

"Like it or leave it"

Caterplan workers push for union

by Glenn Wanamaker

Nova Scotia employees of Caterplan are attempting to form a union, with the eventual hope of forming one nation-wide organization. Delson Lienaux, executive member of the Caterplan employees committee, says the majority of workers have already signed cards, but the union is still not formed.

Caterplan workers here are working through Ontario as it is the only province with unionized Caterplan workers. Lienaux says they are dealing with the Trades and Labour Congress, but "we will be a union within ourselves."

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind operates Caterplan, which was set up expressly for providing employment for the blind. "But now it is of such a scope," says Lienaux, "that a blind person could not operate a place like the Dal Student Union Building."

"Before, they didn't really seem to care if they didn't make any money at one place. The idea then was, 'it doesn't matter, we're keeping a blind person employed.' Now their first priority is making money. In terms of priorities, employing blind people is probably

number 10."

W. A. Byatt, business manager for Maritime Caterplan says Caterplan is not run as a commercial business.

"We are not a profit-making business. The purpose when it started was merely to provide jobs for blind people. The number 1 priority is still to secure jobs for blind workers."

Byatt says last year the organization broke about even financially, and this year it will be about the same, though maybe "a little worse."

Lienaux says salaries are low in comparison to other areas. "The Institute pays about as much as they like — about minimum wage."

Caterplan workers in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island have been part of an association for the last four years, but it only included blind workers. The first year it was in existence, 1969, it managed to get salaries increased from about \$78 for two weeks to \$61 for one week. But since then it has made little progress.

"We have had meetings, but we've been told 'like it or leave it'. It's difficult for us to close our shops because if there is a good shop, then another chain

like Beaver or Major Vending would be brought in. So we can't go on strike."

Byatt says Caterplan pays more than minimum wage for its blind workers. "The wage policy for sighted workers is that they start at minimum wage and then get raises." He estimates there are about 60-80 blind workers in the three Atlantic provinces. There are about 40 stands or cafeterias in Nova Scotia alone.

"We cannot presently afford to pay higher wages, though we are definitely trying to. You must remember that the main objective is to provide jobs for the blind."

He says wages are reviewed annually. The last pay increase was in January, for both workers and administrative executives.

Wages also differ from shop to shop, depending on how well it is doing financially. The cafeteria in the Dal SUB is doing well and wages and working conditions are accordingly better. However, a common major complaint is that Caterplan apparently gives no notice to an employee when he or she is being let go.

One worker said that Caterplan gives one week's pay but

no notice and no reason.

Caterplan executive Harold Beals says he knows nothing

about the union, but the workers are hopeful that it will be formed shortly.



Faculty discusses issues

by Ken MacDougall

On Tuesday, March 20th, the Faculty of Arts and Science held their regular monthly meeting in the Board and Senate room of the A & A Building. Attendance by faculty was slightly higher than usual. It was discovered later that this was primarily due to the controversial History 100 programme being scheduled to be discussed as well as a report on tenure being presented.

The Curriculum Committee presented several items to the faculty for consideration. The first of these was proposed guidelines for individual programmes being offered by various departments. Among the guidelines was a suggestion to have these programmes possess some unifying principle, and not be merely a collection of unrelated classes. A further guideline suggested was that students who followed

a programme which they set up themselves, and which came close to being a major in a particular subject, should also include the classes in which the department requires of its majoring students. This does not imply that a student must take the department's designated classes; rather, if a student can justify his other individual programme to the Committee on Studies, without taking required classes, then that programme will be approved. The department must now also be prepared to justify making a student take required classes. These guidelines were endorsed without debate.

Among the new courses being offered under the "New Curriculum" are a two-year interdepartmental programme in African Studies and a one-year, unstructured, five credit course in Economics.

Students in the faculty will be

able to take a Phsy. Ed. elective toward their B.A. next year — "Human Sexuality and Educating about It." The course is taught by Professor Belzer of the School of Physical Education, and will count as a 100-level elective.

A proposal was brought forth that would have enabled St. Pat's High School students to count one or several Business Education classes toward entrance requirements to Dalhousie. However, the request was dropped to allow the faculty time to establish guidelines for entrance requirements, as curriculum in the High Schools expands.

After these tame preliminaries, the History 100 question was brought forth for consideration — again. After about twenty minutes of debate, it was decided not to reconsider the motion that was returned by Senate Council for further clarification. Rather, the entire

question of course grading will be ironed out by the Curriculum Committee or the Committee on Studies.

After this question had been voted on, several members of faculty left the meeting.

The final item on the agenda was a report on tenure, submitted by a committee chaired by Professor Rodger of the department of Psychology. Before preliminary discussion of the report had even begun a minor dispute arose between Dean G. R. MacLean, and Professor Rodger regarding phrasing in various sections of the report. The disagreement centred on a clause that had the Dean proposing termination of

contract for a faculty member who still had one year to go on his contract. The termination would have taken place at the end of the academic year 1973-74. The Dean maintained that he had not proposed termination of contract, but had only stated that the professor should be considered for tenure this year. The professor in question was Don Grady, of the department of Sociology.

The discussion ended with the Dean and Rodger agreeing to have Rodger refer again to a letter sent him by the Dean outlining the situation. The report will be brought up again at the next meeting of the faculty.

Military goes home

OTTAWA (CUP) — The Canadian Armed Forces will send officers and men to military colleges rather than civilian universities, under two sponsored undergraduate training programs this fall.

Defense minister James Richardson, who also acts as president of Canada's three military colleges announced March 19 that up to 60 armed forces personnel may be enrolled in Royal Roads Military College near Victoria, B.C., Royal Military College in Kingston, Ont., and Collège Militaire Royal de Saint-Jean,

in St. Jean, Que.

The programs, University Training Plan Officers (UTPO) and University Training Plan Men (UTPM) were formerly associated mainly with civilian universities.

UTPO provides academic upgrading for officers to degree standing. Only officers who can obtain a degree within two years are chosen. Because Royal Roads Military College offers only the first two years of the four-year academic program, the UTPO is not applicable there.

UTPM gives selected serving

men the opportunity to get both a degree and a commission. The department of national defense pays the entire academic cost. The military colleges are authorized under existing charters to grant degrees in arts, administration, science and engineering.

All but single UTPM students are expected to live off-campus. Just so the academic class divisions are kept clear, students in the two programs will wear the Canadian Forces green uniform, not the regular uniform of the military college officer cadets.

A
T
L
A
N
T
I
C



FRAMES
to suit every face

H. T. Billard,
Guild Optician
Bus. Phone 423-7700
Res. Phone 455-1494
5980 Spring Garden Rd.

O
P
T
I
C
A
L