

# Dal wipes hands clean

by Daniele Gauvin

Dalhousie University and vice-president Andrew MacKay have been charged with unfair labour practices in connection with the ongoing strike of the Dalhousie cleaning staff.

Representatives of CUPE 1392 laid the charges with the Nova Scotia Labour Standards Board after the University notified the striking workers that they could no longer consider themselves employ-

ive Al Cunningham, the strikers still consider themselves employees of the university and intend to continue picketing. He said every effort will be made to bring the University back to the bargaining table.

Local President Florence Logan insists that the cleaners are wary of Modern's reputation in its field. "We don't want Modern", she said. "They drive people like horses. They have a bad reputation

"if Modern is to make a profit at Dalhousie and save the University money at the same time, then a substantial reduction in cleaning staff can be forecast; this could come about through transferring workers to other work settings in the Modern network, or through attrition by making working conditions intolerable for some of the staff."

The report adds that the 1978 wage levels for Modern Cleaners contracts with the Victoria General Hospital, the I.W. Killam Hospital and the

Lord Nelson Hotel, range from \$3.25 to \$3.50 per hour, while Dalhousie is currently offering its employees between \$4.22 and \$5.24 per hour.

The report concludes that both the university and the workers would benefit from a reversal of the contracting-out decision and a return to bargaining, "about the original issues of the strike."

The fact that Modern recently lost its contract with Scotia Square and may not have its contracts with the V.G. Hospital and the Airport renewed has made the mem-

bership even more determined to renew bargaining with the Dalhousie administration. However, a source at Modern insists "workers have never lost seniority, benefits or their jobs because of a contracting-out arrangement."

At the moment, CUPE Local 1392 is awaiting the outcome of the charges pending before the Nova Scotia Labor Standards Board. However, according to Cunningham, a one-day general shut-down of the university is a strong possibility for later this month.

by Alan Adams

**A switch to Modern Building Cleaning will mean a loss of \$50,000 in revenue for Provincial Sanitary Products Limited, a Halifax firm that has been supplying Dalhousie with cleaning materials for over 15 years.**

A spokesperson for Provincial Sanitary said "what it means is all the cleaning material and allied equipment supplied by our company will be lost to our competitor." He added that Provincial Sanitary

received no warning that Dalhousie was considering a switch in cleaning contracts, and now "it seems all the profits will be going to Ontario."

A spokesperson at Modern Building said that the firm has its own chemical business in that of Dustbane Products G.F. Shortt Limited of Halifax, a subsidiary of Modern Building. The spokesperson added the supplies would be coming from Ontario and not from local chemical dealers.

ees of Dalhousie University.

In a letter to the Union members dated December 21, MacKay notified them that the University no longer intended to provide its own cleaning service but had awarded the cleaning contract to an outside professional firm.

The Union, however, has refused to negotiate with the contractors, Modern Building Cleaners, a division of Dustbane Enterprises Limited. According to CUPE representa-

around town; companies that sign a contract with them don't often repeat. What happens to the workers if Dalhousie dumps Modern in a few years? What happens to our pension rights, our vacations, our union and our jobs?"

A research group from Dalhousie's Institute of Public Affairs has released a report critical of Modern that would appear to justify the Union's fears. The report states that

IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU WANT TO GO TO CLASS



In Grawood

## Suds up 5¢

by Elissa Barnard

Beer prices rose by five cents at the Grawood Monday due to a five per cent increase effective January 3 in the retail price of packaged beer sold in provincial liquor stores.

A bottle of Maritime brew will now cost 90c and a bottle of western beer 95c.

The price of beer sold at the Graduate House may also rise by a nickle to 80c per bottle of local beer, depending on a

decision to be made by the Graduate Council within the next week, Bob Bagges, Graduate House manager said.

The Graduate House sells no western beer.

This is the first price increase in bottled beer in Nova Scotia since October, 1976, according to D.W. Pulsifer, general manager of the Nova Scotia Liquor Commission.



Photo/Justin Hall

## Hicks torpedos Halifax shipyard

by Alan Adams

Dalhousie University president Henry Hicks has been sharply criticized for public comments he made concerning the future of the Halifax Shipyards.

In an interview in the January 10 issue of the **Chronicle Herald** Hicks stated that "dying industries" like the Halifax Shipyards should

be closed in favour of "realizing our potential to move into new industries more relevant to the 21st Century." Hicks blamed the private sector for lack of enthusiasm in investing in marine research.

J.K. Bell, of the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour, criticized Hicks' statements saying "it is unfair for the

president of a university to make a comment when he is not apparently knowledgeable about the industry." He added "just because the industry is in a slump, there is no reason to close it out." Bell said a parallel would be like asking Hicks to close down Dal because of the obvious surplus of graduates on the labour market.