

# Hurrah for the professors

By John Gallant

There's been a lot of talk lately about the faculty going on strike and people seem confused by what they're hearing. I'm hear to tell you what you need to know before you go egging your professors' houses in some sort of retribution.

Many of you have probably read the article by the administration in either *The Guardian* or the *Journal Pioneer*, which makes the faculty out to be the greedy bad guys. This was the first move on the administration and it drew blood. The article, quite frankly, pissed off many professors and just gave them more fuel toward strike action. What the admins should have done, was to tell the faculty association they would be running the article and give them an opportunity to voice their concerns in the public area as well, so people could read both sides of the story. In this way, the public and the students could see the whole picture, instead of believing that the teachers are against us and just want more money.

On the topic of money, do you know what the administration sees when they walk by you on campus, or go into the accounting

office? This: \$\$\$\$\$. They don't care what you're taking or what you want to do once you leave here. They want your money plain and simple. However, many of the professors you have, want to see you do well and go on to bigger and brighter things. If it were possible, many of them would rather see you pay \$0 for tuition. That right folks, free education! They do it in Europe, why not here?

What do the professors want anyway? Obviously, they want more money, which is what the administration would have you believe is the only thing. However, they only want to be paid the same as other maritime universities. As well, they want better health benefits and the promise of job security. Presently job security isn't a problem, but if the administration has its way, tenure will be gone and professors can be fired on a whim. Now I ask you, is what they want unreasonable? I don't think so.

How can a strike be avoided? More than likely, it can't. I know that does not sound promising, but the better question is "how long will it last?" To be honest, it can be decided by us, the student body. There are three factions within this university, the administration, the faculty, and the largest

of them all, the student body. If we listen to the words of the administration and turn against the faculty, then the strike will be a long, drawn out process that I don't think anyone wants. Yet, what if we side with the professors against the administration? This will put tremendous pressure on the "big-wigs" to settle with the faculty association and end the strike in a reasonable amount of time. This way, everyone's happy. Teachers are happy, which makes them better at their jobs, which in turn makes students happy because they are receiving quality education, and will eventually make the administration happy, because they continue to rake in the money from students. This is the way it should work.


In the real world though, the administration will still resist giving in, so they will make it seem that the only way to give the faculty what they want is to raise tuition. That's the easy solution and provides more ammunition in trying to get the students against the teachers. This really isn't a valid argument anyway, because tuition has gone up pretty much every year I've been here. Sure we'll complain about it, but we'll live with it.

I feel that UPEI is a great place to receive high quality education because of the time and effort put forth from the professors. Many of us have likely gone to see one for extra help and walked away knowing more than you went in with. You can't get this one-on-one interaction at larger universities. But if the administration has their way by forcing professors to take on an extra work load, then this unique experience will be lost. I urge you all to support the faculty association and perhaps even sit in on some of their meetings and voice your concerns. As well, hold off on paying tuition, like many of you are already doing. They want our money? Let's make them work for it by giving the faculty what they want.

## Notice

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