

THE FREE PRESSING NEWS

OCTOBER 11, 2002 ISSUE - WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA



FP NEWS SHARES PLUMMET

Fledgling Free Press owners Rockin' Ronnie Stern and Bill Bob Silver have a few less trinkets to play with today as the share price in their TSE-listed cash grab begins to tank.

FP Newspapers Income Fund fell 70 cents to close at \$9.55 a share yesterday -- the second biggest trust unit drop on the Toronto Stock Exchange on Oct.10.

As the fund approaches its record low of \$9.45, the people who own this paper must be asking themselves how wise it was to force a strike. And their buddies who bought shares couldn't be happy campers either. The best news of all, for us: This comes only after Day One of the strike.

THE WINNIPEG SUN ALSO RISES

As the Free Press sits idle, its erstwhile competition at the Winnipeg Sun jumped in to give our management some super-sized food for thought.

The tabloid paper has boosted its press run to 66,000, an increase of 15,000 copies.

If this keeps up, publisher Gordon Norrie will have no choice but to call Rudy Redekop and thank him for dithering while the Free Press burns.

WE NEED YOUR BRAIN POWER

Where should we hang out in strike garb to maximize our visibility and get our message out? Tomorrow's Blue Bomber game vs. Saskatchewan is a great place to start, seeing as the public has been deprived of reading Free Press sports oracles Randy Turner and Ed Tait.

Your strike campers might not be the most attractive people on the picket line, but you should talk to them with your ideas anyway.

We're also looking for strikers who want to use their brains in addition to their feet by volunteering for the following committees: Special pickets, public rallies, soliciting food donations for people on the line, and finding ways to make the daily grind fun. Sign up at strike headquarters.

THANKSGIVING HARVEST

We may be facing hard times ourselves, but so are other people in the community. We're holding a Thanksgiving food drive -- a Mountain of Cans -- at our picket

SECURITY FLAMES OUT

One of the poor rent-a-shlubs hired by management to "maintain law and order" at 1355 Mountain Avenue proved to be a destructive force all by himself on Friday when he torched a wooden post in the parking lot.

Johnny Dangerously ignited the pole at about 10 a.m. and didn't seem to realize the close proximity of a minivan to the blaze might be a problem.

As he huffed and puffed, another rent-a-cop grabbed a fire extinguisher. Together the two rocket surgeons eventually prevailed over the smoking pole.

RUDY'S LIE OF THE DAY

Rudy Redekop, the math-impaired Winnipeg Free Press publisher, who told other media outlets our paper carriers and part-time mailroom employees make an average of \$60,000 a year, has a new piece of wool to pull over the public's eyes: He claims all of us get six weeks of holidays!

In fact, only about 100 of the 1,100 people on strike get that much time off -- and most of them started in 1979, when Joe Clark and Jimmy Carter were leaders in the Free World. Once again, Rudy doesn't have a clue what goes on in his own building. We're looking forward to working with his replacement.

MAKE YOUR OWN SIGN

Tired of that boring old "on strike" banner? Then grab a marker and build your own slogan.

Strike headquarters has partially blank CEP signs and markers you can use to scrawl "Free Press -- Not There For Us" or "We're not always there" or whatever strikes your fancy. Get it? "Strikes" your fancy? Man, we're a funny bunch.

RELAX ...

No picketing on Thanksgiving Monday (October 14). Spend some quality time with your family.

line in front of the Free Press on Mountain Avenue. We'll deliver the food to Winnipeg Harvest in time for Thanksgiving. Please bring a canned good from home, and ask friends and neighbours to show support for our strike by bringing a donation too.

NOT UP FOR DEBATE

Free Press city hall reporter Leah Hendry and general assignment reporter Mary Agnes Welch were temporarily barred from entering Thursday night's mayoral debate at Tuxedo's Berney Theatre, heretofore referred to as the "Izzy Asper Centre for Media Freedom".

People representing the Winnipeg Real Estate Board refused to allow Hendry and Welch in to the Candidates' Debate because their union vests constituted a threat to safety (security).

We're not making this up, folks. Apparently, no signs were allowed inside the debate ... until a cooler member of the WREB braintrust eventually relented, and let our people in.

CRETIN ROB ROCKS

KUDOS to UFMF 101.5 Radio DJ Cretin Rob, who dedicated The Clash's version of I Fought The Law to striking Winnipeg Free

Press employees on the
Friday morning's show.

**BUT MOST OF ALL,
YOU ROCK**

The strike would not be possible without the amazing support of each and every one of you. Management has no chance of getting what they want as long as we all continue to not do what we haven't been doing. Or something like that.

SOLIDARITY!