

And the strike continues

Jul 26, 2009 04:30 AM

Re: [Strike isn't about fairness, it's about power](#), Column, July 24

Although I usually enjoy and respect the opinion voiced by Richard Gwyn, I take exception to this article. Maybe I did not understand what he meant but he seemed to think David Miller should follow the path of the leaders in China in dealing with his city's unions. Perhaps it was tongue-in-cheek but I respect '60s liberals a lot more than the leaders of China, and more of these liberals would be a plus for the world. I would hope the *Star* is more inspired by Canadian liberal thinkers than China's regime.

Michael Lane, Toronto

Commentators who are asserting that the municipal strike in Toronto has very little to do with fairness and is all about the exercise of power are bang-on with the ultimate cause of the strike. Unfortunately, most of them are dead wrong in their identification of the party that holds the balance of power. If workers are strategic partners in the workplace, shouldn't they have substantive power to contribute to decisions that affect the condition of their work life and the organization of work? It is the City of Toronto that is trying to take away hard-won benefits and impose a lowest common denominator workplace benefits regime on the employees, which is in line with that of many Scrooge-like private sector workplaces. From my vantage point, it looks like the power is in the hands of the employer.

Ajamu Nangwaya, Toronto

[In weary Windsor, dirty work already done](#), July 24

What a neat idea to have private contractors remove garbage from the temporary dump sites during a strike. I assume that the payment for this comes from the money saved not paying CUPE employees who are doing nothing. Why would a publicly elected body like Toronto City Council not be this proactive and make this decision a long time ago so that at least it would be serving the people in some way? Something to remember at the next election.

Kingsley Butler, Toronto

[City breaks ground on newest waterfront park](#), July 23

It was nice to see political leaders, including Mayor David Miller, come together to break ground on a new park at Toronto's waterfront. In an exemplary show of long-term planning, perhaps the mayor is scouting new parks that can be used as temporary garbage dumps if the city workers' strike goes on.

Bethan Dinning, Toronto