

THE *Quality Times*

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Cambrian College Academic Personnel

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Locals 655 and 673 Joint Press Conference

Quality Education Requires Smaller Classes

BILL RADUNSKY

Quality education in Ontario's college system means smaller classes and more faculty time with students.

This was the crux of the message given at the first local media conference held Tuesday at Sudbury's regional OPSEU headquarters.

With about a dozen members of the news media on hand, representing French and English print and broadcast news outlets, the two local presidents – John Closs, president of Local 655 at Cambrian College, and Jean-Pierre Belanger, president of Local 673 at Collège Boréal – elaborated the union's position that improving the quality of college education means increasing the number of faculty in the classroom.



"This round of bargaining is about one thing, and one thing only: the quality of education that our students receive," Closs said in his introductory remarks.

Refuting comments made by some management spokespersons, the presidents set the record straight by stressing this round of bargaining is "not" about faculty doing less work. It is about getting more full-time faculty hired and smaller class sizes. Faculty want more time with individual students in settings that promote learning as opposed to over-crowded classrooms, they said.

Following the opening remarks, the presidents were asked a number of questions including one about why talks broke down.

Closs explained that management submitted a final offer at approximately 9:35 Monday night. The problem was the offer was basically a rerun of what had been put on the table before by management. The membership has already rejected that offer twice – once by a vote of over 90 per cent and more recently by more than 80 per cent.

Stemming from a point made earlier by Closs about union and management actually being close to an agreement on wages, one reporter asked why the union wouldn't just be satisfied with getting the best deal for its membership, instead of getting as heavily involved in matters of quality.

Referring to the recent report from former Ontario premier Bob Rae about the need to commit more resources to improve the college education system and Premier Dalton McGuinty's public support for both that report and the college system, the union presidents noted faculty feel that this is the time to address the quality issue. Faculty members are intimately aware of the shortcomings of the existing system.

The news conference lasted about 50 minutes.

Visit Local 655's Website for more information
WWW.OPSEU655.CA

Day 1: Our Cause Is Just! Our Strike Is Strong! Cambrian College Faculty Take Stand for Quality Education



International Women's Day 2006: Bread and Roses PENNY EARLEY-TOUGH

Here is the story of Bread and Roses, which is how I like to commemorate International Women's Day. It is fitting to remember this in our current circumstances.

The poem Bread and Roses was written by journalist James Oppenheim, and was first published in 1911. The slogan itself is historically associated with the 1912 strike by women garment workers at a factory in Lawrence, Massachusetts. There had been a fire in the factory and many women were killed due to the unsafe conditions there. The workers were protesting these unsafe conditions as well as the low wages and long hours that they were subjected to. Some strikers were carrying picket signs that said "We want bread and we want roses too!" The poem and song are about women's struggle not just for "bread" and a minimal existence, but also for "roses" – art, beauty and the "sharing of life's glories." It is also about women's solidarity, not only with each other, but with men as well.

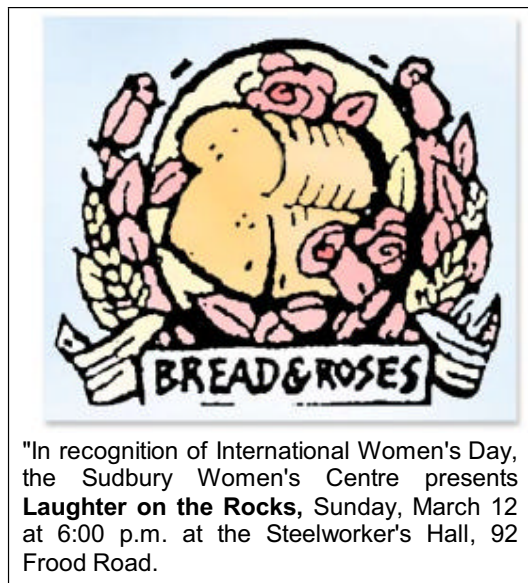
Bread and Roses (adapted from James Oppenheim)

As we come marching, marching, in the beauty of the day
A million darkened kitchens, a thousand mill lofts grey
Are touched with all the radiance that a sudden sun discloses,
For the people hear us singing:
Bread and Roses! Bread and Roses!

As we come marching, marching, we battle too for men,
For they are women's brothers and we'll march with them again,
Our lives shall not be sweated, from birth until live closes
Hearts starve as well as bodies, give us bread but give us roses.

As we come marching, marching, unnumbered women dead,
Go crying through our singing, their ancient call for bread,
Small are and love and beauty there drudging spirits knew,
Yes it is bread we fight for but we fight for roses too.

As we come marching, marching, we bring the greater days,
The rising of the women is the rising of the race,
No more the drudge and idler, ten that toil where one reposes,
But a sharing of life's glories,
Bread and Roses, Bread and Roses.



"In recognition of International Women's Day, the Sudbury Women's Centre presents **Laughter on the Rocks**, Sunday, March 12 at 6:00 p.m. at the Steelworker's Hall, 92 Froid Road.