

# Teachers holding students, community hostage because they want raises

Editor:

Why are the Glenbard teachers striking? Quite simply, because they worked hard to get to the point that they could and because they are allowed to. Now why that situation exists is a mind-bender to me, the father of two Glenbard West students, and I wish someone could explain it to me.

Once upon a time in a composition class I learned about comparing and contrasting—let's see how well I learned that lesson:

Joe Normal is working a non-union job for the ABC Company for several years and decides that he has enough experience and is valuable enough to his employer that he thinks he should get a raise. So he does what a normal employee should and went to his boss and asked for a raise. More than 500 teachers in Dist. 87 don't think that way; instead they think that because they are union and have clout as a result, they are going to hold thousands of students and their communities hostage until they get what they want. Sadly, they can.

As Joe Normal's employer, John Boss offers to discuss the issues with Joe after normal working hours when Joe isn't going to get paid for time that the discussion takes. Because Joe believes that the issue of getting a raise is important to him, he agrees to the meeting. The teachers of Dist. 87 do not think this way because they turned down the board's offer to negotiate during the summer months. Sadly, they can.

John Boss tells Joe that he getting paid as much as most in the area and better than some, and while maybe Joe has years of experience doing his job, John Boss thinks that he should not pay Joe more when he can hire someone else to do the same job for the same amount or less. Glenbard's

teachers were offered a raise and other concessions despite that they are fairly paid commensurate to what other teachers in the area are getting paid. The teachers want more and refuse to talk about the issues or come to work until they get what they want. Sadly, they can.

Joe now faces a choice, he can return to work and accept the status quo, or he can try to find another job. If he is right about being worth more than he is getting paid then he will find another job and get paid more, if he is wrong then he will not find a better paying job and will have to accept where he is and what he gets paid or he can consider other options like striking out on his own or in another line of work. Glenbard teachers do not think like this; they don't want to leave their jobs and get a better paying one nor do they even want to try. Instead they will walk away from talks, stall negotiations until the situation becomes critical, and then hold the board and the people it serves hostage by refusing to work. Sadly, they can.

Joe approaches his situation with thoughtful consideration, his approach is proper and in line with what millions in this nation have done for years when they want a larger income than what they are currently getting. Joe's approach maintains dignity. The teachers of Dist. 87 do not think like this. Instead they act like children at the grocery store demanding a candy bar at the checkout stand while the children that they are supposed to be teaching are acting with adult-like dignity beyond their years and want to do their "jobs" and be students. Sadly, they can't.

I resent the underhanded tactics of the union and I abhor the thought that the very people that I have to trust to teach my children

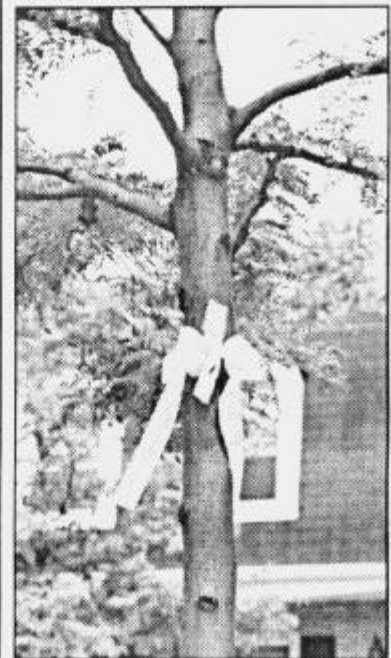
to become educated adults with sound decision-making abilities capable of acting in a decent and respectful manner fail to act like that themselves. They could, but sadly, they won't.

If the teachers of Dist. 87 were amongst the lowest paid in the area, and if they had poor pension, health and vacation packages, and if they acted like adults willing to work out a solution, and if they demonstrated a sincere desire toward a solution by being at the negotiating table every chance they had, then I would support them wholeheartedly. But they aren't, they don't, they wouldn't, and they haven't, so, sadly...I can't.

Teachers of Dist. 87, two words...BOO! HISS!

Michael D. Perry  
Glen Ellyn

Tie yellow  
ribbons to  
show  
urgency



## Teachers