

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1992

## Talks break down again...

Talks between BCIT and the BCGEU resumed with mediator Stephen Kelleher at 8:30 am yesterday and broke down at approximately 1:30 am this morning.

BCGEU spokesperson Cliff Anstein said that the employer's latest offer was rejected by the bargaining committee because it "does not come close to meeting the requirements of our membership." He refused to release any details of the proposal saying that the committee must first

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## Editorial

Collective agreements are like marriages.

And if you were getting married and your fiancée got to the altar and said "maybe," would you marry that person? Perhaps— if you truly loved and trusted that person.

Well, I'm sure that BCIT and the BCGEU neither love nor trust each other at this moment. And it would seem absurd that they would enter into a "marriage" based on a maybe. And yet that is what BCIT has offered the union.

Now we don't want to jeopardize this marriage, as temperamental as it appears, because it has some possibilities. If we could just get the groom to the altar on time and with a firm commitment the inlaws might even start speaking to each other. But frankly the children are tired of being the victims of this loveless relationship. It's always the children that suffer...

*The Link* recognizes the significant movement the two parties have made in this dispute and, with a little marital counselling from Howard Peto, they might opt for a honeymoon after all. But we just hope they can make it to the reception (catered by *Forster's*, of course) still talking.

So let's drop the macho posturing guys and settle this thing quickly. How about 11 per cent and call it a day, or 10.5% and call it a draw?

And David, don't ask the BCGEU to do your dirty work. It's your responsibility to call upon the government to come up with the additional funding. So why don't you do it this morning, before the Union's general meeting, so that they have something concrete to present to their membership.

Cmon you two, kiss and make up—for all our sakes!

And while you're at, please ensure that the bridesmaids in the Staff Society find an appropriate suitor. ♦

*L.G. Merson*



## How many of you really care?

By Jennifer Philip

So, where were all you loyal BCIT students Friday afternoon?

There was a student demonstration/ uprising/show of force, or however you want to put it. But perhaps you didn't read one of the 15,000 copies of *the Link* distributed throughout the Lower Mainland, watch television, read the paper, or listen to the radio between Monday and Friday...

How do you hope to return to school if you don't attend rallies that can put pressure on the right people and speed up our return to our beloved Institute?

Well, at least 350 of you aren't illiterate apathetic wimps totally devoid of political consciousness. Thanks to all of you for supporting the "Students for Studies" demonstration.

It was cold, it was windy, but that didn't stop the chanting and cheering. Jason Brad, President of the Alma Mater Society at UBC, encouraged us to continue to fight for our rights—"It's cold, it's

# Talks break down again... *continued*

report to their membership in a general meeting this afternoon.

According to BCIT spokesperson Terry Jorden, BCIT tabled a 10 per cent offer over 24 months. Of that 10 per cent, 7 per cent was guaranteed by BCIT with the additional 3 per cent subject to the provincial government "funding the pay equity increases [in addition] to the BCIT base budget."

BCIT's latest offer guarantees across the board increases of:

4.5 per cent March 1, 1991

2.5 per cent March 1, 1992

and calls for the Institute and the BCGEU to "jointly approach the provincial government for base budget funding for pay equity" to be effective as follows:

1.5 per cent August 1, 1991

1.5 per cent July 1, 1992

The above pay equity adjustments apply to all employees *subject to government funding.*

While Jorden said that "senior government officials have indicated that Victoria is supportive of addressing pay equity in this way," he acknowledged that there is no firm guarantee at this time. "This is not a fait accompli at this point but the indications are good that the provincial government is receptive to this." However, BCIT student Jennifer Philip is "disgusted that after two and one half weeks BCIT administration would have the audacity to present an offer which is not firm," and urged the administration to "quit fucking with our futures."

When asked why BCIT had not been able to secure a firm commitment from the government for pay equity funding Jorden said that "these are fairly new discussions and we're moving as fast as we can." But for most students 13 lost days of class time is not fast enough. Managing Editor of *The Link*, Les Merson, pointed out that over 9 days ago *The Link's* editorial urged "the BCIT Administration to argue their case to the

Ministry of Advanced Education. It is clearly an equity issue and the Institute should put some action where its rhetoric is." "We also called upon the provincial government 'to enact some form of equity legislation so that women in particular, and low paid employees generally, are guaranteed a salary that allows them to live with both freedom and dignity,'" Merson stated. "And yet, more than a week later the Institute expects the union to ratify rhetoric." When pressed for when this offer would be solidified, David Harvey, Director Of Personnel/Employee Relations, countered with "you should be asking the government when they'll be firm."

Pressed further, BCIT spokesperson Terry Jorden simply said, "we'll have to wait and see what happens."

A visibly angry Tracy Clark, Student Association spokesperson, said that "this is ridiculous! The students don't have any more time. We have been sacrificed for long enough. Premier Harcourt has just returned from an extensive European trip bragging about BC's technological advancement while BC's premier technological institution is going down the drain. If the government doesn't come up with some funding for this Institute and the union and the administration don't work out their differences—if they don't settle this dispute immediately and get us back in class—there is going to be no future to be "discovered" at BCIT. The government has to put a stop to this vicious cycle of labour confrontation or today's students will not graduate and tomorrow's students will go elsewhere." ♦

## How many of you really care? *continued*

friday afternoon, and you're out here standing on soggy grass, ARE YOU PISSED OFF? You have every right to be!"

David Mitchell, Liberal Critic for Education, also demonstrated his support for the students and expressed his feelings towards the action (or rather inaction) of the Provincial government. Calling for a 40-day cooling off period, he said "Labour relations disputes cannot take precedence over the rights of training, education, and students." These words were greeted with an overwhelmingly positive response from the demonstrators.

The demonstrators marched north on Willingdon Ave. to the centre of the intersection at Canada Way and blocked rush hour traffic for 10 to 15 minutes. Perhaps the motorist felt just a tinge of the inconvenience and outrage that most students have felt throughout this dispute.

The crowd then paraded south on Willingdon to the main entrance of the school. After a last few cheers and calls from the Students for Studies to contact our MLA's, we disbanded and continued on our less-than-merry ways hopeful that the dispute would be settled over the weekend and that we wouldn't have to participate in anymore demonstrations.

So the next time you hear of a student demonstration and think "Oh well, I'll just roll over and catch a few more zzzz's." or "Hey, I'll get a few more hours at work."—THINK AGAIN—ARE YOU A ROUNDY OR A SQUAREY? Next time—God forbid!—show up!!!

*Kudos to Val Lewis, Jason Ward, and all the other Students for Studies organizers for caring!*

*And an extraspecial thanks to the Camp Willingdon campers, Sean Fitzsimmons, Don Barhurst, and Glen Doherty for adding a little craziness and a lot of heart to our demonstration. ♦*

