



THE *Quality Times*



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Strike Bulletin of OPSEU Local 655
Cambrian College Academic Personnel

Negotiations Update

A ray of sunshine might just have peeked through. Colleges and Universities Minister Chris Bentley has invited both sides to meet with him separately today.

Ted Montgomery, chair of OPSEU's faculty bargaining team, has said in an interview he is encouraged by the invitation and would attend.

Rick Miner, chair of the colleges' committee of presidents, also welcomed the move.

"It is time to resolve this strike and get everyone back in the classroom," Miner said.

Go to the OPSEU website for the latest on bargaining.
WWW.OPSEU.ORG



Getting ready for the trek south.



All aboard for the union express!



Peca perky at 5 a.m.

Heading to Toronto

At 5 Thursday morning, a group of our intrepid members climbed on a bus to head south to Toronto.

They were to take part in a provincewide rally bringing the 'quality

education' message to our provincial leaders, including Premier Dalton McGuinty and Colleges and Universities Minister Chris Bentley.

It's time they keep their promises on education.



Saari gets in some 'Quality'

Meeting/Social

Don't forget we are getting together today at 11:30 a.m. at the Navy League Hall, 19 Regent St.

Lunch (sandwiches and coffee) will be followed by a brief meeting and then some homegrown entertainment.

See you there!

On the Line

Hey, be careful out there. It was bound to happen. Things are getting a little more tense on the line as the strike heads into the end of its second week.

There are more and more incidents occurring.

Fortunately, so far they have been relatively minor.

Today, a main entrance picketer had his foot driven over by a pickup truck. He wasn't injured, but the lesson is - stay alert.

Management really promising 'McPlomas'

It would be funny if it wasn't so absurd and insulting. Management continues to dig itself a deeper hole by making promises it can't keep.

We already know they have promised students they won't lose their academic year.

Now, in an article in Northern Life Wednesday, Cambrian President Sylvia Barnard is quoted as saying: "All of our energy right now is being focused on finishing the school year assuming no more teaching this year."

It is difficult to fathom how management feels students can finish the last half of the semester without being taught anything. It is also insulting to faculty to basically say their efforts in and outside the classroom during the last eight weeks of a semester are unnecessary. They have now entered the world of the 'McPloma.'

It gets worse.

Barnard is also quoted in the article as saying: "If the work is successfully completed, we stand behind our diploma and believe students will have substantially met all learning outcomes...and they will be able to meet all of the standards expected from potential employers."

Where will they get those outcomes? From the course outlines? While course outlines are valuable tools, using them in this manner is like going to a restaurant and having the waiter say, by reading the menu, you have eaten the meal.

Also, who is this 'we' the quote refers to. Members of management are not experts in most of our fields of study. Without that expertise, how can they say they stand behind millwright, music, mining, nursing diplomas? When a college stands behind its diploma, that stance is largely based on faculty expertise.

They are even making promises on behalf of potential employers by saying "all" the standards employers expect will be met. How does management even know what those standards are? Have they actually worked in those fields the way faculty members have? Were they intimately involved in the accreditation process?

Now in the final quote, Barnard does qualify the statement by using the words "we...believe."

Unfortunately that belief is based more on fiction than fact.

Visit Local 655's Website for more information

WWW.OPSEU655.CA

Strike Headquarters Phone: 521-1530

'I'm here to show support'

Martel brings words of support



Local MPP Shelley Martel joined the picket line at the college's main entrance Thursday.

Despite the cold weather, NDP representative Shelley Martel received a warm welcome from picketing faculty at Cambrian College's Barrydowne entrance. OPSEU 655 members gathered around to hear Martel's message of sympathy and support.

"I'm here today to show support for Cambrian teachers in this dispute. The issues of class sizes, not enough staff and not enough full-time staff are really important issues that need to be addressed by this government who has pledged to put in money to make necessary changes for staff and students."

OPSEU members raised issues and asked questions about what the NDP could do to help.

"Before the strike, we urged the government to put the money on the table that it had promised for post-secondary education. In last year's budget, there was a big announcement for post-secondary education, but the money was essentially to be spread over 10 years, with a lot of it allocated to the tail end of that 10 years. We say 'put it on the table now if it's really real'."

"The House is not sitting right now. The option to present this in the legislature is not an option. Before the strike, our

education critic made a statement calling on the government to put the money on the table."

"If the figures they've quoted are true, then the government will have in excess of a \$1 billion dollar surplus of tax revenue this year. Then why is there a tuition increase and why have they not put money on the table to resolve this dispute?"

The issue at the heart of this walkout remains the quality of education, with administration wishing to allocate government funding to areas other than hiring more full-time staff to meet the Union's request for smaller classroom sizes. When asked for her definition of quality education, Martel responded by saying:

'The Premier needs to demonstrate some leadership and call on both sides to get back to the bargaining table.'

"Quality education means two things; first, having the physical environment, labs, classrooms, and technology in a safe learning environment.

That means applying capital investments. Secondly, it means the number of teaching staff in relation to the number of students, and the ability for one-on-one teaching time, time to prepare and time to work with kids who are falling behind."

"The Premier needs to demonstrate some leadership and call on both sides to get back to the bargaining table."



MPP Shelley Martel joins John Closs and other main entrance picketers on Thursday.

Bulletin: Toronto rally

Editor's Note: Dave Starbuck phoned in from the bus on the way home to give a brief summary of the Toronto rally. See Monday's Quality Times for more details and pictures.

Some 5,000 OPSEU members and students rallied in Toronto Thursday, bringing the 'quality education' message to the doorstep of the Ontario government.

After gathering at Dundas Square, the 5,000 went to 800 Bay St., the home of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

A good section of Bay Street had to be closed to accommodate the rally, Starbuck said.

The participants were pleased to hear that Colleges and Universities Minister Chris Bentley had called on the two sides in the dispute to meet with him Friday (today).

Both sides have responded favourably.

Lunch/general meeting/social

- Get fed!
- Get enlightened!
- Get entertained!

Plan to attend

Time: 11:30 a.m
Place: Navy League Hall
(19 Regent St.)