

# STRIKING NEWS TODAY

March 15, 2006

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## Rally Thursday for Quality Education

Thursday, March 16  
11:00 a.m.  
Yonge-Dundas Square  
Toronto

Join more than 3,000 of your faculty colleagues from all over Ontario this Thursday to show Premier McGuinty and all Ontarians that we are solidly committed to the issue of quality education. Let's use strength in numbers to energize ourselves and emphatically convey our message to the politicians who can end this strike!



Hear encouraging remarks by supporters from the Ontario Federation of Labour, John Cartwright from the Metro and York Region Labour Council, and OPSEU Reps outside the college sector.

At 11:45, march from Dundas Square to the Mowat Block at Bay and Wellesley, accompanied by the inspirational sounds of local musicians. In front of the offices of the Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities, we'll hear more encouragement from the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation; the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association; Jim Turk of the Canadian Association of University Teachers; Jesse Greener, Ontario Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students; and our own Ted Montgomery.

Don't miss this chance to participate in a motivating and powerful event! Attendance counts as one day's strike duty. Look for the Seneca Local 560 banner and sign in with your picket captain. King faculty, for transportation details, see the OPSEU 560 website: <http://opseu560.org>.

## TALK ABOUT QUALITY — Fill in the Survey

You're not alone. Full-time and partial-load faculty all feel the crunch of increased class sizes and a heavy workload. We care about our students and the quality of education they receive. Let's share the stories that are at the heart of this strike.

Take a moment to fill out the "Talk about Quality" Survey your picket captain hands out. As well, go to [www.opseu.org](http://www.opseu.org). Click on "For all Strike Info" on the main page. Point to the TALK ABOUT QUALITY banner and check out the survey. The candid, passionate accounts of colleagues from throughout Ontario express our shared commitment to our students. Add your voice. Please take a few minutes to fill out the on-line survey, as well. Quality of education is everyone's concern.

E-mail us your photos & stories: [union@opseu560.org](mailto:union@opseu560.org)



## Let's Give Him the Bird....

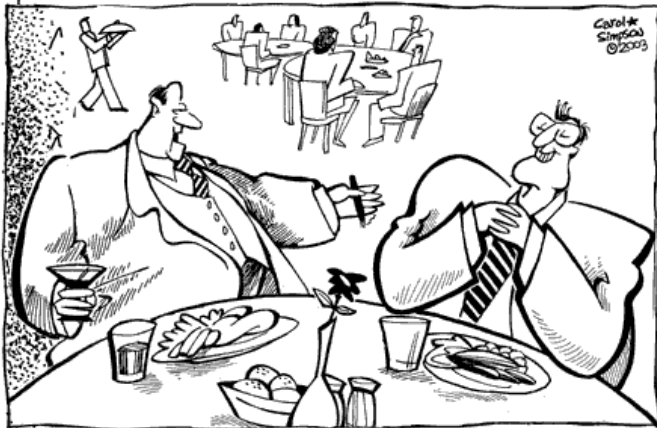
Peter Austin

Now that he's tainted by dubious fame,  
President Miner may need a new name.  
What about Ostrich, with head in the sands,  
Hanging a moon at the teachers' demands?

What about Cuckoo, unfettered by guilt,  
Stealing the nest that its fellows have built?  
Vulture, perhaps, of suspicious desires,  
Hanging around, till its victim expires?

Bluejay? (They're adepts at dropping the ball!)  
Pigeon, whose aim is to dump on us all?  
Turkey? (This tempted me; maybe you guessed?)  
Albatross, hung at the college's breast?

No, friends; of all that I put to the test,  
President *Mynah* befits him the best:  
Words by the million, remarkably clear;  
None of them make any sense, though, I fear.



"Our management strategy is unrelenting psychological abuse without resorting to cheap racial or sexual harassment."

## Give Your Back a Break!

Remember to take care of yourself physically while on the picket line. The chiropractic team of Labelle Chiropractic and Wellness Clinic ([www.labellechiropractic.com](http://www.labellechiropractic.com)) offers these tips:

1. Stand tall. Walk tall. Don't slouch.
2. Stay in motion. Standing still fatigues the muscles more than moving.
3. Stretch your legs every half hour. Flex your calves, bend your knees, rotate your ankles.
4. Drink fluid (water) regularly — stay hydrated.
5. Wear comfortable soft-soled shoes with a defined mid-arch to give support to your spine.
6. Keep your head above your shoulders and your shoulders above your hips — stand straight.

## Sound Familiar?

This was a comment posted to *The Toronto Star's* Strike Q&A website: <http://tinyurl.com/hpx4q>

"I spoke to eight students today at the picket lines and was told of how they all were in over-crowded classes, where they had to stand for an entire 2-hour lecture or sit on the floor. Several described classes with 47 students and 36 seats in rooms with fire limits of 35.

"Two others said they had to stand at the back of a class as the floor was so crowded with chairs and desks they couldn't sit on the floor even if they wanted to. This is the workload that the college says they 'are not asking to increase'. \$2,500 a semester to stand during a lecture with so many students there is not enough time to ask questions? Quality education? Mass production to maximize profits is more like it."

## The Newnham Line — on the Dark Side.....

It's windier and darker on the other side but the picket lines brave on. The Newnham picketers' trailer is at the Finch entrance which is more visible, and draws more attention and food. The picket captains on "the dark side" at the Don Mills entrance continue to rally their teams' spirits and keep the line moving, even though at the end of the day that line gets sparse.

Maybe it is the mooning residence students that keeps them going. Maybe it's the morning visit by Rick that motivates the stalwart line.

The other side deserves special mention. The next time you drive along Don Mills show your support for the darker side and, remember, deliveries of hot chocolate and coffee are always welcome.