

Despite The Failures, This Strike Has Given Us Hope



dave macrae
editorial

Well, our three-day flu is over and everyone on campus is in the throes of those two most debilitating of human emotions- either a moaning self-pity at its passing and its failure, or a perverse I-told-you-so gloating over the inability of the student body to unite or accomplish anything.

Yet, let's keep things in perspective. True, we did fail to keep it going more than three days. True, we did fail to bring the strike to a quick end. But perhaps it makes more sense to look at our definite accomplishments and move from them rather than to slip into our own

private form of apathy. We should look at our failures as lessons to be learned from, not a proof that nothing can be done.

A philosophy prof. said a couple of days ago that this was the most successful student strike he had ever seen. While it's probably true that he exaggerates somewhat, there is more reason for that point of view to converse. To wit:
1. From Friday October 24th to Friday October 31st, the differential in the administration and union offers has gone from fifty cents an hour to seven and a half cents an hour. By the time

was afraid to stick their neck for fear that it may be cut off in the future, so to speak. Can you blame them (YES!) when the professors (the Gods we follow like blind sheep) still held classes? People have complained about some of the happenings going on. But whatever the course of action taken there still would be complaints from some small fraction. It's too bad there was such poor media coverage from the newspaper and T.V. station. I commend the maturity of the students in conducting a quiet orderly march to the Premier's office and then back to the administration building. Mr. D Clough was quite condescending and, spiteful to the crowd by basically telling us to shut up. His behavior was pretty indecent, to we students.

The main reason I wrote this letter though, was basically to say this: the people who tried to inform themselves about this matter, besides just "thinking" about it (though thinking is fine, we had an entire week to do it before the referendum, plus countless meetings to

you read this, they may well go to zero.
2. Despite the hedging which Premier Campbell did downtown, it is clear that he knew by the end of our "discussion" with him which side was stalling negotiations. It may well be that from time to time of our talk with him and the one with Denis Clough, several telephone calls were made.
3. We clearly impress the people of Charlottetown

with our ability to hold an orderly and sane strike, particularly during the march.
4. Baker came up with a proposal on university government which, stripped of its bad aspects, may be the single most exciting and innovated hit this university, or either of its predecessors- ever.

5. For once we proved that we can come out of our apathetic shells, and more importantly in favour of others- even if only for 3 days.

If we had only accomplished one of these things and it's fair to put most of the credit for all of them on the shoulders of our strike- then it would have been well worth while.

So given that we did have

failures- but mostly had successes, where do we go from here? The first and perhaps most important step is to analyse the situation honestly- not gloatingly, not despairingly (for whatever reason- but honestly, openly, and objectively in an attempt to discover what caused the failures and what caused the successes. This paper lays its pages open to anyone wishing to make commentary on this in the next week or two. We would ask, though, that you would avoid railings against apathy on the one hand or campus radicals on the other.

The next step is since the settlement of the immediate issue is by now mostly out of our hands to attempt to consolidate and expand our successes and to, not leave them hanging in mid-air, but to grow and find a clear base on which to rest.

In the immediate future the most important thing would be to take Baker's proposals, flush it out and make it into a viable entity. If we can truly do this, then we may at last have a university community which is a 'university community'

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reinforce the people about the matter too) are in my opinion far better persons than those who just sat back. After all action is better than words and one can only talk for so long.

Karen Woodhall

workers are still on strike and one doesn't eat for free so money donated to the union would be the best contribution to the strikers now.

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P.S. The Maintenance



Be Informed - The Strike's Still On

Dear Editor,

Since the time when the Maintenance strike began two weeks ago, a number of events have taken place. A referendum which asked for a complete shut down of the campus, including a boycott of classes for two days was passed. However, people still attended classes. Picketing was confused and the whole organization of the strike was haphazard. There was no one leader for the whole affair which is political in nature and anything political is complicated. Also, the S.U.

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IN THIS PUBLICATION,
PLEASE, CONSIDER
THAT THEY ARE THERE
FOR A PURPOSE. WE
PUBLISH SOMETHING
FOR EVERYONE, AND
SOME PEOPLE ARE
ALWAYS LOOKING
FOR MISTAKES !!!



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