8-The Daily Collegian Thursday, Jan. 6, 1983 **Sports fans**

I had been tailgating one hot sausage sandwich too long. It was 12:55 knew none of these individuals could p.m. and I was only nearing the ramp be Steeler fans. Not one of them wore of Gate C at beautiful Three Rivers Stadium. It looked doubtful that I'd make it to my seat by kickoff time. I was running into the stadium when I was accosted by two men wearing long executive-type coats and hand-

painted silk ties. "Where are you going, scab?" one of the men asked me. "This is the 'Burgh. We don't take kindly to anyone who'll cross a picket line."



'Who's on strike now?'' I asked. "The ground crew? The scoreboard repairmen? The ushers again?' "No, we are. Fans Local 109."

"When d'ja go out?" "Weeks ago. But typically, the media was concentrating on the players and didn't devote any attention to

I broke into a smile and decided to go along with this joke. "So, how many fans are out on strike?"

"There's thousands of us," he answered while adjusting his tie. "Just some of are here." He pointed to a and a cheerleading squad before we

"NFLPA Unfair to Fans!!!" signs. I a black and gold tassel cap. Plus, I smelled something funny, an aroma of Old Spice and minty Scope instead

of kielbasa and Iron City. "C'mon, stop kidding around. want to go see the Black and Gold eat up the Brownies." I started into the stadium when I was detered by a man with a protest sign A man just as nattily dressed as the

rest, pushed his glasses up his nose and approached me. "They happen to be very serious,

sir. My name is Fred Marvey and I'm representing the Pittsburgh fans in the upcoming talks between players, fans and management. "What talks?"

"Well, there's about 1,000 of us on strike right now. At home games we picket; away games, we watch movies on Channel 4. Our movement is slowly picking up momentum. We figure one million or so of us will be refusing to watch the games by next week. "But the playoffs are next week.

You have to support the team." "Why, they don't seem to care

about us?" "Yeah," echoed the other union

members. Said Marvey, "We're going to get the negotiating table. Then we're going to ask for 55 percent of the television gross, a domed stadium large gathering of people carrying, go back to our seats.'

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A man came out of the crowd "Wait a minute, I think we should emphasize that we aren't really concerned with material things. What the fan of Pittsburgh wants is some respect. We're sick of being portraved as loud-mouthed, crazy beer drinkers to the rest of the country. Do any of here have on a stupid gorilla suit on? Do we have our shirts off, proving how manly we can be with the weather 20 below? I'm no slob and neither are my buddies here. I mean, I'm an executive. I drink Dewars. I'm intelligent. I want the media to show this.'

A women comes up to me, doing some finger pointing. "And it's not only the media but the

players that insult us. I mean it's obvious they don't care abot the fans. They never prepare for press conferences or interviews. It's really insulting to read the sports section or watch postgame interviews anymore. All you hear are cliches like, 'We gave it 100 percent; it wasn't in the cards or he's a real competitor.' These guys are supposed to be professionals Can't they come up with some variety in their locker room rhetoric?"

"You know what's even worse?" another fan chimes in. "The way players sign autographs these days. They scribble instead of signing. I think it should be one of our demands at the talks. We want neater autographs when we hand our Pro! magazines to a player.

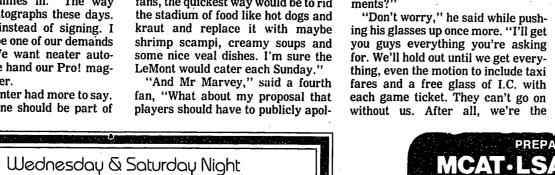
The finger pointer had more to say. "I think cuisine should be part of

the package we ask for. If we want to ogize to fans for dropped passes, upgrade the image of the Pittsburgh fumbles and missed blocking assign-

fans, the quickest way would be to rid ments?"

GATE 6

ing his glasses up once more. "I'll get you guys everything you're asking for. We'll hold out until we get everything, even the motion to include taxi





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