

## Committee formed

# Support for strikers

by Marc Allain and  
Valerie Mansour

About 70 people gathered in the Dal SUB on Wednesday to form a support committee for the striking CUPE workers. The committee plans to produce a leaflet explaining the Union's position, help with picketing duties and assist the workers in any other ways possible.

Denise Soucy-Roberge, a member of Dalhousie's student council and one of three students on a six person steering sub-committee said the main purpose of the meeting was to help gather and coordinate support for the strikers within the university community. "Several strikes have already happened on other campuses across the country and so far the ones that have been settled quickly are those that have generated widespread support from the community", she said.

Roberge said support for the strikers shouldn't be interpreted as a call to engage in sabotage - activity. "People shouldn't go around plugging up toilets or deliberately making a mess but they shouldn't be doing any of the work normally done by CUPE workers" she said. "Having the cleaners out isn't going to hurt the administration as long as they can get other people to do the work. The more work that gets done the longer the strike will last."

Bob Leger, a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers and a steering committee member said members of his union had pledged not to do any CUPE work.

The committee will attempt to get as many other groups and associations on campus to give their support for the strikers. The Dalhousie Student Council voted over-

whelmingly to remain neutral in the strike at the regular council meeting last Sunday. Before voting on the matter they heard the positions of both the university and the union as presented by University Vice-president Louis Vagianos and CUPE representative Al Cunningham. (See Council briefs p. 7)

The over 200 Dalhousie maintenance employees represented by CUPE Local 1392 have been on strike since Monday November 6. The workers want an 85¢ an hour

increase while the university is offering 31¢.

Management personnel have been attempting to keep most University buildings clean. The University has said they will not hire scabs to replace the workers, but students are being encouraged to do some cleaning.

John Graham, general manager of the Student Union Building, said the problem in the SUB is security not cleaning. "The washrooms, especially, are being sabotaged.

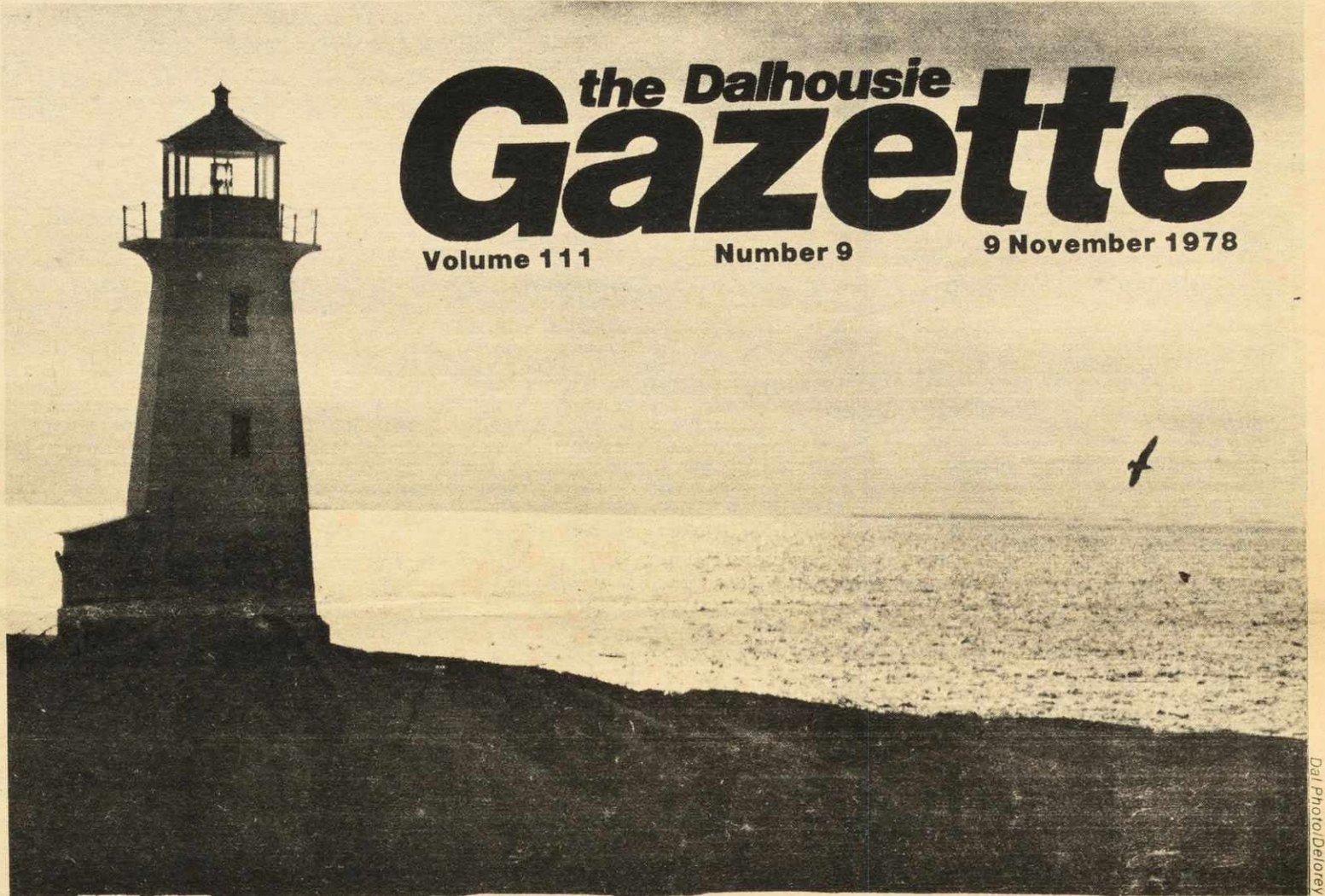
The Student Union Building will be closed Sunday and all entertainment events have been cancelled, Graham said. "If the building was open on the weekend, it would be in no condition to remain open next week."

The administration called in police cars to the campus Tuesday, to accompany garbage trucks. Roger Jollimore, physical plant coordinator, said the police came to explain to the strikers that they must stay on the sidewalk and continue to move. "The officer

was firm but gentle. A number of people must have been misinformed and they stood in front of a Shore garbage truck. City police were called in to emphasize the strikers' rights, but not to harrass them," Jollimore said.

The Mail trucks will not cross the picket lines and instead, the university is picking up the mail and bringing it to campus.

"We're doing our best to keep the university clean", said Jollimore. "We just hope it won't be a long strike".



## Nova Scotia students re-organize

by Valerie Mansour  
Canadian University Press

Student representatives from 11 Nova Scotia post-secondary institutions met in Halifax last weekend to found a provincial organization to replace the Atlantic Federation of Students (AFS).

AFS members decided two weeks ago that in view of severe membership losses outside Nova Scotia, an Atlantic student federation would no longer be feasible, and that a provincial organization should take its place.

The new organization, yet to be named, will be open to all student union members in the province. Membership will be determined by campus referenda with a per student fee levy.

The organization will have meetings every three to five weeks and each member institution will have one vote. The group's executive will consist of a chairperson, treasurer, and three members-at-large. Campus work is to be done by committees, whose

structure will be determined by the individual councils.

Howard Bashinski, an Acadia delegate said "The fact that we've built campus committees into our structure is exciting. That's the only

basic change I can see from the structure of AFS. People had done their homework for this meeting, but more could have been accomplished. It remains to be seen if the talk will turn into action."

Denise Soucy-Roberge of the host Dalhousie delegation agreed that more could have been achieved. "What we did was pretty good though", she said.

"I can't see a provincial

organization coming together until next fall", said Roberge. "People could have decided to form an interim organization realizing it wouldn't be fully constitutional. They continued on page 6

## Faculty union formed by Friday

by Eric Simpson

The Dalhousie Faculty Association and the university administration have finally agreed on the composition of the Association's bargaining unit. A last minute reconciliation on Tuesday, October 31 resolved the contentious issue of the status of senior research associates.

Although the agreement does not mention the senior research associates per se, Michael Cross, vice president of the DFA, said that "all but one of the persons in contention were included in the unit."

R.S. Rodgers, president

of the DFA, said that the Association will continue to press for the right to negotiate on behalf of all individuals with academic rank.

Ballots were cast last April to decide on the formal certification of the DFA as the official bargaining agent for the faculty. The ballots are now being counted by the Nova Scotia Labour Relations Board and the results are expected by Friday, November 10. Cross predicted that 75% of the vote would be in favour of the resolution. There are 636 faculty members eligible to vote.

During the waiting period since the April vote, the DFA

has drawn up a 30 page contract which, as a first collective agreement, covers such areas as appointment, promotion, tenure, grievance, vacation and salary scales.

Cross noted that the average salary of a Dalhousie faculty members is 20% below the national average. He also said that special attention will be given to the protection of part-time workers and the prevention of discriminatory hiring practices.

The DFA's negotiating committee will consist of Rodgers (Psychology), Cross (History), S.B. Sherwin (Philosophy), one other permanent member

(as yet unnamed), and one rotating member.

Cross expressed hope that the collective bargaining process would begin within three weeks and progress throughout the Christmas holiday. Cross said a certain amount of "stalling" could be expected on the part of the administration, but he added that with goodwill, a new contract could be drawn up by early next year. The faculty has been without a contract since July 1.

Approximately one-half of Canada's university faculty are unionized at the present time.