

# Kealey supports labour militancy

by Bruce Grant

"The only power of trade unions is their level of militancy," said Dalhousie History Professor Greg Kealey in the second of a series of Community Affairs Lectures, Tuesday. About 60 attended the talk which focussed on current issues facing Canadian trade unions.

The failure of the Trudeau government to alleviate current high inflation and unemployment constitutes a "concerted strategy on the part of business and the government against the bargaining position of the unions."

"The situation organized labour finds itself in today is that many unions are literally fighting for their lives," Kealey said. "The political system now apparently serves the interests of Big Business. Nor is labour doing enough in its fight against government and business oppression. In addition to educating their membership, unions should not back away from militant action to back demands."

Although the labour movement is more political now than at any time

in its history, the pressure on blue-collar workers remains the same - the squeeze between wages and productivity. "Muzak supplied by G.M. cannot hide the fact that the speed of the line has been increased. The pressures are still there."

Traditional Marxian class distinction still exists, despite any efforts "to assimilate the workforce into society." And the "proletarianisation of society is increasing." According to Kealey it now includes service and white-collar workers. Labour's attempts to negotiate with business and government prior to last year's "day of protest" should have not been started, said Kealey.

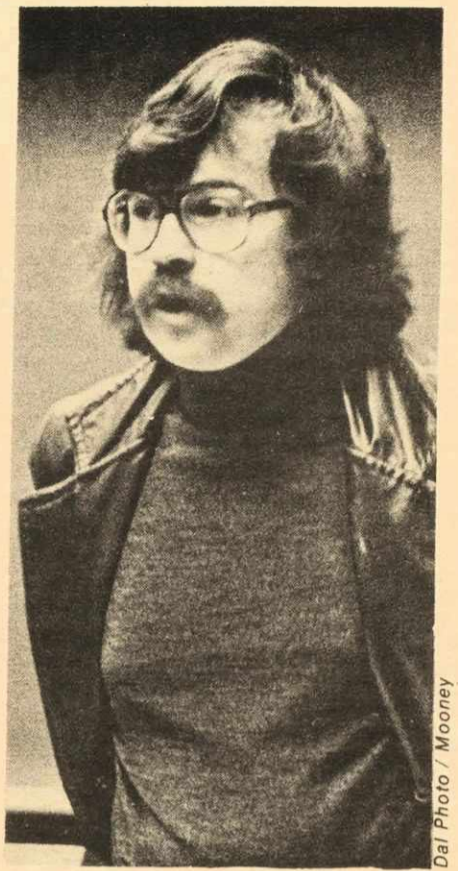
Labour should never have discussed voluntary controls with the government, said Kealey, while failing to educate itself to resist a unilateral imposition of controls. The C.L.C. failed to effectively follow-up the general strike, reducing its effectiveness. Kealey questions organized labour's current de-emphasis of strikes in favour of

less disruptive tactics. In their dealings with management "the most successful unions are those with the most militant membership. There's a lesson there."

Kealey presented a rather more rational defence of traditional socialist ideology than one usually finds among devotees. Those in attendance were neither academic purists nor manic leftists in for a pep talk before going out to man the barricades but several were of the moderate socialist spirit only a shade left of general acceptability. There was one chap selling papers and distributing free Marxist conversation at the door, but he didn't stay for the lecture.

The opinions voiced from the largely uncommunicative audience indicated a feeling in the unions that the time has come to dig in for the battle.

The dominant thought seems to be that negotiation and cooperation will not advance the interests of labour, and that its dealings with business and government will be characterized by conflict.



Greg Kealey

Dal Photo / Mooney

# Acadia faculty proposals rejected

Wolfville (CUP)—Year long contract negotiations between the faculty and administration of Acadia University suffered another set back last week when the University's Board of Governors rejected a recommendation by a conciliation officer on a key issue and the proposals of their own negotiators.

The board turned down a recommendation by their negotiators to set up a review procedure for Deans who receive a vote of non-confidence from faculty. The board also released its negotiating team and moved that negotiations be done by the board's executive committee, represented by university vice-president Donald Archibald.

Faculty association president Tom Regan said Tuesday that the faculty will seek legal advice on whether the administration can be charged with "Bargaining In Bad

Faith" on the matter.

The board rejected Nova Scotia Labour Ministry conciliator W.J. McCallum's recommendation that the firing of music department Professor Michael McCarthy be referred to an arbitration board for a binding decision.

Reacting to the board's decision Regan said the faculty association asked for a special meeting with the board's executive to try to reach a compromise.

Regan complained the board was "undoing six months of negotiations in retreating from a compromise offered by their administration negotiators on the Deans review committee issue".

On the McCarthy issue the board of governors decided the matter was "non negotiable". McCarthy's contract was not renewed in 1975 and the firing led to large demonstra-

tions of support by faculty and students. The administration offered McCarthy a cash settlement but will not consider reinstatement.

The negotiators had agreed to give McCallum's proposal to the governors at a meeting of both negotiating teams last Thursday, but the meeting was cancelled with the release of the board's negotiators.

Archibald denied the board was operating in bad faith, qualifying their decision. "We've just said we need more time to study the situation. Our position is that the review of Deans conduct can't

possibly be included in a collective agreement because Deans are not part of the bargaining unit."

Regan said any decision on further action by the faculty will not take place until the next regularly scheduled faculty meeting on November 1. Regan said the contract would be the first for Acadia faculty who he claimed are among the lowest paid in the Maritimes. The greatest contract issue, he said, is not money but a "merit clause" currently in effect where faculty at equal levels can get paid more than others.

# Montreal police raid gay bar

MONTREAL (CUP)—A raid by the Montreal City Police on a downtown gay bar has provoked organized reaction from the city's gay community and harsh criticism from senior officials within the police department.

More than 150 people were held overnight and subjected to tests for venereal disease following the raid, in which police officers wore bullet-proof vests and carried machine guns.

The following night, nearly 1,000 people crowded the streets of downtown Montreal in support of the Oct. 23 protest staged by the association pour les droits des gais du Quebec (ADGQ) against the raid. Two people were arrested for assaulting an officer and two others were arrested for breaking windows, as police used motorcycles to clear the streets. At least two

people were knocked down by police.

A top official of the police department's vice and drug squad condemned the actions of the department's divisional morality squad which carried out the raid, saying that it was ridiculous to arrest 150 people as "found-ins" in a licenced bar. He added that the officer who authorized the raid will be in for a difficult time if the charges don't stick.

A spokesperson for the morality squad defended the raid: "If we didn't have proof to arrest all those people, we wouldn't have arrested them. We have been going there and every time we go we see gross indecency. I have nothing against homosexuals. I have nothing against them sleeping in private but when you get gross indecency in public, that's another story."

# Unions withdraw money from banks

CALGARY (CUP)—Student money is disappearing from Canadian banks.

At the Oct. 23 National Union of Students conference, delegates from student councils across Canada decided to withdraw their deposits from four of the largest banks. These banks provide direct loans to the government of South Africa, "thereby becoming a part-

ner in the prosecution of its apartheid policies," according to NUS.

The banks are: the Bank of Montreal; the Toronto-Dominion Bank; the Royal Bank of Canada, and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Conference delegates suggested using the services of credit unions instead of banks.

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at the SUB on Thursday, November 10, at 6:00, returning by Saturday noon. Registration forms are available at the Chaplains' Office in the SUB or contact Helen Greenough, 422-6325, for information.

Transportation and meals will be provided, as well as a big fireplace to keep us warm. Registration is \$10.00. Come on and join us and help form Capernaum!

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