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Cleaners may Strike

by Marc Allain

For the third time in three years Dalhousie's cleaning personnel are threatening to strike if their wage demands are not met. Contract negotiations between the University and CUPE local 1392, the union which represents over 200 cleaning staff, were broken off on Friday, October 13, when the University reduced its wage offer to the union.

The university had originally offered the union a two year contract with increases of 40c an hour for the first year and 25c for the second. The union membership, however, rejected the two year offer and directed their negotiators to seek a one year agreement. On Friday the university informed the union representatives that they were only prepared to give the workers a 31c an hour increase for a one year contract.

Al Cunningham, a national CUPE rep, said the reduced offer is indicative of the attitude the university has towards negotiating with its employees. "Nobody wants a strike," Cunningham said, "but there comes a time when there is no alternative. The University is pushing us out onto the street."

Gordon Leece, a negotiator for the Administration, said the original wage offer was tied to the two year contract and that the university reduced its offer to what it thought it could afford. "I'm only middle management,"

Leece said, "but I trust the administration. If they say all we can afford is a 31c increase then I believe that."

Leece blamed the University's low offer on the level of government funding the University received last year. "The provincial government gave itself a 12% increase and then turned around and gave Dal 7%, he said.

Most union members the **Gazette** polled appeared prepared to strike if the University's offer wasn't upped. Bat Barret, cleaner who works out of the SUB, said, "Prices are rising all the time and our wages just aren't keeping up." She complained that the Administration's pleas for restraint were one sided. "I'd like to see Henry Hicks try and raise six kids on \$4.50 an hour," she said.

Henry Hicks is the university President.

Wages for the CUPE workers range from a low of \$3.82 an hour to a high of \$4.84.

The executive of the Union will be meeting this week to map out strike strategy. A meeting of the union membership has been called for Wednesday October 25 at which time a strike vote is expected. The union will be in a legal strike position as of October 30.

CUPE workers have voted to strike over wage issues three times in the last three years. Each time a strike has been averted by last minute negotiations.

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St. Mary's student

Deported for pennies

A foreign student at St. Mary's University has been ordered to leave the country by Nov. 4. Kow "Peter" Chang, a first year commerce student at SMU, was handed his departure notice after immigration authorities decided he had violated the Immigration Act by accepting 15 cents from two children in exchange for some candy.

Under the Immigration Act, international students are not allowed to support themselves or to help defray the cost of their education by taking employment while in Canada. Chang allegedly violated this act on Aug. 2 by helping his sister with some chores at the Chang Family Take-Out restaurant in Musquodoboit Harbour.

On the day in question Chang was awakened by a milk truck blowing its horn

outside the restaurant. When he realized that the woman who usually opened the store was not there yet, Chang got up and let the milk man in to make his delivery. Meanwhile two young children came in wanting to purchase some candy.

RCMP Constable Gordon Reid and Immigration officer Woods entered the restaurant shortly after it opened and witnessed Chang's actions. They claim that Chang operated the cash register when he sold the candy. Chang claims that the children got the candy and put the 15 cents on the counter, and that he merely placed the money beside the register. There is also conflicting evidence as to whether or not Chang sold a cup of coffee and a package of cigarettes to another unidentified customer.

Immigration officials claim that Woods and Reid happened to be in the store at that time because they stopped in for something to eat on their way to Sheet Harbor on other business. Woods, who has had previous dealings with the Chang family, recognized Chang and knew that as a visa student he was not allowed to work. Chang has lived in Canada since July of 1976 and was allowed to work until he was granted student status last January.

Under the Immigration Act employment is defined as any activity for which "a person receives or might be reasonably expected to receive valuable consideration". Chang says he was just trying to help his sister out and that he had not intention of getting paid for what he did.

However, on Sept. 21 Nova

Scotia Immigration adjudicator Michael Sloan ruled that Chang had indeed engaged in "employment" as defined by the Immigration Act. Since the person who usually carried out the duties was a paid employee, Sloan said that Chang could be "reasonably expected" to receive payment as well. Six days later, Chang was given the departure notice telling him to leave Canada by Nov. 4.

Chang, who is being represented by Dalhousie Legal Aid, is appealing the decision before a federal court. Chang's lawyers feel that he did not violate the Immigration Act on Aug. 2, because he was merely doing his sister a favour for which he did not expect to be paid. No date has been set for the appeal.

Immigration authorities say that Chang will not have to

leave the country before his appeal comes up, even if it is after the Nov. 4 departure date. Should the federal court rule against Chang, however, he will have to leave Canada before he may apply for re-entry.

Chang has informed the **Gazette** that he had no intentions of remaining in Canada permanently. He had planned to return to his native Malaysia after finishing his studies at SMU.

A departure notice differs from the more severe deportation order in that the person agrees to leave the country on or before the departure date. Once out of the country, the person is allowed to reapply for admission into Canada. It is not clear whether Chang will be able to reapply from the U.S. or whether he will be forced to go back to Malaysia should he lose his appeal.