Letters

Thumbs Up for Student Activism
I enjoyed the article on student activism (“An Active Year”) in the July-August issue.

It is great to see young people who were brought up to believe “greed is good” taking an interest in social and economic justice for all.

I could not imagine such an article being published during my days at UR. Activism was not popular among students in the mid-’70s. The leader of the University, W. Allen Wallis, believed in freedom but not dissent. In 1974, the hospital workers organized, won recognition for their union, and negotiated their first contract.

Things did not go as smoothly on the River Campus. In the fall of 1975 the workers went on strike. In between classes, I joined the workers on the picket line with other sympathetic students. A rally was called on the steps of Rush Rhees Library attended by students, faculty, and workers. The University’s response was to turn on the lawn sprinklers in an attempt to break up the rally.

At that point the union knew that it had won. Rather than break up the rally we sang “We Shall Not Be Moved” and then joined workers on the picket line.

Now, whenever I am in Strong Memorial Hospital, I tell my story to union members. Also, I recite the words I learned on the picket line many years ago: “1-1-9-9, We Care All the Time.”

John Testa ’76
Rochester

Thumbs Down for Political Bias
I have always looked forward to receiving my University magazine to find out what is happening on campus, whether it is new developments in science, music, literature, or from my favorite business school, the Simon School. This was true until I saw the cover of the latest issue (July-August). My initial fear was confirmed after reading your lead story.

All too often, universities have become instruments to promote biased views on politics, social issues, or global warming.

—Harvey Jacobson ’82S (MBA)
As a history major, I was fortunate to take many of Professor Moore’s classes and have him as a faculty advisor. To those of us lucky enough to know him, he was a great teacher, but so much more: an advisor, a confidant, and a friend. — Andrew Silverman ’81