

costing \$ 7000 a day

Strike moves into third week

by Alan Adams

As the strike between the Dalhousie administration and members of CUPE, Local 1392, nears the end of its second week, there appears to be no end in sight as both parties remain firm on positions taken by individual negotiating teams. The dispute concerns wages paid to CUPE members.

CUPE is requesting an 85c per hour increase in their contract over the next two years, while the administration is offering a 31c increase for the same period. Wages for union members range from \$3.82 to \$4.84 per hour.

Strike Support

Around the campus support for the strikers is mounting day by day.

A Strike Support Committee has been formed and has been holding strategy meetings almost daily. Chairperson Mike Lynk told the *Gazette* the committee's objectives are "to build as broad a base of support for the strikers demands as possible." Lynk added that the committee is composed of Dal students, faculty and staff.

He explained that in building this broad support the committee will be issuing regular information pamphlets, organizing sympathetic people to walk the picket lines, and initiating a petition supporting the strikers position that there should be no scabbing on campus. Lynk defined scabbing "as doing the work usually done by cleaners."

Both the Dalhousie Staff Association (DSA) and the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) have come out in support of the strikers, while the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) will be meeting today to discuss their position.

DSA President Jane Mersereau said that DSA members have been asked not to perform duties usually done by maintenance workers while the strike is on. IUOE Local 968 Vice-President Bob Leger also said that members of his union will not be doing any scabbing. "We're not going to clean and do the duties of the people on the streets."

DFA Vice-President Michael Cross explained that the faculty "are not officially part of any support group", but added "there is a good chance the executive will go further than it has."

Scabbing

Cunningham told the *Gazette* that although the support for the strikers is exceptional, a few people don't "realize the seriousness of their scabbing efforts." He said the university "is openly encouraging people to do our work." He accused the administration of using pressure

tactics to get the students to do maintenance work.

Cunningham said that signs have been posted in residences asking students to pitch in to keep the university clean during the strike. When asked about this, Dean of Men Clem Norwood replied "no comment, no comment. I'm leaving my office and I don't want to talk to anybody."

Vice-President Vagianos said "the purpose of the university is that it is here to provide an education in a most hospitable environment." He hoped that every student had been able to decide with their own conscience about their position on the strike. Vagianos explained that the cleaning of Dalhousie is presently being performed by management personnel and he hopes the dispute will end soon. "My muscles are getting tired."

Costs per day in cleaning Dal

CUPE Representative Cunningham estimates the strike is costing Dal "a minimum of \$7000 a day", everything included. He personally thinks most of this goes towards the overtime being lodged by management personnel. He added that the cleaning done can best be rated at 30% efficient.

Vagianos says that he has no idea of the extra costs involved in management clean-up. He said that between 50-75 people are involved in the actual cleaning and as yet the administration hasn't totalled the overtime bill. He said that he had earlier promised not to hire extra personnel to aid in the cleaning, but added "4-6 extras have been hired by security."

Conditions at Dal

When the *Gazette* contacted the Halifax Board of Health concerning conditions at Dal, Senior Health Inspector E.A. Collum of the Atlantic Health Unit said "there have been no complaints registered with our department and consequently we see no need for a special inspection." When asked if in fact a health inspector had visited Dal since the strike began, Collum replied, "We cannot answer this question because of the Freedom of Information clause within our department."

Howe Hall representative Dick Matthews, however, told the *Gazette* that the residences have become noticeably dirtier. Matthews said there were silverfish in the hallways and "gross little flies" that never were around before.

Matthews said a Department of Health official (a Dalhousie alumnus) visited the residence on Tuesday and said that he found the residences cleaner than when he lived there several years before.

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Warned by the Halifax Police to "keep moving and be quiet" or arrested for disturbing the peace the picketers walked in a continuous circle in front of the truck.

Administration says

No scabbing —no work

by Alan Adams

Members in the carpentry shop of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 968, have been threatened with layoffs for refusing to perform duties usually done by striking members of CUPE 1392.

The threat came after IUOE members refused to load and unload delivery trucks destined for work sites around Dalhousie.

Bob Leger, Chief Shop Steward of the carpentry shop, said in defying the order union members decided "it's not our work and we don't want to do

it." Leger said that they have never had to perform loading duties before and can't see why they should do them now. He added there is nothing in their contract that states they have to do this.

He cited Section 51, part 3, paragraph "C" of the Trade Union Act which "allows you to refuse work normally done by those on strike, without fear or reprisal from the university." Leger said that his shop met and discussed the directive and then voted to defy the order.

Roger Jollimore, Co-ordinator of the Physical Plant, feels the carpenters should obey

the directive from management. In reviewing their contract he said "there is nothing in there that says they can't move material." He added that management isn't asking anybody to do anything out of the ordinary. Jollimore said that harsh disciplinary action will not be taken against the carpenters but lay-offs will result if materials don't reach working sites.

CUPE Local 1392 President, Al Cunningham, said the university "is trying to split the unions" by ordering the carpenters to move materials. The university is zooming in on the union in efforts to break the strike, he said.

See centre
for more
on strike