

Beaver workers organizing union at SUB

by Geoff Clare

The Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Union Local 662 applied for certification Monday to represent workers at the SUB Garden. The thirty-five workers are employed by Beaver Foods Ltd., the Ontario based catering company which also operates the cafeterias at Shirreff Hall, Howe Hall and the Tupper Building.

The Nova Scotia Labour Relations Board will conduct a vote this Friday afternoon to determine whether a majority of the workers wish union representation. Under the Nova Scotia Trade Union Act a union requires 40% of the workers to sign cards in order

to conduct a vote. According to Bob Andstein, Organizer for the Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Union, a strong majority of the workers at the Garden has signed cards. The organizing drive has been going on since early January.

Beaver Foods has refused any comment on the union drive. Ewald Mertens, Regional Director for Beaver Foods, told the *Gazette*, however, that the workers at cafeterias run by Beaver at Mount Allison and UNB are unionized. Under the Trade Union Act, Beaver cannot interfere or discriminate

against any employee who actively participates in a union organizing drive.

Last year there was a controversial firing at the Garden of a popular employee who filed a complaint with the Labour Standards Division of the Department of Labour. At the same time there were accusations that Kurt Forster, manager of the Garden, was playing favourites and picking on some employees.

Workers told the *Gazette* this week that the same problem of partiality is occurring now, leading to increased support for the union. But their major complaints are poor wages and lack of job security.

Beaver pays its workers in the \$3.00 to \$4.00 dollar range and apparently workers doing the same job are receiving different rates of pay. One worker said, "We're just not getting paid well enough for the work we do. Now, we have to accept whatever wage increase management feels like handing out, however small. We have no say." Another worker said that Beaver pays "poverty wages." According to Statistics Canada, a family of four living in Halifax in 1981 requires a minimum of \$6.00 per hour over a forty hour week to live above the poverty line. Any less than this and they are unable to provide

themselves with the basic necessities of life.

Other workers said their main reason for supporting the union is job security. "The simple fact is that without a union we have no real job security. Tomorrow, next week or next month we can be

fired or disciplined for practically no reason at all," said one.

The vote will be counted at a hearing of the Labour Relations Board in the near future. According to Andstein, "Our immediate goal is certification followed by negotiations for a fair contract which will im-

prove the wages and working conditions of the employees. I know that the workers at the SUB Garden are looking forward to joining with the labour movement in our common goal of building better and more secure lives for working people. We are confident of victory."

Quebec fees for international students may double

MONTREAL [CUP]—All non-Canadians studying at Quebec universities will have to pay \$3400 in tuition fees next year unless the provincial government changes its proposed budget for university financing.

Next year's budget, revealed by Education Minister Camille Laurin last week, will rise the international students' tuition to an amount equal to 50 per cent of the per capita operating costs for Quebec universities.

Currently, international students pay \$1500 tuition per year, compared with \$570 for Canadians.

If implemented, the new tuition rate will be the highest in Canada.

However, there is a possibility that the government will

change the fee structure to allow visa students already enrolled in the province's universities to pay a lower rate.

McGill vice-president Edward Stansbury said, "it says there will be no grandfather clause—that means it's effective immediately for anybody already here, however, they (the Quebec government) have said they might reconsider that."

"In almost all certainty, there will be a fee hike for everybody but it might be as big for the people who are already here," he said.

McGill dean of students Michael Herschorn said it would be impossible for McGill to apply a university student aid program to cope with the hike.

"In order to provide aid in that size you have to have money. It's not the case that there's money lying around now. You're talking about a large amount of money, \$4.5 million, and we can't make a dent in it," he said.

Herschorn also said the fee hike may prevent international students from obtaining entry visas.

"You have to remember that foreign students, in the process of renewing their visas, have to establish that they can support themselves,

including their fees so the immigration process may well incite a different problem for many foreign students because the government will revise their calculations," he said.

Gazette bloodletter gets bled at semi-annual Donor Clinic



"I don't want to do this."



"Why am I here?"



"A-a-a-ah! Mary, Mary, I want Mary!"



"It's yellow! I can't believe it, it's yellow!"

The Red Cross bleeding session, held Tuesday and Wednesday in McInnes Room, was expecting about 700 donations, enough to supply the province for about 3 days. Monday's clinic at Mount Saint Vincent was a failure with only 94 of the expected 150 donations received. As of Tuesday afternoon the Dalhousie clinic was ahead of its goal with 275 donations.