



Gazette staffers attended an Atlantic conference of Canadian University Press last weekend in Antigonish. As well as technical workshops conference delegates discussed the future of CUP and the independence of the student press

Atlantic press reaffirms boycott

by Matthew Adamson

The Atlantic Region of Canadian University Press (ARCUP) unanimously re-affirmed support of their boycott of CBC Radio advertising at a regional conference last weekend.

CBC Radio has refused to run public service announcements for gay organizations, terming them too controversial. Atlantic papers decided last fall not to run CBC ads and CUP adopted the policy nationally at their Christmas conference. **Dalhousie Gazette** editor Val Mansour said the year long boycott has been effective, "We have the attention of the CBC executive, and with further pressure we can end their discriminatory policy."

The region also decided to give the issue more priority in their news coverage. ARCUP Bureau Chief Mark King said, "with licence renewal hearings coming up this fall this is not a dead issue and it certainly should not be treated like one."

In a letter to Canadian University Press expressing thanks and appreciation for the support, National Gay Rights Coalition spokesperson John Duggan said, "exposing and confronting such prejudice is necessary to see Canada evolve into a society with greater equality and freedom for all individuals and minority groups that compose its pluralistic make-up."

Atlantic papers also decided to re-evaluate the effectiveness of the boycott after the series of licence renewal hearings slated across the country this fall is completed.

Strike vote Friday for operating engineers

by Valerie Mansour

The Dalhousie Local of the International Union of Operating Engineers will take a strike vote on Friday. The local consists of 75 people, including maintenance groups of electricians, plumbers and tradespeople.

Reg Fenerty, business agent for the group said that a strike could create a bad effect on the university. "We have people who work in the Thermal Plant and the Tupper Plant. Experiments that need heat control will be in trouble."

The union's contract ran out at the end of February, and they now plan to apply to the minister of labour for a conciliation board.

The main dispute is over wages. The maximum increase the university will give the union is 5½%, but Fenerty says "They are taking away other things from us. The new contract will have 11½ paid holidays while the old one had 13½. Two people were fired last year and never replaced. The university is saving money."

The local is also concerned with general working conditions, including discharges, disciplines, sick leave, and scheduling.

Fenerty says, "If there isn't some move on the part of the university, I think the strike will be on."

University Vice-President W. Andrew MacKay was not willing to comment on the situation.

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