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# EDITORIAL

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**Edward R. Moss**  
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CHECK OUT OUR OP

## **Union should first fix themselves**

Re "Employees picket their own union" (March 28):

So one arm of SEIU is accusing another arm of engaging in unfair employment practices.

I nearly fell out of my chair with laughter as I read the news, and this is going on all the while SEIU and other unions are pushing for card check and other changes, claiming that without these changes evil business and management will continue to trample on workers' rights.

Maybe instead of trying to push card check down the unwilling throats of both employers and employees (studies show a overwhelming majority of union members want to keep secret ballots), they should put their own house in order and practice what they preach.

— **GENEVIÈVE M. CLAVREUL**  
Pasadena

# Daily News

DailyNews.com

## Employees picket their own union

By Sam Hananel  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sometimes even unions have union problems.

Dozens of employees of the Service Employees International Union picketed their own union Friday over its decision to lay off about 75 workers.

The staffers marched outside SEIU headquarters in Washington as they yelled into bullhorns, passed out flyers and chanted, "Justice for all, not just some."

"This union is supposed to be at the forefront of the progressive movement, but it can't seem to follow its own ideology," said Malcolm Harris, president of the Union of Union Representatives, which represents 210 SEIU organizers and field staff around the country.

The UUR has filed unfair labor practice charges and age and race discrimination claims



Alex Brandon/The Associated Press

Kari Pnacek, right, who was laid off, stands with other union employees Friday who are picketing their own union.

against SEIU. Harris called SEIU leaders "hypocrites" for calling out corporations that shed workers, yet moving to lay off their own employees.

SEIU spokeswoman Michelle Ringuette called the complaints meritless and said layoffs are needed because the union is shifting organizing work away from its national office to local unions.

"We're in the middle of realignment," Ringuette said. "This is how we implement the

democratic decisions arrived at our convention."

But Harris said the SEIU's treatment of employees could undermine the union's effort to pass federal legislation that would make it easier to organize unions. He said the politically powerful union was borrowing unsavory management tactics, such as dismissing workers without proper notice and refusing to meet with employees before their collective bargaining agreement expires next week.