Workers protest at site—but why?

It was a fight without a cause, or so it seems. At a glance, nothing seemed extraordinary about the union worker’s strike at the Cajun Dome construction site last month. Any one driving by on Congress Street saw picket signs and protesters, and curious spectators.

The unusual aspect was what was not there. No grievance was aired, no demands made, no contract disputed. Without this fuel, the strike was shortlived. After one day workers were back on the job.

“The contractor was never able to confirm what the grievance was,” Al Thierry, director of community affairs says.

Striking workers belong to the International Union of Operating Engineers Local No. 406.

The one-day strike did not alter the expected completion date of the $45 million project. That date is set for the spring of 1985.

When complete the dome will contain areas for banquets, assemblies, sports events, meetings, theatre and exhibitions. One room will seat as many as 14,000 people.

This artist’s rendition depicts the future Cajun Dome, a $45 million dream of Lafayette for some years now.