
THE BOTTOM LINE

No. 3

All the news for Local 420

Thursday 9 Mar 2006

REACHING OUT TO THE PUBLIC

1. THE RIGHT WAY

BERNIE BELANGER CONFIRMS MESSAGE TO MOTORIST

I walked the picket line last evening with the teams of Pat Dockrill and Larry Cook. The mood was cheerful, given that it is a picket line! It has been seventeen years since I have walked on picket line, but it didn't take long to remember some important lessons. Please be careful when walking the line, some of the drivers entering the college are doing so at speeds that are dangerous for those picketing. Always be aware of your surroundings and who may be coming into, or leaving, the college. This is especially true for the 3-7 pm shift when dusk is setting in.

We had a fellow pull into the driveway by the Pioneer Building demanding to know what we would be doing for the students now that we are on strike. He appeared agitated that we would be putting students' semesters in jeopardy with our strike. I told him that "what we would be doing for students" is assisting them in their learning endeavours. I told him about my experiences in the classes that I teach. One course has 15 students, the other 45. The students in the small class get a better learning experience because we have more one-on-one interaction. Students, I advised, are paying about \$2500 per year in tuition and other costs, so the students in this class are getting their money's worth. Students in my other class are not getting the same experience; it is much more difficult to reach each student in the way that I can with the class of 15. If we average these classes I have 30 students. It wasn't difficult for the chap to understand how averaging class sizes deceives the public into thinking that the average class size of 23 (college numbers, how they arrived at this number is unknown) is deceptive. He left with a better understanding of our concerns and demands for improving the system.

If you have the opportunity to engage in discussion with the public, tell them stories of your teaching experiences. Your stories will resonate with listeners because *we* are on the front line of college education. *We* know what college students are getting for their hard earned money: more students in a class, less time with the teacher, reduced class

hours in the timetable and increased tuition. Use the picket line as an opportunity to get our message out to the public. – *Bernie Belanger*

REACHING OUT TO THE PUBLIC

2. THE WRONG WAY

UNIDENTIFIED LOCAL 420 PICKETER UNDERCUTS UNION DEMANDS

One of our colleagues was interviewed by CJBQ Radio while walking the line on day one. He expressed the opinion that strikes in academic institutions should be illegal, and that he didn't want to be walking the line! This was reported on local radio early this morning. Well...thanks for that...! That was really helpful.


While we all recognize the right of freedom of expression, negative personal opinions expressed by our members about this strike serve only to undercut faculty's demands, **AND** Bob Rae's recommendations, **AND** Premier Dalton McGuinty's expectations, that there be Ontario College system-wide changes made that improve the quality of education for our students! Premier McGuinty has earmarked *billions* for this purpose! **EVERYBODY** is on side...oh, except College Administration.

By undercutting the Union message you do a disservice to students, faculty, the Union and the public.

This action is considered "Strike-breaking". Those who are discovered to have engaged in this activity will be sanctioned by the Local and not receive the top-up to their strike pay. Continued "Strike-breaking" will result in further sanctions from OPSEU Head Office.

The Local 420 Strike Committee has made it clear, in print and in person, that we should *all* direct interested media to our official spokespersons, Bernie Belanger and Lorne Thompson, for a consistent and accurate response. Alternatively, Wallace Rendell, our Communications Coordinator, will help direct media to the resources they need to tell the story of the strike, and Union's side.

Think twice. Direct interested Media to our Local's official representatives. Thank you!

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| WHAT'S INSIDE? | TODAY'S WEATHER |  |
| Reaching Out to the Public 1-2 | High 9°C | |
| Contacts 3 | Low 3°C | |
| News from the Locals 4 | Condition Rain | |
| Word Find 5 | P.O.P. 90% | |
| Shirley's Corner 6 | Wind SE 15 km/h | |
| Hardship Committee 6 | | |
| Labour Pains 7 | | |
| Weather On The Line 7 | | |

See the back page for a complete 5-day forecast

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Local 420 Head Office

205 North Front, Suite 1; **E-mail:** union @ opseu420.org

| Person | Phone | Email |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Bernie Belanger | (613) 391-9236 | bernie@ opseu420.org |
| Wallace Rendell | (613) 847-7134 | wally@ opseu420.org |
| Harry Plummer | | harry@ opseu420.org |
| Eugene Tay | (613) 242-3949 | eugene@ opseu420.org |
| Robin Keller | (613) 398-7419 | robin@ opseu420.org |

TEAM CAPTAINS!!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM THE FRONT LINE. PLEASE FORWARD COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS TO THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE AT HEAD OFFICE. ATTACH A FILE, OR PHOTO.

DOES EACH TEAM HAVE A TEAM NAME?

NEWS FROM THE LOCALS

Occasionally, we will pass word on to you about the goings-on at other Locals. We're all in this together, so it's good to hear the viewpoint from afar.

Reprinted below is a letter from Doug Brandy, President Local 415, at Algonquin College, to CAAT Bargaining Team Member, Damian Wiechula.

Hi, Damian,

Please pass this on to the Team.

Thank you for your work at the bargaining table on our behalf. We very much appreciate the efforts you've made to reach a settlement. It must have been frustrating and even infuriating to have to deal with a management side that clearly had no interest in serious negotiations.

I was on the picket line early yesterday, walking with my fellow members in -20 conditions with the wind chill. I've also done several media interviews on the line and elsewhere. Members' morale was great, despite the bitter weather. Members also understand and support our cause. We're getting generally sympathetic coverage from local media.

Algonquin's President, Bob Gillett, has already slipped off message. Yesterday on CTV, he stopped characterizing the "labour disruption" as an attempt by

faculty to gain salary increases. He essentially admitted the problem is not enough money - \$200M in his view - for the system to agree to the changes we want to improve education quality. He says the issue is funding from the province.

So we now have at least one College admitting they were too cowardly (or incompetent?) to put the issue honestly before the government. Instead, they've put their faculty on strike and deprived their students of their education. We've become the bearers of bad news. The Colleges make their point on the back of students and their teachers. What sort of academic leadership is this?

As you discovered at the table, management never meant to settle. They wanted us to bear the burden of placing the issue in front of the government. The problem is, their instruments are people.

In solidarity,

Doug



Day One, Kente Entrance

Photo Courtesy of Harry Plummer

WORD-FIND

"Strike"

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | P | R | O | F | E | S | S | O | R | S | Q | U | Y | B | V | W | K | C | L |
| D | A | C | K | F | A | X | T | M | O | N | E | Y | X | O | I | O | R | O | I |
| I | S | R | R | A | D | W | A | H | Q | F | T | U | L | P | G | R | C | U | B |
| G | I | D | G | H | S | T | V | R | E | D | W | M | N | S | O | K | A | N | R |
| F | S | H | E | A | D | S | U | P | F | B | K | G | R | E | O | L | W | S | A |
| V | S | S | T | R | I | K | E | G | G | C | O | S | O | U | V | O | A | E | R |
| Y | A | D | G | R | A | N | W | H | H | F | K | T | T | E | I | A | C | L | I |
| S | A | L | A | R | Y | U | I | U | J | G | K | U | T | E | R | D | K | O | A |
| U | G | J | D | F | S | J | R | N | K | H | L | D | G | O | W | B | O | R | N |
| J | F | G | S | A | G | K | T | P | G | U | L | E | H | S | M | A | G | S | S |
| M | D | F | A | R | W | A | L | K | O | U | T | N | I | D | O | L | R | S | A |
| L | O | Y | A | L | I | S | T | F | J | J | N | T | K | O | M | O | I | D | S |
| M | R | T | S | F | H | S | U | G | K | K | P | I | C | K | E | T | T | N | S |
| N | E | U | E | U | J | O | T | T | L | L | I | C | T | E | Y | A | L | E | E |
| O | T | I | R | R | Y | N | Y | A | O | O | O | K | Z | R | D | L | P | R | E |
| P | Y | L | G | Y | U | C | L | A | S | S | S | I | Z | E | E | K | K | S | T |
| L | O | C | A | L | E | X | E | C | U | T | I | V | E | S | Z | S | W | F | S |

Words to Find:

| | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|------------|--|-----------------|
| | Bargaining unit | | Professors | | Counselors |
| | Picket | | Salary | | Heads Up |
| | CAAT | | Stewards | | Local executive |
| | Class size | | Strike | | Student |
| | Lock out | | Loyalist | | SWFs |
| | Talks | | Librarians | | The Bottom Line |
| | Money | | Walk Out | | OPSEU |
| | Work Load | | | | |

"THOSE DARN THINGS!"

By Shirley Wasson

Yes, that's what they're called! And, no, they're *not* from Newfoundland.

What do I need?

- 2 packs *Pillsbury Crescent Rolls* (8 per pack). Serves 16.
- Filling
- Muffin Tins

Place the triangle of each crescent roll in a muffin cup, leaving tips of roll over edge of cup.

Fill each muffin tin 2/3 full of egg filling, then bring overhanging tips on top of filling.

Bake at 350 °F in a pre-heated oven for 15 minutes or until crescent rolls are golden brown.

Egg Filling:

- 1 dozen hard-boiled eggs, mashed
- ¼ C chopped celery
- ¼ C chopped onion
- ½ C old cheddar cheese, cubed
- ½-¾ C chopped bacon or ham or salmon or tuna
- 2 T sour cream
- ½ C butter or miracle whip (I use a ¼ C of each)

You may also add green peppers or mushrooms if desired.

Serve warm and enjoy!!

HARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The hardship committee exists to assist with issues that have arisen due to the strike. Please consider speaking directly to committee members, Lorne Thompson and Shirley Wasson, or your team captain.

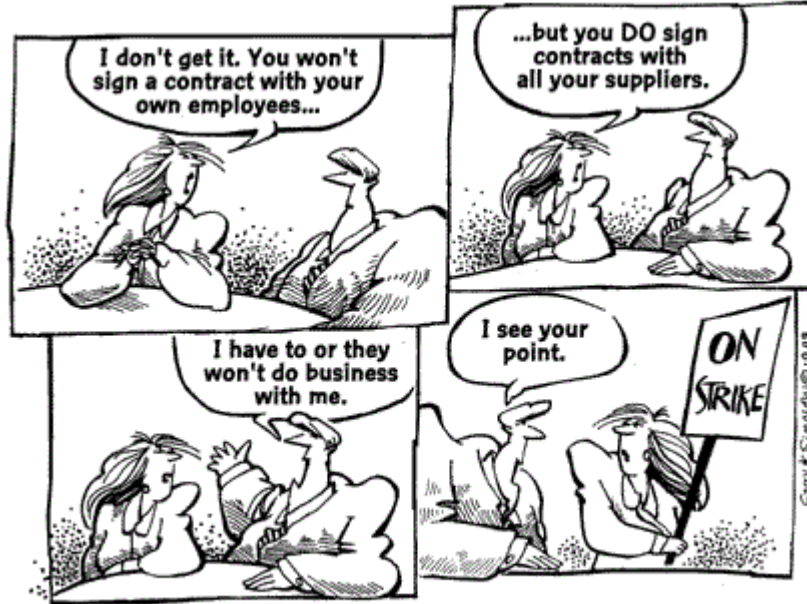
The employee Assistance program is still available to faculty members during the strike. Members can access the service by contacting Quinte Counselling at 966-4262. The service is free and confidential.

Quinte counselling does not disclose member's name to Loyalist College. The College simply issue an employee number to Quinte Counselling so that services can be accessed by our members.

Also, if you have problems meeting your commitments regarding picket duty, please call Shirley or Lorne.

LABOUR PAINS

Courtesy Carol Simpson Productions © 1999. Reprinted with permission of the artists. Visit their website for more workplace cartoons, www.cartoonwork.com



WEATHER ON THE LINE

(Well, Saturday looks not so bad!?) Warm, windy, rainy...the Gods are trying to dampen our spirits. Don't let 'em get you down! We've heard sailors ward off Poseidon's wrath with a shot of whiskey. Perhaps, the night before you next hit the line!

| 5-Day Forecast | FRI MAR 10 | SAT MAR 11 | SUN MAR 12 | MON MAR 13 | TUE MAR 14 |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | | | | |
| HIGH | 10°C | 7°C | 11°C | 8°C | 7°C |
| LOW | 3°C | -5°C | 0°C | 3°C | 2°C |
| CONDITION | Light Rain | Cloudy Periods | Light Rain | Light Rain | Light Rain |
| P.O.P. | 100% | 30% | 60% | 90% | 90% |
| WIND | W 30 km/h | Calm | W 25 km/h | E 10 km/h | W 40 km/h |

Source: www.theweathernetwork.com

Updated :8 March 2006, 15:00 EST