
THE BOTTOM LINE

No. 1

All the news for Local 420

Tuesday 7 March, 2006

STRIKE!

Belleville — With no settlement reached during the contract negotiations between College Management and our CAAT Academic Bargaining Team, over 9000 College Faculty province-wide have begun a legal strike.

Despite a year of face-to-face meetings, no middle ground could be found on the major issues. On 7 February, we voted overwhelmingly for a strike to express our dissatisfaction and resolve. At 80.4% in favour of a strike, this was the highest level of support for such work action in the history of the Ontario College System!

At issue are many concerns that influence our teaching environment and, therefore, the learning environment

we offer to students. In particular, current SWF course-load factors underestimate our actual average preparation and evaluation time by a factor of two! Your effort deserves to be recognized! Increases in course-load factors, smaller class sizes and more full-time faculty are all ways to ensure our students achieve the learning outcomes expected by the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities.

The Rae Report recognized the need for quality improvements to education in the Ontario College System. It's time that College Management does the same.

We strike to show our commitment to teaching and the futures of our students!

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TODAY'S WEATHER



High	0°C
Low	-10°C
Condition	Mainly Sunny
P.O.P.	0%
Wind	NW 10 km/h

Local 420 Strike Office: 205 North Front St., above Northways Restaurant. (613) 969-8989

LOCAL 420 COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Who are we? We are Loyalist College faculty dedicated to bringing you strike news and views each day you step on to the "Information Line". We'll scour local print and audio media for relevant stories. Stick with us for the push-and-

pull of negotiations. It is important that everyone knows what is happening locally, and throughout Ontario, during the strike. Get your daily copy of **THE BOTTOM LINE** from your Team Captain; have a coffee, have a read!

Express Views

Interested in getting your message out? If you have news or views, advice or humour, poetry, photos or prose, we're interested in helping you express yourself! Send us an email, attach files, give us a phone call. In tough times like this, we all need to make ourselves heard. Let us be your daily medium. Contact: wallace.rendell@sympatico.ca, or phone us at: (613) 969-8989



A Cautionary Word About Media Contact!!

The official spokespersons for our Local are Local 420 President, Bernie Belanger, and Lorne Thompson. If you are approached by members of any media organization, please refer them to Bernie or Lorne. It is imperative that information received by the media is accurate and consistent. If everyone cooperates this will happen, and bring about a positive end to the current standoff.



STRIKE PAY

Strike pay cheques will be distributed each week by the Local 420 Strike Committee. We

will publish the day, time and place by Thursday at the latest.





LOCAL 420 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Faculty's strike vote of 80% provided notice to their College Managers, telling them in no uncertain terms that the demands Faculty have must be addressed. Workload and salary are major concerns that have not been substantially altered since the 1984 and 1989 strikes. Our resolve in this round of bargaining has elicited a resounding response from Faculty with a 96% rejection of the original management offer, and an 80% strike vote. We will get recognition of our demands or we strike! It is sad to think that we have to come to this because College Management want to continue the *status quo* even when the Provincial Government recognizes that changes need to occur.

Former Premier Bob Rae was commissioned to study post secondary education. What he found was years of neglect in the College System, due to shifts in post-secondary agendas and chronic under funding of post-secondary education. Premier McGuinty recognized the value of the study and provided 6.2 billion dollars of **additional funding** over the next five years for the system! We want this new funding to be used to improve the quality of education, by hiring more full-time faculty, and getting more preparation and evaluation time. It is incredible that College Management wants to use this new funding to create new programs that will not address workload and staffing concerns. College Managers want the *status quo* to continue because they have enjoyed the perks of under funding for too long.

It is up to us, College Faculty, to get the changes that Rae and McGuinty have identified. We will be the catalyst for the new system! It is unfortunate that College Managers cannot see the effort that we are willing to expend to turn the system in a positive direction for College Students and Employees.

Bernie Belanger

FUTURE FEATURES

Strike Do's and Don'ts
Local 420 Strike Committee Structure
Letters to the Editor

Faculty Profiles



OPSEU PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Reprinted below is a timely message of support and resolve to College Faculty throughout Ontario from OPSEU President, Leah Casselman. *Source:* www.opseu.org

Quality Education Our No. 1 Issue

Bob Rae's recent report on post-secondary education clearly identified the need for higher-quality education in Ontario's community colleges.

Premier Dalton McGuinty pledged \$6.2 billion so that Ontario will be a leader in post-secondary education. The province gave the colleges \$87.3 million this year alone -- earmarked for more college faculty.

So why hasn't it happened?

Our union's goals are very clear. We want changes to improve the quality of education students receive in the colleges.

Our team wants faculty members to have more time to prepare for classes, teach and evaluate students. This means smaller classes, and more faculty in the colleges.

Our members are determined not to back down on these key issues.

The 9,000 faculty members at Ontario's 24 colleges will be on strike March 7 if they cannot reach an agreement on a new contract.

Premier McGuinty says he wants the best-trained and best-educated workforce, so Ontario can compete in the world economy.

Why haven't college administrators, and the management team representing them at the bargaining table, got the message?

Maybe the Premier should tell them, before it's too late.

In solidarity



ARTISTS' CORNER

The Silence Of Good People

Lyrics by **Jack Chernos**. Source:
www.unionsong.com

It once was asked of Martin Luther King
How the progress of rights could be so
long coming
His answer was not the evil of some
But the silence of good people

Although we may never arrive in the
garden
The sin is not in failure, but never
starting
My silent friend, it is you that I am
speaking of
Of the silence of good people

Chorus

We, we will not be silent
We, we will not be silent
We will not be silent

Although we have only hearts, bodies,
and minds
Against guns and clubs, lies and threats

and money
When the truth is released, each echo
comes louder
On the voices of good people

Chorus

I've taken my place on the streets of our
land
With my sisters and brothers by the tens
of thousands
And I have sweet hope, because I can
hear
The rising voices of good people

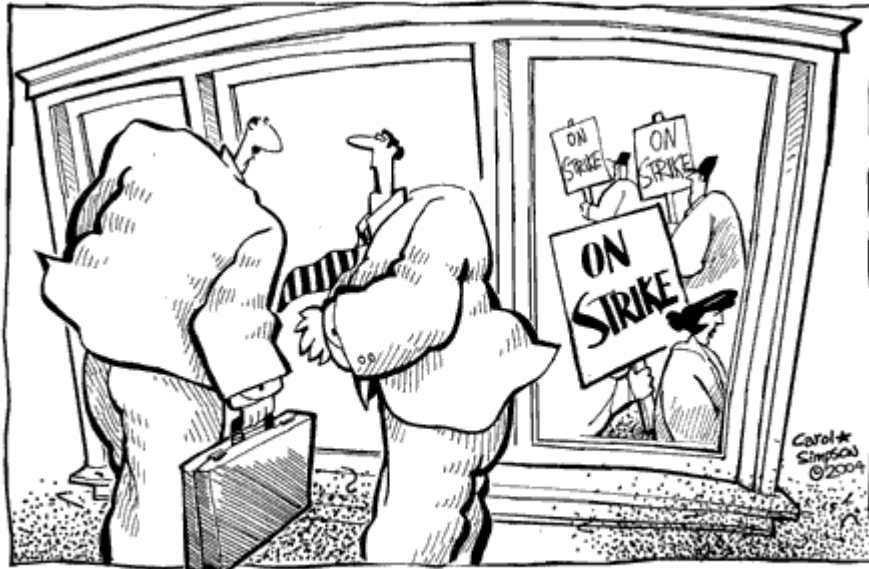
Chorus

Jack Chernos is an American political
activist and musician. He has performed at
rallies across the United States Among his
credits is "The Union Grand", theme song
of the Million Worker March on
Washington, DC. "The Silence of Good
People" was performed at anti-Iraq war
rallies in San Francisco during 2001-2002.
It was inducted into the U.S. National Civil
Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee, in
2003. Visit Jack's website @
www.department-of-justice.org/



LABOUR PAINS

Courtesy Carol Simpson Productions © 2004. Reprinted with permission of the artists. Visit their website for more workplace cartoons, www.cartoonwork.com



*"It's not fair. We have to make up lies about the union...
but they get to tell the truth about the company."*

WEATHER ON THE LINE

We'll feel the first signs of Spring, with warming, conditions through Friday! However, be prepared for rain Thursday.

5-Day Forecast	WED MAR 8	THU MAR 9	FRI MAR 10	SAT MAR 11	SUN MAR 12
HIGH	2°C	5°C	8°C	9°C	7°C
LOW	-10°C	-6°C	0°C	1°C	2°C
CONDITION	Cloudy periods	Light Rain	Cloudy periods	Cloudy periods	Light Rain
P.O.P.	30%	70%	30%	10%	100%
WIND	SE 15 km/h	S 35 km/h	Calm	W 10 km/h	NE 20 km/h

Source: www.theweathernetwork.com

Updated : 6 March 2006, 18:30 EST