

Al Cunningham

Interview with CUPE rep

by Danièle Gauvin

The Gazette asked Al Cunningham, representative of CUPE Local 1392, a few questions about the outcome of Dalhousie's decision to contract-out the work of the local's members to Modern Building Cleaners Limited.

Gazette: How did you find out about the move?

Cunningham: Florence Logan (President of the Local) and I were called on the afternoon of the 21st and asked to a meeting for 4 o'clock that day. They refused to tell us about the purpose of the meeting until we arrived. Andrew MacKay, Louis Vagianos, the university's lawyer and Al Cameron (in charge of personnel) read a press statement to us stating that the Local's work had been contracted out. There was a representative from Modern there, but we refused to speak with him until we had a chance to see our lawyer. The press statement was released on the 6 o'clock news that same day. We were both shocked.

Gazette: How did the membership react to the move?

Cunningham: They were stunned. No one had any intention of working for Modern and the initial reaction was one of total discouragement. Now, they're more determined to fight.

Gazette: What about your personal reaction?

Cunningham: Firing workers in the middle of a strike hasn't been done since the thirties. I had always thought of the university as a poor employer, but they've reached rock bottom with this. I really think that the university's reputation will suffer.

Gazette: What is the next move for the membership?

Cunningham: We still see ourselves as employees against Dalhousie and we will continue to picket. We hope to bring the university back to the bargaining table, maybe by staging a one day shut-down of the university this month with the help of the labour movement in Nova Scotia. Their concern is that other employers may start using this strike-breaking practice if a precedent is made now. We don't see ourselves as employees of Modern and we don't intend to negotiate with them.

Gazette: You speak of Labour support; what kind of support can you realistically expect? What about student support?

Cunningham: The CLC, the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour and other labour groups have all expressed interest and support and we're confident that their moral support will be augmented with concrete action. As for the Strike Support Committee, organized by students, they've done a lot for us, including organizing a benefit dance, but we feel that the input of time and energy that is being put into the committee is not worth it in terms of results. We'll go it alone in that respect. Right now, we're awaiting the results of the unfair labour practices charge which we've made against the university and Vice-President MacKay. That goes before the Nova Scotia Labour Standards Board later this month.



CUPE rep Al Cunningham (far right) at strike support meeting.

Dal Photo/Morris

Letters

Matacil mystery too

To the Gazette:

The Newfoundland government sprayed the forests of central Nfld., during the summer of 1978, to combat the dangerous infestation of the spruce budworm. The chemical used in this spray program was matacil. Before making the decision to spray the government set up a committee to investigate the effects of matacil on the environment. This committee reported that not enough information was known about matacil to risk spraying it on the forests. The government ignored it's own report and decided to continue with the spray program.

The nucleus of the program was the town of Gander; because of its central location and airport facilities. In opposition to the budworm spray program the residents of Gander and surrounding communities formed the "Concerned Citizens Against the Spray". This organization held a public meeting, attended by government officials, and put forth a very strong argument against the spraying of matacil on the forests of Newfoundland. One of the main components of this argument was the possible connection between Reye's syndrome and chemical sprays. The Nfld. government again turned it's back on the people of Gander, and on June 10th, 1978 the government commenced spraying matacil, an unresearched and potentially dangerous chemical, on the forests of Newfoundland.

The long range effects of this chemical on the environment and people of Newfoundland will not be known for several years. I sincerely hope

that these effects, on the environment, people and forest industry will be minimal.

This brings me to make a comment on the Gazette's interview with Dr. John Crocker. (Nov. 30th issue) One of the questions directed to Dr. Crocker was: "Two years ago, Fenithrothion and its emulsifiers were the chemicals under question in the spruce budworm controversy. Are they still today?" Dr. Crocker's reply consisted of a statement that "New Brunswick I gather is thinking of gradually switching over to other chemicals." He also gave a short history of Fenithrothion and the problems related to its use as a chemical spray. No mention was made of the Nfld. spruce budworm spray program or the chemical, matacil.

Some of the problems, "we don't know what happens to its toxic by-products (in the environment) . . . or its half-life in the environment", Dr. Crocker mentions about fenithrothion sound frightening familiar to those of matacil. Why Dr. Crocker does not mention matacil as a controversial chemical is a mystery to me. Does he not consider it a controversial chemical or is he simply ignorant of its use as a chemical spray? As a researcher of the possible connection between Reye's syndrome I think he should consider matacil as a chemical in his research.

Sincerely,
Keith Loveys.

CUTS gets you there

To the Gazette:

As I am sure many of you are not aware there exists in Canada an organization, composed of student unions across the country which is set up to provide various services to

Canadian students. This organization is the Association of Student Councils and Canadian University Travel AOSC/CUTS and has been in operation for some ten years now. Its primary function is offering student travel at low discount rates as well as, the sole issuer of the IsTc card, the world wide student discount card. Offices are located in Toronto, Vancouver, Ottawa and Halifax as well as representative of CUTS in each student campus.

As I have mentioned, our reason for existence is to provide the university community with services which are not ordinarily offered elsewhere, but our ability of offering such services rests solely on the amount of use given to this organization. That is where you come in. If you are travelling overseas, going home for break, taking a southern vacation, skiing in the mountains or just about anywhere, just contact CUTS and they will get you there one way or another at a price usually considerably lower than you would expect.

A Student Discount Book will be issued to the campus in early January which contains names of hundreds of retail outlets throughout Canada where students are offered discount prizes on merchandise. Also, CUTS is presently attempting to put together a national mail out to each individual student, helping to expose this service to hundreds of thousands of students.

It is a good thing, and you're a part of it, so I encourage you to put it to good use. This organization can only work for you if you are willing to work with it. So next time you are planning a trip contact your CUTS office or representative in your campus area for any assistance or travel arrangements you may require.

If anyone has any suggestions as to how AOSC/CUTS may better service students

continued on page 6

the Dalhousie Gazette

The Dalhousie Gazette, Canada's oldest college newspaper, is the weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union members, and is a founding member of Canadian University Press.

The views expressed in The Dalhousie Gazette are not necessarily those of the Dalhousie Student Union, the editor or the collective staff. We reserve the right to edit material for space or legal reasons, or if it is considered offensive to our readers.

The deadline for articles and letters-to-the-editor is noon on Monday. No unsigned material will be accepted but anonymity may be granted on request. Letters should not exceed 500 words and must be typed on a 64-character line and double spaced.

Advertising must be submitted by noon on the Friday preceding publication. National Advertising is handled through Youthsteam, 307 Davenport Road, Toronto, Ontario M5R 1K5 (416) 925-6359.

Our office is located on the third floor of the Dalhousie Student Union Building. Our mailing address is The Dalhousie Gazette, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. B3H 4J2. You can reach us by telephone at (902) 424-2507.

The subscription price is \$9 per year (25 issues), and our International Standard Serial Number is CN ISSN 0011-5819.

Editor: Marc Allain

Advertising and Business manager: Matthew Adamson

News Coordinators: Alan Adams and Danièle Gauvin

Entertainment Coordinator: Eric Simpson

Sports Coordinator: Micki Martinello

Production and Design: Susan Johnson

CUP Coordinators: Elissa Barnard and Nigel Allen

Distribution Manager: Joe Wilson

Staff for this week: Kent Rodgers, Bobby Pinto, Brent Melanson, Kyle Jolliffe, Valerie Mansour, Glenn Walton, Barry Sinervo, Murray Kingston, Leo Jacobs, donallee moulton, Peter Merchant, Gary Homenuk, Sheena Masson.