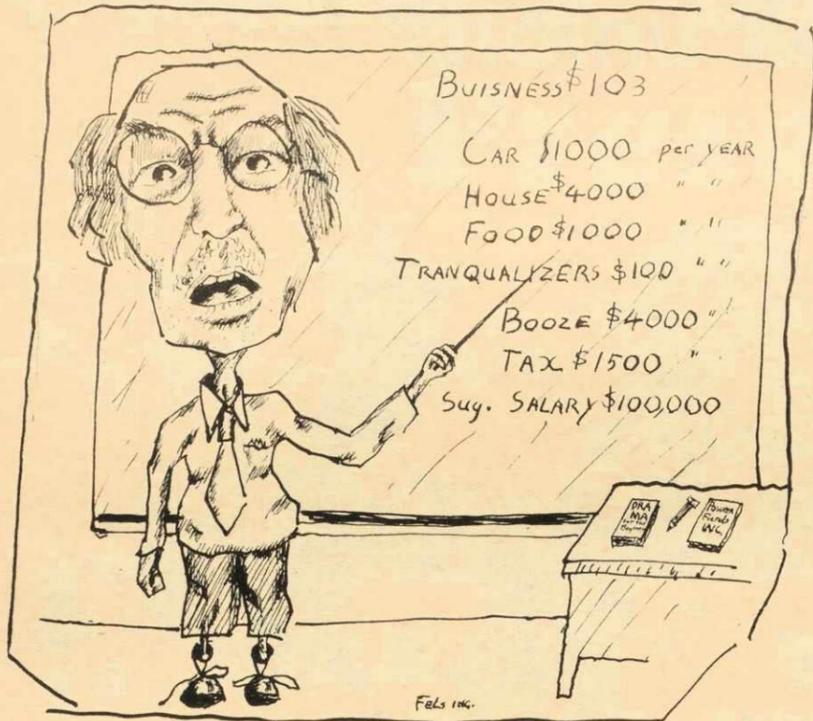


# Professors behind in real income



by Mike Greenfield

More and more academics are coming to realize that the price of knowledge has not kept pace with inflation. All across Canada faculty organizations are pressing for their fair share. Even at Dalhousie increasing numbers of faculty are moving to protect their interests. The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT). Deals with faculty needs at the national level.

The university faculty association has neither the money nor the manpower to command the ability that CAUT does. Professor Ghose, head of the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA), looks on CAUT as "our resource".

Based in Ottawa with its members at every Canadian university the Canadian Association of University Teachers provides services that can benefit every faculty member, not just those belonging to CAUT. It lobbies at the Provincial and Federal levels, concerning itself with a wide spectrum of issues that affect faculty - from purely monetary matters to women academics' rights and faculty control.

At the local level it provides organizational support. In many cases it has stepped in on individual faculty grievances concerning contract renewal, promotion, tenure, and dismissal. Although not a Union, it has helped many faculties unionize, lending its organizational experience and resources.

Whereas scores of faculties across Canada have unionized, and many faculties have locked-in CAUT membership, here at Dalhousie, where one does not have to belong to CAUT to belong to the DFA, CAUT membership is relatively low. Despite the fact that, on the average, Dal salaries are less than those west of New Brunswick.

Professor Braybrooke, President

of CAUT, has one explanation for this phenomena. He notes that Dal's faculty is "really very good" and he cites as a reason for this the high quality environment that Dalhousie and Halifax provides. He told the GAZETTE that the faculty has had a generally good relationship with the administration and over the past 12 years many professors have sacrificed higher paying offers for their positions at Dalhousie.

Still, Professor Braybrooke sees this as no reason for Dal faculty not to join CAUT and further press its demands. "The local (DFA) at Dal is not given an effective voice in protecting real income". And the real incomes of university teachers has decreased in the face of inflation. Salary increases have, at Dal, been at most 11% a year while inflation has increased at a rate of about 13% over the past few years. Braybrooke states that Dalhousie faculty should "press its case harder".

"The administration is able to tolerate a good deal of opposition" says Braybrooke. He further points out that the more the DFA presses its demands the more reasons the administration can take to the Nova Scotia government for an increase in funding.

In extreme cases where faculty demands are totally ignored by the administration the faculty can unionize, and under the Labour Relations Act force the administration to sit down at the bargaining table. St. Mary's University had one of the first faculties in Canada to unionize. Professor Crowther of St. Mary's, an active CAUT member, believes that CAUT has been a tremendous help to his faculty. He told the Gazette that he thinks the St. Mary's faculty are now in a

much better position than Dalhousie's.

If a severe problem erupts the faculty at St. Mary's can force the administration to deal with them. Here the DFA can be continually ignored, more so without the full strength of CAUT behind it.

This is why there is now a CAUT membership drive underway, headed by Professor Ghose. There are

still many professors here who are reticent to join organizations; due to relative satisfaction with the administration many do not see the need for CAUT. However, the future seems to promise troubled waters and the membership drive is one indication of this increasing realization.

The academic cannot eat his ivory tower.

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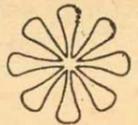
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