

**“I think it’s going to be a long struggle, a long fight. We’re going to have to be out here until we get what we need to get.”**

**TIM HEIDECKER**, comedian on the picket line in Los Angeles

# Comedians energize the picket lines

*Hollywood strike in 2nd week since actors joined writers*

By **KRYSTA FAURIA AND JILL LAWLESS**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — The combined strike by Hollywood actors and screenwriters entered its second week with no swift end in sight, and union leaders and star strikers, including a bevy of comedians attempted to boost morale Friday as the novelty of picket lines wears off.

“The momentum is still building,” said stand-up comic, writer and actor Marc Maron outside Netflix headquarters. “I got some of my comedy buddies — we’re like, let’s go, let’s make sure we’re there and we show up for our union. There’s a lot of people here and look, eventually they have to, they have to negotiate, right?”

Maron starred on the series “GLOW” for Netflix, whose headquarters in a hip section of Hollywood has been a bustling hub during the strike, with music blasting and food trucks serving ice cream, shaved ice and churros.

His fellow comedians and comic actors abounded on the picket line, including “Saturday Night Live” and “Portlandia” alum Fred Armisen, “Hacks” star Hannah Einbinder, “Brooklyn Nine-Nine” actor Chelsea Peretti, “What We Do in the Shadows” vampire Mark Proksch, and longtime comedy team Eric Wareheim and Tim Heidecker, who said they were not optimistic about a



CHRIS PIZZELLO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Marc Maron, right, Hannah Einbinder, second from left, and Debby Ryan, back, walk on a picket line outside Netflix studios on Friday in Los Angeles. The actors strike comes more than two months after screenwriters began striking.**

quick end to the strike.

“I think it’s going to be a long struggle, a long fight,” Heidecker said. “We’re going to have to be out here until we get what we need to get.”

But they were confident about finding sustenance to get them through it.

“There’s an Arby’s here and Eric hasn’t eaten Arby’s in a year,” Heidecker said.

“It’s been 364 days since I had a big roast beef and we’re doing it today,” Wareheim said.

It has been harder for picketers to keep the energy up at more sprawl-

ing campuses like Warner Bros. Studios and Walt Disney Studios in Burbank, where a heat wave hit hard all week.

But as the strike has begun to stretch on, the regular appearance of star writers and actors has given a jolt to picket lines in both L.A. and New York, and provided high-profile voices on issues that are key to both writers and actors — better pay and preserving established practices like residual payments, as well as protection from the use of artificial intelligence. Roughly 65,000 actors — most of whom make less

than \$27,000 a year from their screen work — along with 11,500 screenwriters, are on strike.

On Friday, actors in London rallied in solidarity with their Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists brethren. Stars including Brian Cox, Andy Serkis, Hayley Atwell, Simon Pegg and Imelda Staunton gathered with other performers and production crew in Leicester Square for the demonstration organized by British actors’ union Equity. They chanted “One struggle, one fight, we sup-

port SAG-AFTRA fight” and “The luvvies, united, will never be defeated,” using British slang for actors.

Cox, who played media mogul Logan Roy in “Succession,” said, “I think we are at the thin end of a horrible wedge,” with artificial intelligence shaking the foundations of actors’ work.

“The wages are one thing, but the worst aspect is the whole idea of AI and what AI can do to us,” he said. “AI is the really, really serious thing. And it’s the thing where we’re most vulnerable.”

The British actors’ union

is not on strike, though many members are also part of the U.S. union.

Cox said it was important actors showed solidarity with striking screenwriters in the Writers Guild of America.

“We’re just like pieces of furniture without writers,” he said.

Serkis, who has become a specialist in playing digitally created characters since he first played Gollum in “The Lord of the Rings” saga two decades ago, said “I’m probably one of the most scanned actors on the planet.”

“I know that my image can be used, or my library of movements, can be used or my voice,” he said, adding that it “is wrong that that is easily accessed and used without remunerating the artist.”

In the U.S., Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago were among the major cities with strike events Wednesday and Thursday, demonstrating that film production doesn’t just happen in New York and Los Angeles.

There’s no indication when negotiations with studios and streaming companies, which are represented by the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, will resume. The group said they’ve offered writers and actors substantial pay increases and have tried to meet other demands.

“Please come back to the table, please be realistic, please have a little bit more socialism in your heart and think of the people who make the money for you,” “Mission Impossible” star Pegg urged studios and streaming services.

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## SCHOOLS

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remaining elementary schools, which include four traditional K-5 public schools and two K-8 charter schools.

The majority — 58 students — picked El Verano, which is 8.3 miles from Dunbar. The two schools had a similar ethnic mix last year, with 73% Latinx and 18% white students at Dunbar compared to 79% Latinx and 17% white students at El Verano.

The schools both offered the Creative Campus arts program in collaboration with the Sonoma Valley Education Foundation and Kimzin Creative, a Sonoma County arts and equity consulting group. The program strives to enhance access to quality arts education that combats social isolation, increases academic engagement, and

celebrates the diversity and talent of students.

Six students from Dunbar will head to Sassarini and one will attend Prestwood. Three students will attend Woodland Star Charter, one will switch to Sonoma Charter. Two students have picked schools outside the Valley.

Dawn Mawhinney, the district’s director of educational services, said each family considered a variety of decisions as they selected their new schools.

“Some of the reasons are the location of their homes, parents’ work and specific programs the school offers,” she said.

The district’s school year is slated to start Aug. 14.

To mitigate some of the apprehension of former Dunbar students, staff members will be assigned to ride buses with them the first couple days, district office staff will welcome students to campus and site principals will work

with their staffs to build inclusive environments.

Mawhinney noted that some of the Dunbar employees have transferred to El Verano to help accommodate the influx of new students.

“When the teachers and staff from Dunbar moved to their new locations, the needs of students and schools were considered,” she said.

Chien says since the vast majority of students from Dunbar will be moving to El Verano, this should help minimize their feelings of isolation.

“In addition, we have support staff at every school that students can reach out to if they need to,” she said.

“We want parents to feel reassured that we are aware that this is a period of transition, and creating a welcoming environment where students have a true sense of belonging is a high priority for us.”

**North Bay Association of REALTORS® Charity Awards \$59,000 in Scholarships**



In recognition of their remarkable determination and resilience, the North Bay Association of REALTORS® Charity is proud to announce the winners of this year’s high school scholarships. For their leadership, academic achievements, and commitment to community, these outstanding students were selected following a meticulous review by our chapters, and Board of Directors. **A total of 48 scholarships, across 18 high schools, throughout 15 jurisdictions have been awarded.** Representing more than 3700 REALTORS® and industry professionals, NorBAR promotes positive community impact, and advocates for a sustainable housing economy in Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino, and Lake Counties.

### NorBAR Charity Regional Scholarships (partial list)

- Marisol Alvarez Diaz, Sonoma Valley High
- Briana Birk, Cardinal Newman
- Jaret Bosarge, St. Vincent De Paul
- John Bugbee, Casa Grande
- Isabela Cole, Fort Bragg High
- Carlo Delanni, Napa High
- Catalin Dundas-Gordon, Casa Grande
- Josephine Erickson, Fort Bragg High
- Quincy Frommelt, Napa High
- Emily Harris, Technology High
- Giovanni Lopez, Windsor High
- Brittany Manzo Diaz, Geyserville New Tech Academy
- Esperanza Marquez, Windsor High
- Aiden McFadden, Fort Bragg High
- Rosalina Meuniot, Ukiah High
- Anuska Parajuli, Santa Rosa High
- Lily Roberts, St. Vincent De Paul
- Emma Smith, Windsor High
- Casey Sullivan, Petaluma High
- Ella Turjanis, Napa High
- Samuel Vanden Heuvel, Healdsburg High

### NorBAR Chapter Scholarships

- Napa Chapter, Shane Scholarships, 5 students
- Sonoma Valley Chapter Scholarships, 11 students
- Petaluma Chapter Scholarships, 6 students