

**POLPOURRI**

**CIVIL RIGHTS COMPARISON?**

**Teachers strike talk  
raises criticism**

Grand Rapids Education Association President Paul Helder took major heat from Kyle Olson, founder of the pro-school board Education Action Group, last week after Helder compared a possible teachers' strike to the civil rights movement. A lot of fights for rights "like the civil rights movement or anything else" were illegal, Helder said in a radio interview. In a press release, Olson was quick to point out the MEA has a \$10 million fund to compensate teachers who strike, which Helder didn't mention as he attempted to "wrap himself in a cloak of some lofty ideal," Olson said. "You're no MLK," he chastised Helder. Olson "missed the point," Helder responded. Still, he's glad Olson, who he called a "right-wing nut-job," is a WTKG (1230 AM) listener. The program, "Working West Michigan," airs 8-9 a.m. every Tuesday.