

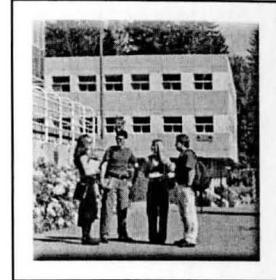
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Plainly Malaspina

Malaspina University College - A View from the Depths

Plainly Malaspina Polls Readers for 2% Solution

YOU CAN HELP BRING LABOUR PEACE IN OUR TIME



Plainly Malaspina is published by the Plainly Malaspina Entrepreneurs Collective, of Nanaimo, and is available free of charge to all retirees.

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In Brief:

PM regrets the fact that this issue is three weeks late. Faced with the threat of a strike by our workers, we decided the only safe course was to cancel publication forthwith and try to blame the resulting inconvenience on the union. Now that the union has settled for a pittance, we would like to thank all the managers who pulled out all the stops where the rubber hits the road and brought it all home.

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If both parties ratify the tentative agreement reached in MFA contract negotiations, the union will have the option of giving up some of its existing beneficial working conditions in return for a 2% increase in salary in the second year of the contract.

The process has been variously described by labour relations professionals as “buying back your dog” and “purchasing a pig in a poke,” but should not for those reasons alone be discounted.

In a spirit of reconciliation, *PM* invites its readers to submit their suggestions for how the money (estimated at \$600,000) might be saved in order to furnish faculty with their well-deserved increase.

Some preliminary guidelines:

- The idea of closing the loss-making food services is probably a non-starter, despite the alleged coincidental equality of its accumulated debt and the amount of money needed in the first year.
- Since there are approximately 500 MFA faculty, one solution would be to fire ten deadbeats from that bargaining unit. If you know some faculty who would not be missed, and who would not need to be replaced, submit their names to *PM* immediately. Note: this process will be subject to the mediaeval law of talion: if our panel of experts rejects your nominee, you yourself will have your employment terminated.

- If you like the idea of this suggestion, but prefer to apply it instead to other jurisdictional units, please bear in mind that some CUPE members earn less than half the salary of an MFA member; conversely, some members of the Administration earn more than twice the salary of an MFA member. By careful consideration of the arithmetic involved, you might be able to craft a suggestion which maximises gain while minimising pain.
- Think outside the box: faculty don't need professional development funds any more than they need offices of a decent size or bookshelves long enough to hold more than the eight textbooks required for their courses (or seven for those teaching upper-level). Isn't it about time we faced up to the truth of Darwinism and abolished both Short- and Long-Term Disability coverage? In case of bereavement, surely it is better for faculty to stay at work, secure in the nurturing and supportive environment provided by their colleagues. And, given this environment, why would anyone want to take an assisted leave, especially in order to engage in what is known euphemistically as scholarly “activity”?!

Send your suggestions on a postcard, to:

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