

O.S.S.T.F. Rainbow District 3  
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The April 1, 1998 issue of the New Mexicans for Science and Reason newsletter contained an article claiming that the Alabama state legislature had voted to change the value of the mathematical constant  $\pi$  from 3.14159 to the 'Biblical value' of 3.0. The Alabama legislature began receiving hundreds of calls from people protesting the legislation.

## THE LINK- April 2018

### April 1, 1957:

The respected BBC news show *Panorama* announced that thanks to a very mild winter and the virtual elimination of the dreaded spaghetti weevil, Swiss farmers were enjoying a bumper spaghetti crop. It accompanied this announcement with footage of Swiss peasants pulling strands of spaghetti down from trees. Many viewers called the BBC wanting to know how they could grow their own spaghetti tree.



**April 1, 1996:** The Taco Bell Corporation took out a full-page ad that appeared in six major newspapers announcing it had bought the Liberty Bell and was renaming it the Taco Liberty Bell. Hundreds of outraged citizens called the National Historic Park in Philadelphia where the bell is located to express their anger!

**April 1, 1998:** Burger King published a full-page advertisement in *USA Today* announcing the introduction of a new item to their menu: a "Left-Handed Whopper" specially designed for the 32 million left-handed Americans. Ingredients remained the same, but all the condiments were rotated 180 degrees for the benefit of their left-handed customers.

### Dates of Interest:



**April 1st:** April Fools' Day (A little humour - after the fact!)

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- President's Message
- From the desk of the District Officer
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*April 10<sup>th</sup> - H&S Meeting*

*April 17<sup>th</sup> - Ed Services Meeting*

*April 18<sup>th</sup> - Council of Teachers' Meeting - 4:00 pm*

*April 19<sup>th</sup> - Status of Women Meeting - 4:00 pm*

*May 1<sup>st</sup> - OMERS Pension Workshop - 5:30 pm Lively*

*May 2<sup>nd</sup> - PSSP AGM 4:00 pm*

*May 7<sup>th</sup> - OTIP Workshop 4:30 pm - Caruso Club*  
**REGISTER ON LINE**  
[www.otip.com/events](http://www.otip.com/events)

*May 9<sup>th</sup> - District AGM Annual Spring Assembly 4:00 pm*

**AGM**  
Annual General Meeting  
OSSTF District 3  
Spring Assembly

## President's Remarks

### Important Deadlines for Teachers

Please review the requirements below for existing Occasional Teachers and new Occasional Teachers. Forms can be found on the RDSB's website.

**Teachers who were on the 2017/2018 Occasional Rosters** must complete either Appendix A or C and attach the following: 2018 Ontario College of Teachers Certificate and ensure these are received by 1:00 p.m. Friday, June 22, 2018.

**Teachers currently on the Board's LTO lists** will remain on the LTO lists as long as a re-application for the 2018/2019 roster is received by 1:00 p.m. Friday, June 22, 2018.

**Current teachers who are retiring this summer** are considered new applicants and must complete Appendix A and include an updated resume along with references and TPAs and reply by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 31, 2018.

**Permanent Teachers who are less than full-time** and are not currently on the Occasional Rosters must apply according to the New Teachers application process outlined below by 1:00 p.m. Friday, June 22, 2018 however; references and criminal background checks are not required.

**Redundant Secondary teachers** must complete Appendix A and reply by 1:00 p.m. Friday, June 22, 2018 in order to be included on the Occasional rosters. Attachments, references and criminal background checks are not required.

### Benefits Payroll Deduction

As per last December's communication regarding Payroll Deductions for December 2017, OSSTF Benefits Employee Life and Health Trust (ELHT) advised OTIP not to take payroll deductions in December 2017 for retroactive amounts that were \$100 or more. Members were billed directly for these deductions and had the option of paying either a lump sum or in four monthly instalments.

To date some OSSTF D3 members have not responded to the invoices and a **Final Notice** has now been sent to these members via Canada Post with the request for response on or before April 12, 2018. **If these members do not respond by April 12, the outstanding premium amount will be deducted as a lump sum from their May payroll.** The Trust will also be emailing these members directly with the same information.

If members require a longer period for repayment, or if they disagree with the amount being billed, **please contact Donna Morrison directly at** [donna.morrison@osstfbenefits.ca](mailto:donna.morrison@osstfbenefits.ca)

From  
the desk  
of...  
**Sue Melville**  
District Officer

It's that time of year again – staffing! This is a time of celebration and trepidation, with implications for members in several of our bargaining units. The TBU Staffing Committee (James, Todd Sintic, and I) will be meeting with the board on April 9th to discuss projected enrolment, confirmed retirements and requests for leaves, and to draw the initial redundancy line for teaching staff. Daily occasional teachers will be interviewing for the Long Term Occasional (LTO) list later in April. All bargaining units will be holding Annual General Meetings in the next month or so. We encourage members to attend the AGM for their bargaining units. The AGM is a great venue to raise issues of concern to members, to learn more about OSSTF, and to meet new people.

#### **Annual General Meeting Dates:**

T/OTBU: Council of Teachers – Wednesday, April 18th

PSSP: AGM – Wednesday, May 2nd

District: Annual Spring Assembly – Wednesday, May 9th

ESSU AGM – Wednesday, May 16th

SSSC AGM – Thursday, May 17th

### ***AMPA 2018 - D3 Attendees***



*Phil Crowe - ESSU President, Lucie Bisson - SSSC President, Katrina Ross - Status of Women Committee Chair, Lynne Montpellier - CPAC Chair, Eric Laberge - District 3 Treasurer, Carol Fortin - PSSP President, Kyle Craftchick OTBU Delegate, Sue Melville - District Officer, James Clyke - District 3 President*





**Your OSSTF Member Representatives are an important piece of the team for District 3. This month's feature Rep is Neil Martin, The TBU Rep at Confederation SS.**



## Meet your OSSTF Executive!

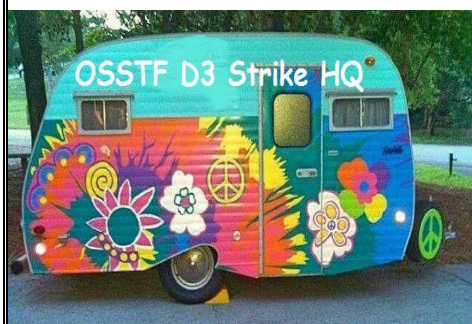
My name is Neil Martin and I have been teaching for the past 20 years. My beginnings with the board were a little unconventional as I actually started off as one of our elected trustees and was a member of the board during the transition from the Sudbury Board of Education to the newly amalgamated Rainbow District School Board. Due to a restriction on trustees and teachers not being allowed to be married, and my fiancée being a teacher in the elementary panel, I resigned my position and set my sights on becoming a teacher. I attended Queen's University Faculty of Education and graduated as a Teacher in Technological Education.

I have taught at Levack District High School, Chelmsford Valley District Composite School, and am currently at Confederation Secondary School. Throughout the years, I have taught Transportation Technology, Tech Design, Computer Engineering Technology, Manufacturing and Construction. For the past couple of years, I have been the Credit Recovery teacher here at Confederation.

My union life began many years ago as a union steward with the Union of Canadian Transportation Employees at Ottawa International Airport where I worked as a heavy equipment mechanic. Eventually, I was elected as the local Vice President and became heavily involved in Health and Safety, sitting as the Co-Chair of the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee. During my time with Transport Canada in Ottawa PSAC's 1991 general strike took place. This was the largest single union strike in Canadian history and over 20,000 of us descended on Parliament Hill. I was proud to have been asked to accept a position of Picket Captain during the strike.

My background in Health and Safety and previous work within the labour movement was a natural fit when I became a teacher. I first became involved with the OSSTF Health and Safety Committee shortly after joining the board. Several years later, I was asked to fill a vacant position on the Joint Health and Safety Committee where I currently sit as a Worker Certified Member. During my time with D3, I have been the Chair of the Health and Safety Committee, TBU Rep, District Rep, Picket Captain, and during our last work action, I was the Strike Captain for Confederation SS. Our members benefitted from the use of my 40-foot motorhome as our Strike HQ complete with a heated 3-piece bathroom and fresh coffee all day long.

I am currently the TBU Rep at Confederation and strongly believe that participation is key when belonging to a union such as ours, especially when it concerns our young teachers. As our more senior representatives near the end of their careers we must have





*Googled it... this is a scuttle!*



*New course this fall at RDSB...  
Whittling 101*

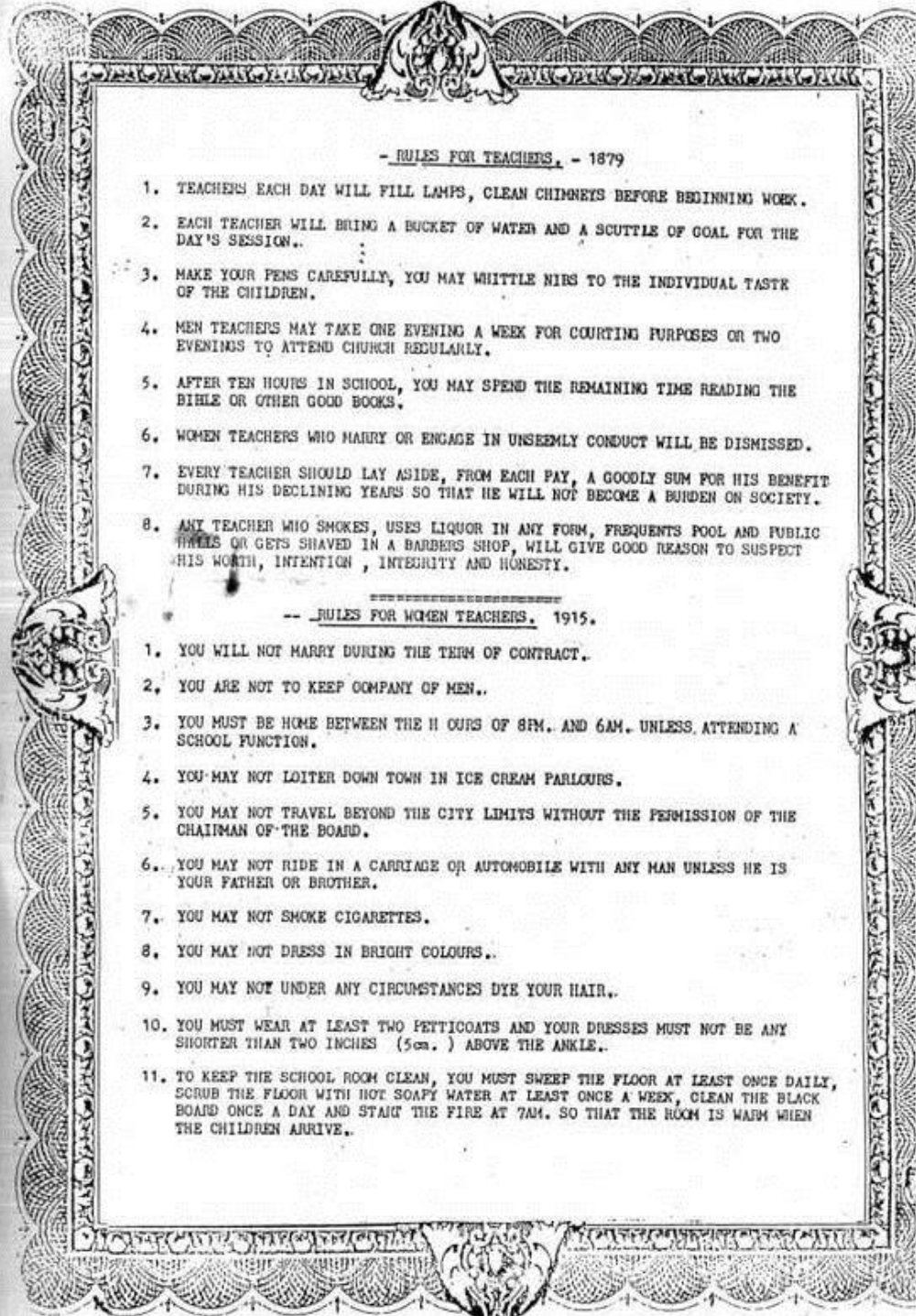


*No loitering with these  
undesirables...*

*Googled this too... →*

The Oxford English Dictionary finds the first use of "101" as an introductory **course** number in a 1929 University of Buffalo **course** catalog. Colleges and universities began to switch to a three-digit **course**-numbering system around this time.

motivated, younger teachers to take over these positions and carry on the work that has been going on for generations. Years ago, while touring a Schoolhouse Museum, I came across a contract which is claimed to have been imposed upon teachers by their School Board. True or not, this document made me realize just how far we have come as a profession and how important bargaining rights and contract maintenance are to each and every one of us.






## *Okay, one more from the fool...*

**April 1, 1950:** Aftenposten, Norway's largest newspaper, announced on its front page that the government-owned Wine Monopoly (Vinmonopolet) had received a large shipment of wine in barrels, but it had run out of bottles. To get rid of the extra wine, the stores were running a one-day bargain sale, offering wine at 75% off and tax-free. The catch was that buyers had to bring their own containers to put the wine in. When the Vinmonopolets opened at 10 a.m., Norwegian wine lovers, with bottles and buckets in hand, rushed to line up, forming long queues that stretched around the block. According to legend, numerous empty buckets were later seen tossed in the streets, left there by people who had realized while standing in line, that they had been April Fools.



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There are a lot of questions that arise when a collision occurs. Depending on the extent of the damages and/or injuries, the protocol for reporting collisions varies. We've tried to simplify the reporting process below so you know exactly what to do if you're ever in this situation and who to report the collision to.

Visit [www.otipinsurance.com/article4](http://www.otipinsurance.com/article4) to read the full article.

**Your team at OSSTF District 3:**

**James Clyke**

**Sue Melville**

**Donna McKinnon**



**Members... Check out the link to OTIP OSSTF members page:**

**<https://www.otipinsurance.com/OSSTF3>**