

Dal support staff forced below poverty line

HALIFAX (CUP) — Wages for Dalhousie University support staff have fallen below the poverty line and they will be forced to give back wage "overpayments" after the Anti-Inflation Board's (AIB) decision to roll back a contract that has been in effect for nine months.

In January the two hundred members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) 1392 signed a contract which allowed for a top wage of \$4.35 an hour. The previous bottom wage was \$2.30 an hour. Municipal and

county workers were doing comparable labor at a top wage of \$5.05 an hour.

Two months after the contract was signed Nova Scotia joined the federal anti-inflation program. That move called for retroactive coverage of all agreements reached since the program was announced in October, 1975.

Now, seven months later, the AIB has announced a 9.8 percent rollback of the workers wages. And because the university considers itself legally obliged to recover overpayments totalling

almost \$100,000 it is discussing with the AIB how to collect an average of \$400 per worker. A bigger problem, of course, is how to get the money back from workers who have retired or resigned.

According to Statistics Canada figures the rolled back wage falls under the poverty line. The agency reports that the poverty mark for a family of four in Halifax is a forty hour week at \$4.25 an hour. By AIB edict the top wage for CUPE 1392 workers is \$4.02 an hour. "These people are sick. They're

sick to the point where they can sit there and destroy people, like in our group, working hard to survive with the few cents that we've got ... those \$24,000 a year fat cats should resign," said Bill Kelly, CUPE 1392 president.

His response to university president Senator Henry Hicks' intent to "play the game according to the letter of the law and the spirit of the law," was that he didn't think the board of governors had "fought very hard" to get a decent settlement for its workers.

The Dalhousie student council has moved to "condemn the recent

AIB decision as being unjust in that it served no real purpose except to deny the Dal maintenance workers the right to earn a living wage."

The council also distributed leaflets calling on students to support the workers fight against the regressive action.

Student president Gord Neal said, "With this ruling the Oct. 14 Day of Protest has become more meaningful. With this rollback it is obvious that wage controls are definitely contrary to the interests of both workers and students."

SMU faculty threatens strike

HALIFAX (CUP) — A strike vote has been called by the Saint Mary's University faculty union executive for Oct. 19 and 20 after negotiations with the Board of Governors came to an impasse over a proposed "entry" clause.

The clause calls for automatic entry into the faculty of any "past, present or future" administrator.

The union says the clause would enable administration to by-pass existing appointment procedures and parachute people into departments regardless of qualifications. It is also concerned that junior faculty would be forced to make room for former administrators in faculties where the allocation of personnel has been

reached.

The union can legally strike Oct. 27 and faculty president Victor Catano is certain the faculty will go out. He called on the board to send the issue to binding arbitration, a request that has been previously denied.

Board spokesperson Eric Dunford expressed fear that whoever lost at arbitration would be out to recoup losses next year. He said the third party settlement would "aggravate a working relationship that is not the best."

Student council has called an open forum to inform students Oct. 21.

This the second bargaining impasse between the groups this year. A faculty boycott of registration and threatened strike vote were averted in September by a quick settlement of all outstanding issue except the "entry" clause.

Contentious clauses regarding faculty freedom of speech and academic freedom were dropped by the board.

Carter rolls over Ford

WASHINGTON (ZNS-CUP) — It's looking like a wipeout victory for presidential candidate Jimmy Carter over Jerry Ford in the tissue issue poll.

Hoop Enterprises, the company which has been marketing the toilet paper rolls with portraits of both presidential candidates on them, reports that Carter is now enjoying a 59.1 percent lead over Ford's mere 40.9 percent showing.

Hoop's president, Hall Leiner, says that "The figures, based on

voters in 14 states and some 3,500 samples, indicate to us that perhaps it is Ford's support that is soft. All the other national polls have indicated that Carter's support is soft."

The poll, Leiner says, is based on the belief the Carter supporters will buy Carter toilet paper while Ford partisans will buy rolls containing the President's likeness. Critics contend the reverse may be the case.

Can pot save eyesight?

WASHINGTON (ZNS-CUP) — In a landmark decision the federal government has decided to supply about five marijuana joints a day to a young school teacher who claims he needs the pot to save his eyesight.

Twenty-eight year old Robert Randall of Washington D.C. has been informed he can now drop by the offices of the national institute of drug abuses once a week to pick up his personal allotment of high-quality government-grown weed.

The government's decision comes as a result of Randall's arrest on pot charges last year. Instead of simply pleading guilty to possessing marijuana, Randall

stated that he was functioning blind in one eye and rapidly losing sight in the other as a result of the eye disease, glaucoma.

He added that pot-smoking relieved the symptoms of the disease, and produced medical studies and doctors' statements to back up his claim.

The 28-year-old teacher claimed that the government - in denying him marijuana - was preventing him from exercising what he called his "constitutional right to sight". This week, the government relented.

However, a criminal complaint against Randall in the courts is still pending.

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