

# Custodian injured in saw accident

by Alistair Croll

Doug Briand, a Dalhousie Uni-

versity custodian, lost three fingers in a sawing accident Monday night.

Briand, who was cleaning in the Forrest Building's Department of Occupational Therapy, turned on a table saw by accident, and severed his middle, ring, and little fingers when he went to switch it off.

Briand is still at the Victoria General Hospital. He says he feels "okay", but isn't sure when he will be released.

"I was mopping the room and the top of the mop hit the on switch," he says. "I moved to the side of the machine and reached

for the off switch — that was a mistake."

Briand says he went into shock almost immediately, but was whisked off to the hospital. "Thank god for the people in the building. They called security, and security called an ambulance. They could hear me calling for help."

David Ripley, a technician in the Occupational Therapy department, is generally the only person to use the saw. "I use it to prepare materials for a short woodworking course," he said.

Ripley said the large saw's blade is usually left uncovered. The saw is also left plugged in, but Ripley said the saw would be "very difficult to get started" as the controls are under the table itself.

Glendon George, co-ordinator of the Insurance and Employee Benefits department, said he had not yet received a claim for the accident.

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## Union blasts pay equity legislation

by Padraic Brake

HALIFAX (CUP) — Nova Scotia's new pay equity law will not benefit women as it now stands, a Canadian Union of Public Employees official says.

On the contrary, "[Women] are going to be excluded from the law," Sandi Howell, CUPE's pay equity officer said.

The Act examines ten workers doing the same job. If six or more are women, it is considered a 'female group,' or male if 60 per cent are male. Salaries for the two groups will then be compared to see if there is pay equity.

"That set up is fine for the government workplace where there are more than ten workers in the one work place, but for hospitals and school boards it is not going to help them at all," said Howell.

Legislation to guarantee equal pay for work of equal value, or pay equity, already covers government employees. University workers will be covered by the Spring of next year.

"If we generalize from experiences in other universities then there will be benefits," Dalhousie University official Michael Roughneen said, in support of the law.

Only Ontario and Manitoba have legislated pay equity for university employees.

Howell said they have not been focusing on the university component yet. "The problems with the act for school boards and hospitals may be the same for the university workers."

To change the problems they see, CUPE is suggesting the government not limit comparisons to individual work places. "Groups should be developed on a province wide basis," Howell said.

"This legislation was introduced just before the last election. We'll see if the government knew what it was doing or whether it was an honest mistake and is willing to change it," said Howell.

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