

STRIKING NEWS TODAY

March 22, 2006

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A Recipe for Disaster

Now that negotiations have resumed, all of us want to be cautiously optimistic. But there's a dark cloud over what could otherwise be good news. The Colleges' so-called *Semester Completion Strategy* is harmful to our students and should alarm anyone who has the colleges' larger interests at heart. If enacted, it also risks poisoning relationships between faculty and management when we do return to work.

The notion that managers, support staff or other replacement workers could successfully complete the students' year is laughable. While some colleges quickly distanced themselves from the proposal, others are apparently willing to proceed. Despite last week's claim that details would be forthcoming – they're not. Is management simply manipulating student hopes as it stalls and dithers? Or is management's 'strategy' really nothing less than threatened strikebreaking.

We all have reason to be proud that Seneca is generally a positive, collegial place at which to learn and teach. All of us work hard to maintain and enhance the credibility of the education we offer our students. Management would taint the quality of a Seneca diploma by breaking the strike. Will health providers, aviation companies or any other potential employers be satisfied in knowing that replacement workers, dare we say scabs, were handed responsibility for our students' accreditation?

The education sector is not like the industrial sector where replacement workers might be able to pick up the tools and perform the tasks of striking workers. Colleges are not assembly lines where a new teacher can be dropped in and

successfully complete the original course of study.

The 21st century economy is a knowledge economy. We need skilled faculty to transfer technical and analytical skills to an increasingly demanding workforce. We need to graduate professionals who can meet rigorous and competitive standards of practice.

Since March 6, management with its covey of neo-con advisors has pressed the public and a compliant media to focus on salary issues using a campaign of lies and misinformation.

It now expects to win hearts and minds and quell student anxiety by falsely claiming it has a concrete strategy for a successful completion of the term. It's a diversionary tactic allowing management to avoid the issue that both Bob Rae and Premier McGuinty have said is the primary concern for colleges: the quality of education.

Let's hope resumed negotiations bear fruit. At the same time, let's remain vigilant. The insult of an alleged 'Semester Completion Strategy' means it's more important than ever to stand firm on the picket line and in support of our negotiating team.

Courtesy of Rochville University, here is a quick 'semester completion strategy', based on "what you already know."



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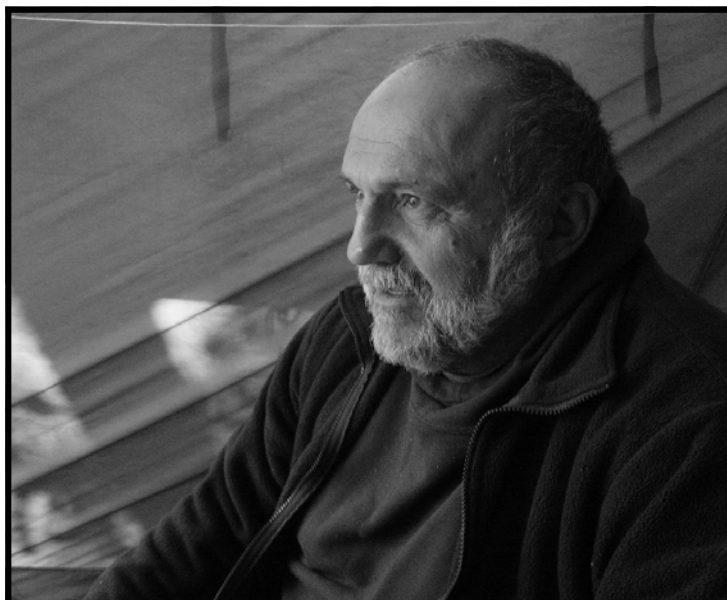
In Memoriam — Josef Stavroff Great Teacher & Trade Unionist

Today, Local 560 is dedicating our strike activities to Josef Stavroff.

Josef was a Local 560 Vice-President and long-time Chief Steward who suffered a fatal heart attack in the classroom on January 19, 2005.

Josef was a champion of the causes of college faculty. He would have been a great and tireless leader in the current struggle.

Josef would be enormously proud of how others have stepped forward and carried on with the fight for



quality in the colleges. Leslie-Ann, Josef's elder daughter, is a Seneca graduate.

Those who knew Joe, please give a warm thought to his memory today. Those who

never met Joe, please know that he was a driving force behind the Great Teacher Seminars and was himself a great teacher and leader.

Though he is not with us for this fight, Joe's spirit is expressed in our actions.

Solidarity Rally—Thursday March 23

In conjunction with the other 24 colleges, Local 560 will be holding a local **Solidarity Rally** on Thursday, March 23 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Newnham Campus' "Finch Line".

We will have music, speakers, and a solidarity picket of members of other education unions, the local labour council, our Local 561 support-staff members, and members of other labour organizations.

Please note:

1. Attendance at this solidarity rally constitutes the official picket duty on Thursday for all strikers normally picketing any time between 3:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at Newnham, S@Y, King, Jane and Markham.
2. All other night shifts are cancelled on Thursday.
3. Picketers should gather at the Finch Avenue entrance to the Newnham Campus.
4. Picketers normally on the Newnham 3:30 p.m. line should be on the line at 3:30 p.m. as usual.
5. Picketers normally on the Newnham 6:00 p.m. line should arrive for 4:00 p.m.
6. Picketers from the late afternoon and evening shifts at S@Y, King, Markham, and Jane lines should arrive for 4:00 p.m.
5. Picketers from all other shifts (8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.) should complete their regular daily picket duty, but are also encouraged to attend the rally as volunteers, for no extra credit.
6. Some picketers officially reassigned to this special shift may, for logistical reasons, be unable to make it to Newnham this Thursday. They can make up the missed rally shift by adding any other shift during week three (until and including Monday March 27) so as to complete their full five shifts this week.