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4) Current expenditures on cleaners' wages and fringe benefits are closer to \$2 million than \$1 million annually. The difference between what CUPE is asking (19%) and the University is offering (7%) must therefore be roughly \$200,000.

5) By way of comparison, the book budget has been effectively frozen at \$1 million for three years in a row, although book prices have risen more rapidly than the cost of living.

6) Dalhousie got only a 7% increase in its operating grant from MPHEC last April. Other revenues increased less than this.

7) MPHEC has threatened to decrease the operating grant of any university whose operating deficit is excessive.

Dalhousie's senior administrators are dedicated human beings making hard choices under these externally-imposed constraints. There is no such thing as a free lunch: more money to clean buildings means less for scholarships, for libraries, for faculty, or for maintaining the residences. The President and the Vice-Presidents probably hate poverty as much as you do, but they are responsible for the financial well-being of an

educational institution, not an anti-poverty crusade. If you (or I) were running Dalhousie, the priorities might be set somewhat differently but the same constraints and tough choices would still have to be faced. In reporting on library resources, you seemed aware of this. Wouldn't you still choose to put education first?

**Yours faithfully,  
Paul B. Huber**

**Editor's note:** Paul Huber has chosen to ignore the main points brought out in last week's editorial: 1) the difference between the University's offer and CUPE's demand is marginal in terms of the University's overall budget. 2) the University could come up with the money in several areas a)—interests accumulating on the 7% increase budgeted for faculty salaries but not yet paid, or b)—by charging the interests on its accumulated deficit to capital expenditures and creating a surplus in operating budget.

The Gazette discussed these matters with the University's budgetary personnel over a week ago and they did not contest the basics of this argument.

The most important part of last week's editorial however, is that the Gazette was not suggesting that the University was being "selfish" but that it had chosen to take a hard line on a relatively weak union in

order to strengthen its position when negotiations begin with the more powerful, i.e. the faculty.

condition of life in this community?

That we can go on not trusting each other?



## Chaplain questions

### To the Gazette:

As I walk to work each day during these past few weeks, I am reminded that all is not well at Dalhousie. Each time I walk by the picketers this fact is driven home to me. One effect on me has been to try and reflect on what is really happening. What does this present strike and its related activities symbolize? From the conversations one hears around the University, one realizes that it symbolizes some very basic assumptions. The evidence would seem to indicate that the following are some of those assumptions:

- That might is right?
- That power is the only way to get what I need or want?
- That the stronger power will win?
- That conflict and polarization are necessary?
- That when the pie is divided in a community, the strongest will get the bigger slices?
- That my wants take precedence over your needs?
- That lack of trust is a

That human suffering, caused by others, is to be condoned or even blessed.

That humiliation of others is a valid tool of accomplishment?

That a person's value is determined by his or her earning power and economic income?

That the law of the jungle should be acceptable for Dalhousie?

That the only thing that people can understand is power?

If these are our assumptions, and our actions would seem to indicate that they are, then maybe it is time for us to re-examine our assumptions. Our assumptions do determine our actions.

As a university are we not basically a community of scholars, seeking the truth? Has not the truth shown us that a community cannot survive with the above mentioned assumptions? Do we have to make a conscious effort to become a community? Do we want to? Do we want to share the resources of the community, so as to respond to the needs of the members of the community. If the pie can only be of a certain size, can we not cut it in such a way that the needs of all are met? That it is possible for the stronger to

help the weaker. Do we want this? Do we want to be honest with each other? Do we want to say what is really available? Do we want to give a days work for a days pay? Do we want to come together and look at the actual resources and needs of the university community? Do we want to make our decisions on the basis of these facts? Can we trust each other enough to do this? Do we want to?

With the approach of Christmas we are offered many reminders that we are members of a community; that it is a community time; that we should be doing something about it. Maybe we have an opportunity, here at Dalhousie, to pay more than lip service to our desire for community.

**Sincerely,  
Fr. Joe Hattie O.M.I.  
University Chaplain.**

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he had consulted with him. Power, however, also feels management should be rewarded for their efforts.

In other strike related events, Evidence Research Associates Limited hired at the beginning of the strike to monitor strikers and strike supporters, have been dismissed from their duties. Dal Chief of Security and Traffic, Art O'Connell, refused to comment on why they were dismissed.

Grievances have been filed against the University management concerning directives being handed down to members of the International Union of Operating Engineers. IUOE business manager Reg Fenerty said "there hasn't been any direct discipline taken" against members of his shop but that the pressure is still on them to perform these duties. Fenerty said he brought the topic up with management and was told "if you don't like what we are doing, then file a grievance."

\*

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