths and Christmas lights hung from the ceiling a whole two months before the holiday season had even begun.

Bath and Body Works offered a wide array of tantalizing new scents geared toward the holiday season such as Glittery Gumdrop, Sugar and Spice, as well as Twisted Peppermint. Macy's offered a variety of different Christmas ornaments and holiday decorations, and a wide selection of holiday themed apparel could be found in almost every store. This mid-October holiday display reminds me of how commercialized and over-advertised holidays have become in America.

Many people anticipate the holiday season because they view it as a time to connect with their family and be thankful for what they have, and also a time to help other people who are less fortunate than themselves. However, it seems that some people look forward to the holidays for different reasons, such as a chance to finally get the newest iPod or that 52 inch plasma screen T.V. Some people become too focused on what they want, rather than giving or helping people who are actually in need.

I was particularly disturbed by a recent advertisement for the shoe store, Finish Line. The advertisement booklet was titled "What I Want," and throughout the booklet it reinforced that idea that the holiday season is the time to "reveal what you want because the holidays are about you." This completely contradicts what the holidays should be about. The holidays shouldn't be an excuse for us to focus on what we wan, and what we think we need. On the contrary, the holidays should be a time when we think about other people, and what we can give to them. This ad demonstrates the desperation of many American producers to make the largest possible profit by appealing to the belief that the American consumer only thinks about themselves.

Additionally, it is almost impossible to avoid all the excessive holiday hype in our society, especially when Christmas decorations appear in the mall even before Halloween. In the middle of October you could also see vendors setting up extra booths in the mall for all the unnecessary items typically sold around the holidays such as little trinkets and candies to stuff stockings with. It is embarrassing that our culture is so focused on accumulating material items when there are so many people in this country and in the world who don't even have the basic means to survive.

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Then there is "Black Friday," the biggest shopping day of the year on the Friday after Thanksgiving. Right after we finish celebrating all that we are thankful for, some of us turn around and wait in line at Best Buy for fourteen hours just to purchase the newest game system that is essential to ensuring a happy Christmas. Even more shameful is that people literally get into fights, sometimes physical battles, just to get the newest item for a few dollars cheaper or to snag that big sale.

Although many people get caught up in selfishness during the holiday season, there are still individuals who feel compelled to give a little extra to people in need around the holidays. People who donate to holiday food drives, angel trees, and Salvation Army bell-ringers give me a more hopeful outlook on our society.

So take a minute to think about what the holidays are supposed to be about, instead of what they have become to many people in America. Before you decide to spend $300 on that new game system or over 3,000 dollars on that 52 inch plasma screen T.V. that you really don't need, take a minute to think about the difference that money could make in somebody's life. Or as you stand in line for hours on end to get the newest product for a few dollars cheaper, think of how those hours could have been better spent helping someone in need.

Props

- **Snack Carts back in the lunch room-** How did we not go hungry without our twixes and chips?
- **Fall Sports teams-** Way to represent Loy Norrix guys!
- **"Greater Tuna"-** Seeing our classmates in overalls with Southern accents is ALWAYS a plus.
- **Ski Team-** Finally all that snow has a purpose.
- **Food Drive-** How do you make helping people more fun? Make it a competition!

Stops

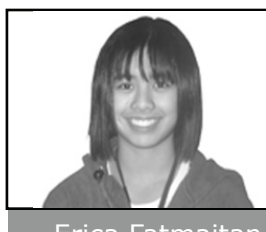
- **Littering on School Grounds-** Come on guys, let's make ourselves look good.
- **Limited lunch choices-** Some of us would like to eat more than greasy pizza, nachos and old salads with fatty dressings.
- **Gates closed during the school day-** If no one sits in the guard house.... what's the point?
- **People messing around in Milham park-** It seems that we have more and more students majoring in studying ducks across the street.

1 Stop: Loud Students in the hallway during class

Loy Norrix Students and Staff are Annoyed with interuptions. Here's What They Have to Say:

"It's obnoxious; you can't concentrate during classwork."
-Luke Tavares, Sophomore

"It would be nice if we could have quieter hallways... The noise level causes disruption in the classroom."
-Judy Jones, Freshmen Academy Secretary



Erica Gatmaitan, mentee

Erica Fatmaitan, freshman

"It's nice to interact with a lot of people. Students feel more comfortable with each other."

Robert Pincus, LN teacher

Robert Pincus

"It is a very positive experience ... I was impressed with the mentors' ability to create a dialoge between themselves and their students."

Rebecca Kissinger, mentor

Rebecca Kissinger, senior

"We mentors are able to help lower classmen."

Jacob Stempky mentee

Jacob Stempky, freshman

"It helps us freshmen learn more about school and get help."