
THE BOTTOM LINE

ALL THE NEWS FOR OPSEU LOCAL 420

No. 14

Thursday 23 March 2006

SOLIDARITY RALLIES PROVINCE-WIDE TODAY!

Solidarity Rallies will be held at all Ontario Colleges today. Teachers and education workers, anyone who supports our cause, are invited to join in faculty picket lines to show government, college managers and the Ontario Public

that our demands for quality educational environments for our students remain the bedrock of this strike. Welcome new picketers...share a classroom story...show our resolve! *See back page of this newsletter for details!*

Budget Day in Ontario!

Is Education a Priority? Probably Not

The Liberal government inherited a significant deficit, and a province that had suffered years of neglect with respect to its public services. While chipping away at the deficit, Premier McGuinty has focused investment on health and education alone. With some newfound spending room, the Liberals will probably expand the services they reinvest in in today's budget, but education will likely not see a big windfall. College managers presumably have been looking to this day for some more cash from the Education Premier. However, according to a Toronto Star editorial, the big winners should be:

Municipalities: McGuinty has acknowledged that municipalities are

suffering because of downloading costs on social assistance and public housing imposed by his predecessors. Having lost the excuse that his government is in no position to redress the imbalance, this budget is an opportunity to remove some of that suffering.

Poor Ontarians: In last year's budget, the government increased social assistance by 3 per cent, after the former Conservative government's 21.6 per cent cut. In recent days, social activists have intensified demands to hike payments to the 660,000 men, women and children subsisting on welfare. In the budget, Finance Minister Duncan should provide a major increase for social assistance recipients and put an end to

the provincial clawback of the federal Child Tax Credit for welfare recipients — a clawback that leaves a single mother of one child with only \$20 from a \$143 monthly federal payout!

Future Homeowners: Affordability homes are at a premium across the province, particularly in Toronto, which also struggles under the burden of an aging public housing stock dumped on the city by the province. With the province and federal government agreeing on the need for new affordable housing, a funding boost — and a cash infusion to speed the massive renovation program for Toronto's social housing — is needed in the budget.

Public transit: The Ontario government appears ready to move forward on new subway construction, most notably a \$1.5 billion expansion subway to York University and into York Region. The project is critical to having greater public transit integration among GTA municipalities. There is also an opportunity to support other public transit expansions in the GTA and beyond, including a proposed buses-only transitway in Mississauga and expanded GO train and bus service. All share the government's stated goal of reducing traffic congestion while fuelling economic expansion and improving the environment. *Edited and modified from source: Toronto Star Editorial, Mar. 20, 2006*

Blackout Resumes!

Well, at Least Managers are Talking

Contract talks are continuing for a third straight day today in an attempt to end the strike. The negotiations are taking place under a media blackout. Prior to resuming on Monday morning, the two sides waged a public battle over the key issues — class size and faculty workload.

The union's message is clear and concise: Improve the quality of education by reducing class sizes through the hiring of more full-time teachers to lower the student-instructor

ratio. It also wants class sizes, now averaging about 28, trimmed to 25, and the percentage of part-timers cut from



Vicki and Deirdre. Photo: Harry Plummer

its current level of about one-third to 20 per cent over the life of the new contract.

"This isn't a strike for more money or less workload," Ted Montgomery, head of OPSEU's bargaining committee, said in an interview early in the strike. "It's about one issue — quality." He said meeting those demands would cost the colleges \$75 million to \$90 million.

The colleges, represented at the bargaining table by the College Compensation and Appointments Council, maintained at the outset of this round of talks that its pre-strike position — a 12.6 per cent wage increase over four years to a maximum \$94,277 by April, 2009, and no increased workload from the current average of 14 hours per week in the classroom — is a good offer.

OPSEU has countered that the salary issue is misleading because the average for a full-time teacher is about \$76,000 a year. It also accuses the colleges of provoking the strike by coming back to the bargaining table on the eve of the strike with a proposal to remove provisions limiting faculty workloads, which the union says it expects to see increase if the number of students per class is reduced.

While admitting that any additional money from Queen's Park would make

it easier to get a deal, Montgomery insists the colleges already have enough money as part of a five-year, \$6.2 billion investment in post-secondary education made by the province in last May's budget.

Even with last year's budget, Ontario college students remain the lowest-funded per capita in Canada.

The colleges say the union numbers just don't add up. While the new funding sounds impressive, management representatives say it's important to note that a good chunk of the money was committed to student aid, apprenticeship and training initiatives rather than day-to-day operations.

"We've still got a \$200 million gap between our two positions," Joy Warkentin, chair of the colleges' bargaining committee, said before talks resumed Monday. "So, both sides have to look at creative solutions." *Edited and modified from source: Toronto Star article by Daniel Girard, Mar. 20, 2006, but not much 'cause Girard seems to have a good grasp of the situation. Way to go picketers...you got the message out...one passerby at a time!*



Jack Chernos Phones from San Francisco

You may recall from **THE BOTTOM LINE NO. 1** lyrics we reprinted by American political activist and musician, Jack Chernos, from his song, "Silence of Good People". Jack kindly phoned my home two nights ago to acknowledge our request to use his lyrics, and he shared some stories with me about labour struggles at hospitals and elsewhere in the Bay Area. One interesting conclusion from our talk was that the issues of workers in the U.S. and Canada are not so different, including the push to use more part-time workers at privately-funded hospitals down there.

Below, I pass on to all of you his kind sentiments, and some information on his music sent to me by e-mail. THANKS, JACK! – *By Wally Rendell*

*"Hi Wally,
Great talking with you. I'm very pleased that
the lyrics to "**The Silence of Good People**"
has found a use in your struggle.*



Other songs you might be interested in are:

*"**Hey, Rich King Midas**" -- <http://www.department-of-justice.org/political-songs/political-lyrics/walmart-sucks.html>*

*"**The Union Grand**" (a modern "Solidarity Forever") -- <http://www.department-of-justice.org/political-songs/political-lyrics/labor-union-songs.html>*

*"**My People are Rising**" -- <http://www.department-of-justice.org/political-songs/political-lyrics/pirate-radio-music.html>*

Sound clips of acoustic versions are posted in their entirety, and sound clips of the band versions are partial but I can send you complete clips. Sheet music of all the songs is also posted in .pdf form.

Best of luck. Let's keep in touch.

*In Solidarity,
Jack"*

"The Union Grand"

Reprinted below are lyrics for Jack Chernos' song, "The Union Grand", theme song of the Million Worker March on Washington, DC. We're pretty sure our very own Chief Steward, Harry Plummer, and Strike Captain, Wayne Boicey, were at the march listening to Jack. Maybe we can get them to hum a few bars!

Come all you miners, you truckers, you welders
You dock workers, pipe fitters, pickers, hops,
belters
From all walks of life, from each union and local
Come join the Union Grand

Come all you marchers, you chanters, you posters
You tree sitters, sign holders, letter writers, jail
goers
For peace and for justice, for the people, for the
planet
Come join the Union Grand

*Come join the grand, grand union of unions
Come join the Union Grand
All struggles for justice are struggles united
Come join the Union Grand*

Solidarity, my friends, there are forces ahold
Institutions and systems running out of control
To harm us and rob us and, worst, to divide us
Come join the Union Grand

Solidarity, my friends, the cogs are upon us
It is life on this planet against the great maw of
profit
We must organize and unite if we're ever to stop it
Come join the Union Grand

Come join the grand, grand union of unions ...

Solidarity, my friends, it is a thunderous word
It can shake the tall towers and roil the wide earth
We are the tide, we are billions!
Come build the Union Grand

Come build the grand, grand union of unions ...

Jack Chernos has performed at rallies across the United States. "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/ and support his work and art.

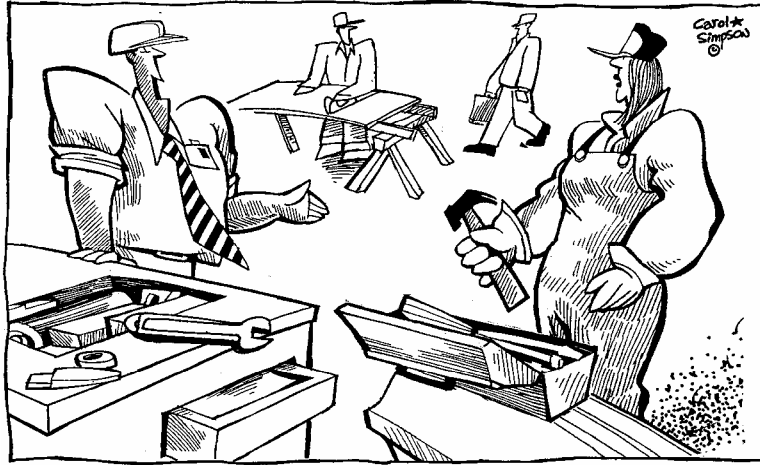


By now everyone attending the Rally in Toronto should have received their "Strike Medal" in the mail. If you haven't, please contact Human Resources, Loyalist College, to inquire. Photo: Harry Plummer; Cartoon: www.calm.ca



LABOUR PAINS

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



"Fire your family. I'm gonna need you nights and weekends."

Faculty Profiles



Robert Kranendonk lives in Belleville where he is a Professor of Advertising & Design at Loyalist.

He graduated from Redeemer University with a B.A. in Fine Art, but struggled to pursue a career in his field of study. On the recommendation of a colleague, Robert furthered his education with a Diploma in Advertising & Design from The International Academy of Design in Toronto.

The bulk of Robert's career has focused on Advertising & Design, but he has recently returned to his roots of Fine Art, after a ten-year hiatus. He is continuing to develop a body of work and is actively seeking commissions and exhibitions in North America.

Visit Robert's website, www.geocities.com/robertkranendonk, to see some of his digital photography, graphic design, and paintings. You can also find out when and where his next shows are going on display. Alternatively, stop him on the line! - Photo: Harry Plummer

Word Find (tired of su dokus?...)

“60's Songs”

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

BABY LOVE	ELENORE	MEMPHIS	TEEN ANGEL
BLUE MOON	FINGERTIPS	MY GIRL	THE BOXER
BLUE VELVET	FIRE	MY GUY	THE TWIST
BUS STOP	GALVESTON	PEOPLE	THESE EYES
CARA MIA	GOOD LOVIN'	PUPPY LOVE	VALLERI
CHAIN GANG	GROOVIN'	RESPECT	VOLARE
CHERISH	HAIR	RUNAWAY	WHITE RABBIT
CRAZY	HEATWAVE	SHERRY	WILD THING
CRYING	HEY JUDE	SOUL MAN	WINDY
DIZZY	HOLIDAY	SPOOKY	WIPEOUT
DOWNTOWN	ITCHYCOO PARK	STAY	WORDS
EL PASO	LAST KISS	SURF CITY	YESTERDAY

Source: <http://www.puzzles.ca/wordsearch.html>

SUPPORT striking college faculty

SPEAK OUT against the use of “replacement workers” in education

SEND A MESSAGE to Dalton McGuinty

Come to a

RALLY
FOR education
QUALITY

Date: Thursday, March 23, 2006 @ 4:30 p.m.

Place: Main Entrance, Loyalist College

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact:

OPSEU Local 420 Strike Office, 391-9236

