

CANADORE STRIKE NEWS



DIARY OF A PICKET CAPTAIN

Only the first names have been changed to protect the innocent.

When I was anointed Picket Captain I couldn't wait to hurry home and share the great news with my family. I put on my arm band (after ironing it) and adjusted my bright fluorescent vest so it was just perfect. Beaming with pride, I gathered my family together to show them my new look...I can honestly say I have never seen them so happy...I know they were happy because they laughed for hours...it was touching. In fact, I was so moved that I decided to wear my arm band and vest everywhere (even wore it to bed ...but my wife, made me take it off ...she was having trouble sleeping because every time she looked at me she just couldn't stop being so happy).

Injury and tragedy can occur any time on the line... sadly, one of our better picketers, Terry Hanrahan, was struck by a Mack truck during a shift. Terry was able to finish his shift thanks to the dedication of the other picketers who helped drag him back and forth across the picket line for the last two hours of his shift. As Terry was loaded into the ambulance, it was heart warming to hear everyone on the line chanting "quality education". I gave Terry a thumbs-up salute...Terry looked pathetic as he struggled to return my salute – apparently his thumb was broken because he was only able to give me a one finger salute... We look forward to having him back on the line tomorrow...we have some good news for him...we found his other leg.

Strange things happen on the line...people under stress begin to share way too much information...who knew on our line we had a former member of management...I have also noticed some peculiar behaviour between two of our male picketers; they secretly wonder into the woods around our battleline and don't return until some time later...upon their return they are

more energized and much happier; they think I am clueless but I know exactly what they have been up to...they have been stealing off to the Tim Horton's on Algonquin...

The other day, Ben Walpole brought his music machine to the line...we all cheered...it was great for morale...until we discovered lawyers simply don't have any idea about music...please someone tell him that no one cares about the New Kids on the Block or the Partridge Family ...did you know, given a running start, a Picket Captain can boot a music machine 50 yards?

Speaking of morale...what a kind gesture made by our managers to bring a box of doughnuts to the line...typically, our joy was dampened when we opened the box and saw way too many doughnuts crunched into such a small box...it seems they just can't resist filling space...they also couldn't resist sprouting their same old tired propaganda when they suggested the doughnuts cost over \$94,000 and were the most expensive in the country...

Things on the line continue to progress well...there is talk about organizing a bake sale and a car wash to raise funds for team jackets...there is talk about having family picnics and getting together for holidays... many on our line have already agreed (when and if the strike ends) to meet every morning at 7:30am to practice picketing for a few hours...what a Local!

I have worked at the college for over 25 years and love teaching and am anxious to return to the classroom. Like many I have witnessed the gradual erosion of quality education...this is a strike for our students. I am proud of our union's position and very thankful for the strong leadership and hard work of our local executive. DAVE DEJOURDAN

News from other colleges

At the Woodroffe picket line of Algonquin college, a retired manager brought cookies and walked the picket line in support of the strikers.

At St. Clair College in Windsor, a faculty member was handcuffed and taken away in a paddy wagon. After half an hour she was released without charges, thanks to the OPSEU lawyer. The negative newspaper coverage may have encouraged the college to cancel all classes, including contract training and continuing education.

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