

Letters to the Editor

It's Our Education

Dear Sir;

I'm writing this article solely because I am not prepared to sit back and watch a week or more of this academic term slip by while students stand on picket lines rather than go to lectures.

I feel it's time to look back over the last ten days. Maintenance workers went on strike, students boycotted classes, some students worked picket lines, and our faculty association met twice. At the meeting Friday they failed to state whether or not conditions are intolerable. Much less are they prepared to walk out. Surely the majority of the professors can't be wrong. Faculties may not be the best, yet professors are still willing to teach.

Students; take a look at what we have done, or have led others do, on our behalf. Now, take a look at the results. We open our eyes to find that the strike still exists and we wonder what we'll do next. "March to the office of the Premier!" screams one enthusiastic student.

Why march to the office of the Premier? Goodness knows there are enough minorities, and unions screaming at the government of this country without the students of U.P.E.I. jumping on the bandwagon! Do any of us actually believe Premier Campbell is going to act immediately on the ultimatum of five or four hundred students?

Our generation speaks of peace, of arbitration, of good faith. Why create an ugly scene in front of the office of the Premier - maybe to make the news?

Why not ask to speak to the Board of Governors, right here, on campus, rather than go marching

about the streets of Charlottetown

The Board of Governors are responsible for the financial affairs.

If you don't wish to speak to, or hear from the Board of Governors and you really must march; march on campus to see the president or the administration in an attempt to force them to make a settlement. Boycotting classes will not accomplish our aim. We're here for education and we're all paying for it. If we boycott classes, we're paying for nothing.

We've fulfilled our obligation; that is if you feel you had an obligation, and our boycotting classes is not putting money in the pockets of the maintenance workers. I feel students should be in class; picket lines or no picket lines, I am quite convinced professors will be in the classrooms prepared to teach on Monday.

As President Baker aptly puts it to us in Saturday's Guardian, "It's our education!"

Patrick Sinnott

Stop the Boycott

To the Editor:

In reference to the student boycott of classes; I am fully in favour of giving our moral support to the striking Maintenance workers, their demands on the most part are justified. However, I strongly believe that the process by which this support is presently being given is merely a way for a majority of students

who taking advantage of a situation and the feelings of a few people who really want to help the strikers, take a few days off school and take a break.

I base this statement on the fact that there definitely were not 480 people at the entrances and exits. These 480 people that I mention were those in favor of boycott. This being the case, I make a suggestion; if every person who voted for strike, one vote is subtracted for those who did not show up. I believe that those who voted against boycott (they number approx. 251) would have a majority. Talking to the President, Woozy, the night before the boycott he expressed the

hope that the students voted, "from the heart and not the pen". The turnout does not seem to be in keeping with Woozy's hopes.

I cannot express enough how I believe that this action to boycott classes is nothing more than a way for a lot of students to get time off. Furthermore, I do not believe that the fact that we do not attend classes will speed up negotiations. We aren't forced

to go to classes; Profs. are now getting paid for work they are not doing and we as students are losing out. True, we are halting the educational process of the University

and that will make somebody take notice, but are they the right people and if so do these people really give a damn if we go to classes or if we don't? I don't think so.

Thus, I suggest that support for the workers be done in free time, upon which time the statement will probably arise that nothing will be gained or proven. I suggest that just as much, if not more will be proven if we support in our free time, as our support will be given on an individual, volunteer basis rather than a gang following, like sheep, the ideas of a few. Wouldn't an idea such as this;

"Hey, I got some time so I can come over and help" be better than; "They wouldn't listen so damn them we took the time off anyway, here we are."

In summing up again I say that our boycotting proves nothing other than the fact that because 30% of our student body puts a check by an "X" (most of whom I think wanted time off) we act like sheep and boycott, in the words of one notable "until Christmas if necessary!" I think Tom got a little carried away on that statement; surely he realizes that if the strike did go on until Christmas the novelty would have worn off long ago. This is, in effect what this strike is, a novelty for the students.

For a final point before closing, one should consider that there are 1,485 fulltime students and 880 parttime students who pay approx. \$1.50 per class. Thus, full-time students lose around \$22.50 a week and parttime students lose \$9.00. Do some figuring and one will come to the conclusion that if

all classes are boycotted for a week, i.e. no classes at all, we pay the administration approx. \$36,932.50 which they aren't earning. Would you hurry if you are making that kind of money for doing nothing?

Thus, I suggest that the boycott of classes be stopped, for I believe nothing is gained except a lot of wasted time.

A PICKET BOYCOTTER

They Need Us

To the Editor;

I am writing this letter to commend the efforts of my fellow students in the assistance and support given to the Maintenance workers in their strike.

It has been said that this strike is of no concern to us, and as a result we should have nothing to do with it. I disagree in that anyone existing on subsistence wages should be of concern to us. This may sound idealistic but it is still true. One may resort that we cannot support everyone by boycotts and to this I agree. I do feel, however that this strike, being on our campus, not only deserves but demands that we support it by action of a concrete form.

It has been said that if we strike we will get behind in our work and hurt only ourselves. I disagree with this for two reasons. There is nothing to say that we have to go to the classes to keep up with our work, and, secondly, I feel this to be an extremely smug attitude. To say "lets get our degree and our secure job" and to neglect someone who exists in an insecure job that we could alleviate would be a disgustingly selfish attitude.

It has been said that because only six or seven hundred voted, and only four hundred of these voted in favor of a boycott, that these four hundred are imposing their will upon the majority. However, in the referendum no one was denied a vote, and if a student did not vote it cannot be concluded that he was against the boycott. Those that did not vote and are against the boycott have only themselves to

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