

STRIKING NEWS TODAY

March 8, 2006

#2

Warkentin playing poker with students' future

Despite repeated efforts by the union to offer acceptable solutions, Joy Warkentin, chair of the management bargaining team, continues to treat negotiations as a game. She is gambling that college faculty will abandon their commitment to quality, and she is using students as the poker chips.

A stubborn lack of effort in advancing a better offer, knowing that 9,100 faculty had voted 80.4% to strike, demonstrates an unconscionable disregard for faculty, for students, and even for management's responsibility to bargain in good faith. We can only conclude that management wants this strike, and they have refused to act precisely to make the strike happen.

On December 15, 2005, management withdrew a position to delete the limit on sections from the Workload Formula. That limit is currently six. In their last-minute offer on Monday evening – the only offer tabled by management since December 2005 – they re-introduced

the deletion of the limit on sections. It wasn't acceptable then; it's not acceptable now. That proposal moves backwards from the offer that management had in place at the time of the strike vote.

Colleges need smaller classes and more faculty so every student can get more time, more attention, and more feedback.

Management refuses to address any of the issues of quality that are important to us. They still have averaging in their offer. They still have pilot projects. The salary offer has not changed at all, not a penny.

Ms. Warkentin thinks this is just a game. She is playing with the future of education in this province. Her gamble will cost students dearly, and they cannot afford to lose this precious time. Students are not poker chips, faculty are not pawns. We will continue to press for quality. We will not abandon this important issue.

Top Ten Reasons to Picket

10. You get to meet your union representatives in person.
9. You get fresh air and exercise.
8. You get to actually talk to your colleagues.
7. You get to find out how accurate the weather forecast was.
6. You don't have to worry that you forgot the keys to your office.
5. You finally get to choose your schedule and workload.
4. You have nothing to prep the night before except your peanut butter sandwiches for lunch.
3. After using the portable toilet, you remember why you don't like camping
2. You don't have to go outside to smoke,
... and the number one reason:
1. Free signs!



E-mail us your photos & stories: union@opseu560.org

"It's Only a Game"

Peter Austin

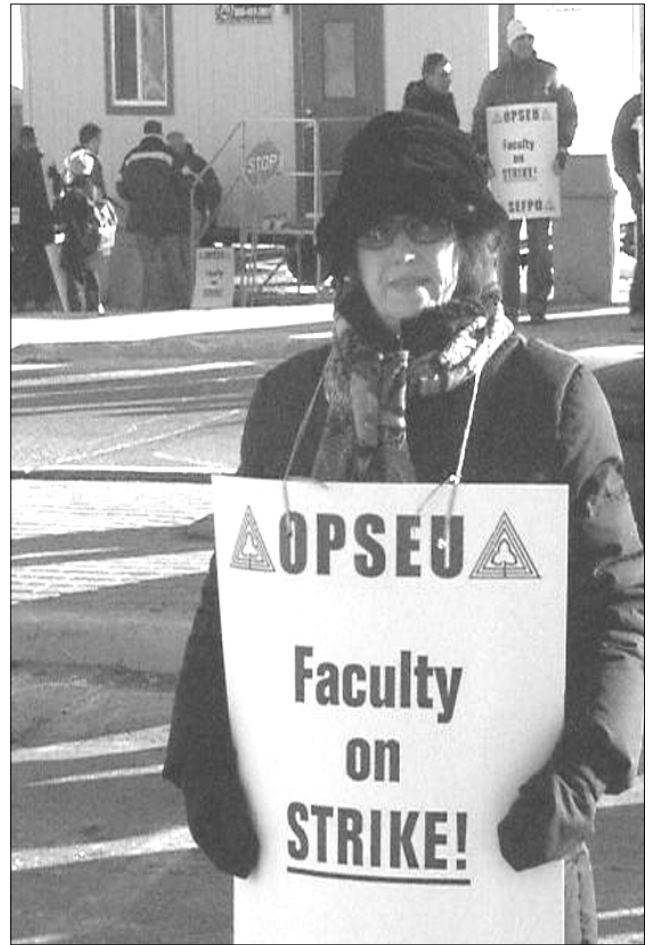
Here's to the management bargaining team;
Here's to its leader – the foot-dragger's dream!
Four hundred days, since *her* contract was signed.
I'm with Lord Byron: "Let Joy be confined!"

Premier McGuinty, in May of '05
(While, at a guess, *she* was honing her drive),
Touted the worth of Post Second'ry Ed.
Rae shouldn't sit on a shelf, so *he* said:

Under the Tories, neglection held sway;
'Good enough' did, but it doesn't today!
Six billion dollars, I hereby invest;
Let's build a system that ranks with the best!

Where's *your* commitment, Ms Stonewalling Joy?
We're just a plaything, to you, just a toy.
How do we know this? We *heard* you (for shame!)
Say, over coffee, "It's only a game!"

[with apologies to Byron, who *actually* said, in
Childe Harold's Pilgrimage, 'let joy be *un*confined']



Picket Etiquette

Here are some tips for safe and productive picket duty:

1. **Check in.** Be sure to check in with your picket captain every time you arrive for your shift. If you show up for a different time slot than the one you originally selected, let the picket captain know this. It is your responsibility to sign in with the picket captain for every shift you work, or you will not be paid for those hours.
2. **Be friendly and polite.** Do not argue, or yell at people who are on the road or attempting to go into the buildings. Do not throw anything, or make obscene gestures. Treat everyone with dignity and respect, as you would expect to be treated.
3. **Converse, and offer a leaflet.** Engage and inform people you encounter to educate them about our legal strike. Encourage people in cars to roll down their windows and accept a leaflet. Do not become upset if they refuse.
4. **Avoid conflict and confrontation.** No matter how much someone tries to bait you, remain neutral and calm. Reiterate the union position on the strike (see "What Should I Say?" in yesterday's issue and on-line at www.opseu560.org). The purpose of a picket is to inform and persuade, not obstruct or alienate.
5. **Stay safe.** Look after yourself and don't put yourself in harm's way. Don't step in front of a vehicle to force it to stop.
6. **Comply with Police.** If police or security staff ask you to move or refrain from any action, do so.
7. **Refer the Press.** Please refer any and all members of the press to our union spokespersons. They have developed a clear and consistent message, and are prepared to field questions on our behalf.
8. **Note and report.** If you are harassed or threatened, or endangered by a car refusing to stop when requested, report the incident to your picket captain. Get a vehicle license number if possible.

Remember, our professional and moderate behaviour on the picket line strengthens our position. How we conduct ourselves on the picket line affects public opinion. Let's not give management a reason to deny us their co-operation.

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