
Standing up for Quality Education

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FLEMING FACULTY UNION

Thank you for your selflessness and sacrifice.



Most of you have no personal gain in this but are paying it forward, honouring the sacrifices of those who won us gains in the workplace during past struggles. Some of you are fortunate and have decent managers who respect you and give you, in practice, academic freedom. You have walked with others and learned of very different relationships to management, and this has sharpened your resolve in the strike, not for yourself but for others.

For your determination, resilience and comradery. Forgoing your salary. Being splattered by the Employer's dirt, too often taking the blame for the long strike that was clearly designed to break us: after nearly six weeks, we turn down a union-busting offer, and they immediately jump to legislate us back? This is disgraceful.

Thank you for remaining positive and good humoured throughout this struggle. Thank you for showing each other the incredible power and beauty of solidarity. Thank you for hanging in there, together, standing strong.

Thank you especially for your dignified and resilient determination right now, in the home stretch, when rumours and dirt continue to fly in this volatile time.

Riddle: What was Council thinking ?

95% of
faculty
voted

86%

NO

88.7%

voted No at Fleming

"We stand with hundreds of thousands of college students when we say 'enough already.' Let's get back to the bargaining table and complete these negotiations" —JP Hornick.

"It is unfortunate that Council extended our strike and kept students out of class for an extra two weeks by calling for this vote," JP notes, but "with cooperation from Council at the bargaining table I believe we can settle this strike in short order."

Smokey Thomas congratulated faculty for standing up for a better college system by rejecting the offer: "calling for this vote was a bully move by Council. At a time when we were only a few steps away from getting a deal, they overplayed their hand and robbed students of two weeks of their education. Council's bargaining team should either settle this strike immediately or resign and be replaced by competent negotiators."

The solidarity and relief on the line were incredible when the vote result was announced. This is all tempered by the severity of the situation and the suffering of students. Today, we are packing up the picket lines.

But... It ain't over 'til it's over. We stand strong.

Join the telephone conference today at 2pm:

Toll Free Number: [1 888 289 4573](tel:18882894573)

Access code when prompted: 5366060

Dry out your clothes and rest your feet. And take heart: we stand united.

Riddle Answer: Now *that's* a riddle! They thought we didn't care?

JP noted in the press conference after the vote that some colleges in BC and Alberta have a 90% FT / 10% PT ration built into their collective agreements.



“Faculty are managed in a top-down manner by an administrative layer that is growing in size and complexity. Many administrators have generic management backgrounds, with little to no experience or training in pedagogy or higher education management. Worse, that layer seems increasingly intent on reminding us who’s the boss....

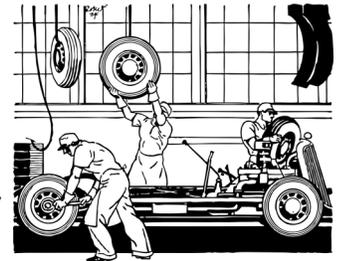
The union has made many concrete proposals, and has deferred many issues to a ministry-organized task force in the interest of compromise. In response, Council has repeated the same monetary-focused offer — and for the final vote, adding poison pills that made it worse...

This is not only a repudiation of collegial governance, it is insulting to a dedicated, intelligent workforce that only wants what’s best for students. We are eager to work with administration on key issues. We are far less keen to be forced to work under them. Intelligent workers who can easily do the same job as the boss won’t accept fiat authority — nor should they.” Click here to read the rest of Michael Jones’ [“Father Doesn’t Always Know Best.”](#)

Students are Not Cars. Or Widgets.

What’s with austerity? It’s a weird talisman, invoked to legitimate budget cuts yet ignored when giant salaries are justified to get-the-best-talent.

[Bill Templeman has published a poetic piece](#) about how the logic of austerity and hurts education. He wonders how a cold business model works for a college. He observes there is a kind of logic in cutting costs to generate “lower product prices, improve competitiveness, increase corporate profitability and drive up share prices” when selling cars, but how does this serve education? Bill notes that while the student population has doubled, the number of full-time faculty fell. The savings were not put into education but hiring administrators. Surprise. To read more about this, and how it links to rejecting Council’s offer, [click here to read the article](#).



The title says it all:

[College Managers Run Programs But Expertise Rests With Faculty](#)

Good thing you chose an all-weather toque. Then again, since the time of Joe Hill, trade unionists have debated whether the striker chooses the toque or whether the toque chooses the striker...



Fleming faculty offer lost wages to students
Click on the image to the left to hear why your colleagues want their lost wages to go to students. Share this on social media, for while we know the strike is not about money, this is believed by some of the public.

It’s hard to argue with all of the support we get from #strikedogs, but in the interest of pet species balance, there is a cat behind Les.

Culture Column

Like yogurt with a picket sign, we are nothing if not cultured. Cupcakes, #strikedogs, crosswords, more graduate degrees than you can shake a stick at. And a yeti on strike.

On Monday at Market Hall at 7:30, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist [Chris Hedges](#) is giving a talk. Up there with Chomsky as an American dissident, his eloquence is more apocalyptic than a striker's musings on a damp day, but he is equally inspiring. And very poetic. Fifteen bucks or pay what you can. See our struggle in a larger context.

On Tuesday, TVO's Steve Paikin will be at Showcase at 7:30 on Nov. 21 discussing his recent book on former Ontario Premier Bill Davis who, while a conservative, looks like Che Guevera compared to today's politicians.

On Thursday, our picket line's own Devon Code will be reading at 7:00 November 23 at Scott House's Junior Common Room, Catharine Parr Traill College at Trent University. That's 310 London Street, a cozy venue and a free event. Come hear Devon's reading to see what weird and wondrous things are imagined by our unassuming colleague. If we're back at work, buy a beverage after to celebrate. If not, buy two to commiserate.

This week, a Da Vinci painting sold for four hundred million dollars. That's almost half a billion bucks (or 62,500 bitcoin). We strike for students and against precarity—some part time faculty on Ontario Works—and somebody spends four hundred million dollars on a painting while [those at the auction ooh and aaah](#) the obscene play of wealth. The prescient Walter Benjamin is worth quoting here:

“They are called cultural treasures, and a historical materialist views them with cautious detachment. For without exception the cultural treasures he surveys have an origin which he cannot contemplate without horror. They owe their existence not only to the efforts of the great minds and talents who have created them, but also to the anonymous toil of their contemporaries. There is no document of civilization which is not at the same time a document of barbarism. And just as such a document is not free of barbarism, barbarism taints also the manner in which it was transmitted from one owner to another.” Salvator Mundi indeed.



And just to confirm that everything around you is indeed one giant bubble, the exquisite piece of modernist "art" you see below, sold for more than \$46 million.



Christie's
@ChristiesInc

#AuctionUpdate Untitled, the largest example from Cy Twombly's legendary Bacchus series, sells for \$46,437,500.
8:00 PM - Nov 15, 2017

205 187 195

A bargain