

# WPGC Is Struck

Can automated voice and music tracks keep listeners for the area's top rocker station?

The possibility of such a shift at WPGC-AM (1580) and FM (95.5) had on-air personnel manning picket lines in front of entrances to the Bladensburg station yesterday.

Ten members of the Washington-Baltimore local of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists — disc jockeys, announcers, news staff and "Money Girls" (who offer contest prizes to cars sporting the station's bumper stickers) — struck after contract negotiations broke down. Evelyn Freyman, the local's executive secretary, said negotiators for First Media Corporation had insisted on "the flexibility to automate" the station. She said such action could cut full-time personnel to part-time. WPGC station manager Bill Prettyman was unavailable for comment.

The station continued broadcasting.

Tomorrow morning negotiators for both sides will meet with a federal mediator.

First Media purchased the station in 1974.

— Dennis John Lewis