

Support staff Without contract

This summer Dalhousie drastically cut back hiring of students in the maintenance department. This and other grievances will be aired during contract talks this fall between the negotiating committee for the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 1392 representing Dalhousie maintenance workers and the University Administration. The existing contract expired September 1.

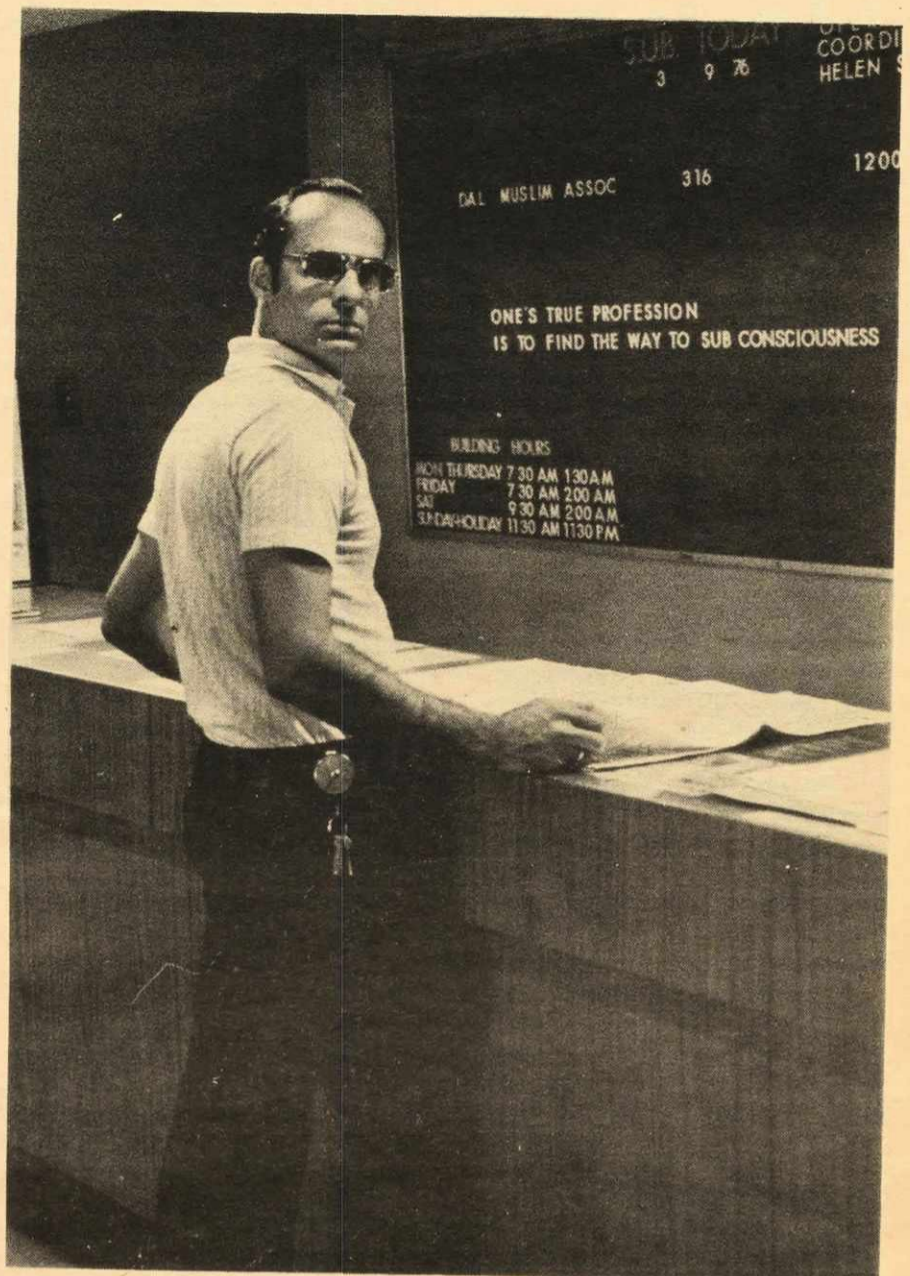
Bill Kelly, President of Local 1392, said that in the upcoming negotiations, "we will be looking for the usual things, job security, some more benefits, and something opened up in the health and welfare of union members". He elaborated on the last area by saying that he was concerned about maintenance men and women being subject to "pollution hazards". At the moment the university is installing

a nuclear reactor beneath the Psychology Department in the Life Sciences Building.

During contract talks a year ago the chief topic of discussion was the question of wages. At that time, for example, light duty female maintenance workers were getting only ten cents an hour above the minimum wage. This amounted to under five thousand dollars a year. The federal government has set the poverty level in Canada at approximately seven thousand dollars a year. The Union succeeded in obtaining approximately a dollar increase after negotiations. During talks this fall the objective of the Union is wage parity with City of Halifax maintenance workers. Presently, City of Halifax workers receive between four-fifty and five dollars an hour.

Last year the maintenance workers did not receive the agreed upon increase until after a considerable delay. The University explained that the cause was the failure of the Board of Governors to ratify the agreement. Bill Kelly says this year "we will not stand by a repeat of this".

The Union Local also does not recognize the Anti-Inflation Board theme. Mr. Kelly commented "I will be negotiating on the basis that we will still have collective bargaining. The government has tried to destroy areas of negotiating in a free and democratic manner". He also commented with appreciation on the support received from some members of the student body during difficult periods in last year's contract negotiations and hopes that the maintenance workers will continue to find support among the students this year.



Dal Photo / Walsh
Support staff at Dalhousie are again without a contract, their last one having expired on September 1. This involves the cleaning and maintenance staffs of all the university buildings including the SUB. In previous years negotiations with the university surrounded the question of wages; this year there is a new element in the talks -- health and welfare of union employees. Many union employees are uncomfortable with the installation of the nuclear reactor in the Life Sciences building and want compensation for any health hazard.

National Student Day

OTTAWA (CUP) -- Student councils across Canada plan to demonstrate their opposition to increasing financial barriers in post-secondary education on National Student Day, to be held on November 9.

National and regional committees will co-ordinate local campus actions dealing with government cutbacks in higher education funding, tuition fee hikes, regressive student aid programs and high student unemployment.

National Student Day (NSD) was proposed at the National Union of Students (NUS / UNE) annual meeting in Winnipeg last May, and was subsequently adopted by most regional and provincial student organizations.

The November 9 activities will largely be co-ordinated by the individual student unions, and could range from information campaigns or educational seminars to class boycotts. The political content will be determined by the provincial situation, or "social surrounding", as suggested in the NUS resolution.

The responsibility of keeping NSD content along national themes while stressing regional problems falls to both national and provincial co-ordinating committees. To this end the British Columbia student federation (BCSF), the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS), the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) and NUS have all met at least once over the summer to plan their respective strategies.

Little activity, at least on the regional level, has begun in the Atlantic region, organized under the Atlantic Federation of Students (AFS), but the national co-ordinating committee meeting of August 1 mentioned reports of "campus planning" at several New Brunswick institutions.

Saskatchewan will attempt to recreate a provincial student federation while organizing NSD, the national co-ordinators reported, but little organizational activity has been done to date. Campuses in Manitoba run hot to cold in their enthusiasm, but two institutions have formed committees.

The August meeting revealed that efforts by NUS officials to work with L'Association des Etudiants du Quebec (ANEQ) continued to meet with little response.

The strategy set by the regions seems to reflect the original NUS concern that NSD be a "grass-roots" effort. For example, BCSF rejected the idea of a demonstration at the provincial legislature, and will initiate actions at the campus level stressing the themes of severe unemployment, threatened tuition hikes and current cutbacks. FAS' member campuses appear to favor a day of meetings, while promoting the provincial concern of student aid through a proposed newspaper. OFS held a province-wide strategy workshop in early August, but otherwise has concentrated on local work in the campus and community.

Publicity for the day is to be handled by all three levels of organization. Plans call for "intro-

ductory" posters and leaflets and a "declaration of 1976 NSD concerns" from NUS, who with the provinces will also produce pamphlets dealing with national issues. Both will release periodic leaflets and posters on the issues, while local campuses will publish leaflets with "national and provincial input" and be solely responsible for publici-

zing events and recruiting help.

These plans in some ways answer the concern expressed by NUS executive secretary Dan O'Connor when he noted at the committee meeting that there had been "an absence of extensive co-ordination at either the provincial or national levels." Although the co-ordinators agreed NSD must be "a day unlike others on campus", what constitutes the minimum activity to meet this requirement has been left to the individual campuses to decide.

Library Fines

A book is now Subject to RECALL from any borrower once it has been held for ONE WEEK, regardless of the loan period. A book required for RESERVE may be RECALLED IMMEDIATELY. A recalled book will now be held at the Circulation Desk for the borrower for one week rather than 5 days.

FINES are charged when either RECALLED or RESERVE material becomes overdue. Fines are also charged on items overdue at the end of term.

FINES for recalls: \$1.00 per DAY

RECALLS for RESERVE: 10c per HOUR

RESERVE MATERIALS: varies according to the loan period.

END OF TERM FINES:

25c per DAY for each item overdue on or after 15 April to 30 April, up to a maximum of \$5.00 per item.

The new fines policy was felt to be necessary because of the increasing disregard by borrowers of recall requests. With material in heavy demand at crucial periods of the term, many borrowers suffered because of the thoughtlessness of a few.

It is hoped that with the new fines policy, borrowers will more promptly return recalled material, thus enabling the Library to better serve the total University community.