

Government cause of union problem

Though it is not even clear whether or not the federal government's price and wage control legislation is constitutional members of C.U.P.E. local 1392 are being told they must abide by that legislation. The members of local 1392, responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of Dalhousie University, reached a contract agreement with the university early in December but the government may not allow them to sign and implement that contract. The C.U.P.E. members have voted to strike if their contract is not signed and implemented by January 28, 1976.

The members of Local 1392 have been underpaid for far too long and are merely asking for a just living wage. The University does not dispute this and were it not for the interference of government there would be no problem. However, the federal government has interfered with its price and wage control guidelines and the Province is about to interfere with guideline legislation of its own. The union claims it is not technically subject to the guidelines and the University says it is, or at least says the government has intimated that it is. What is actually needed is a clear and definitive statement from the Provincial government but so far none has been forthcoming.

If the Province was willing to make an exception for the N.S. teachers it should be willing to make an exception for the members of Local 1392. The only question is whether or not they will do it in time.

A superficial glance at the situation might lead one to believe that the university is not acting in good faith. In fact this claim has been made. One can make a case for the theory that Dalhousie only agreed to the union contract because they knew the government would not allow it. However, a closer examination of this theory tends to destroy its plausibility. The University is almost certainly not the bad guy in this situation and should not be painted as such simply because they are closer to home and thus easier to get at.

The blame for the present problem rests squarely in the lap of government. Dalhousie is a publically financed institution and government should take what steps it must to ensure the smooth running operation of the institution. A strike will totally disrupt the university and must be avoided at almost any cost. However, the cost must not be at the expense of the Dalhousie maintenance staff.

Should a strike occur the Gazette encourages students and faculty alike to help the union make the strike worthwhile. Certainly if classes are held they should be attended but any other use of university buildings should be kept to a minimum. i.e. don't cross picket lines unless you absolutely have to.

There was a rumour circulating that a group of students were planning to help keep Dalhousie buildings clean if and when there is a strike. The Gazette would condemn any such action by students as detrimental to the union and its aims. Remember this is a legal strike for justified reasons and the union members don't want to strike any more than the administration wants a strike to occur. As with the contract, both sides are in full agreement on this matter but if a strike is necessary then so be it. The only way to avoid the impending strike is for the government to wake up and take a stand - in favour of local 1392 and its long overdue contract.

Canada's Oldest College Newspaper

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Letters

Our mistake

To the Gazette,
Re: "Wrestling Team to Visit"
January 8, 1976/10

"Hofstra University is located in Long Island, New York . . . The wrestling team coached by Bob Getchel, one of the most distinguished in the New England States . . ."

1. Hofstra University is located in Hempstead, New York hempstead is on Long Island.
2. New York is not part of New England.
New England includes only Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

Sincerely
F. Urban

Keep the faith

To the Gazette,
With the end of 1975 International Women's Year came to a close and unless we women are truly united the women's liberation movement may also fade away without attaining its avowed objective of a fair shake from our macho dominated world. The year 1975 achieved nothing very much in the way of improving the lot of women. Not one single government in the world has a cohesive point by point plan to effectively introduce women into the spheres of trade and commerce, law, medicine, govern-

ment administration, scientific research, or even the arts. Women's liberation can only go so far without the strong support of the majority of women. The conference in Mexico illustrated that the women's movement—of necessity international in its objectives—lacked united support and resolved effort from even the most concerned and educated of women. In rich and poor nations alike women are given the subservient role to perform. Men will not change this unless they have to and only we women, by being conscious of the need for our own liberation from false and old ideas, can effectively attempt to ensure a more meaningful existence in life for those females born after us.

yours truly,
Sally Thompson.

NUS is us ?

To the Gazette,
At a November meeting of the Dalhousie Student Council, Paula Kinley (Shirreff Hall Rep) and myself (Howe Hall Rep) introduced a motion for the immediate withdrawal of Dalhousie from NUS. For those of you who don't know what NUS is, it is the National Union of Students. The motion was defeated by a vote of eight to six with two abstentions. The very closeness of the vote shows the lack of support for NUS at Dal.

What does NUS mean to the Dal Student? Like it or not, it does mean something for you. You pay one dollar each per year to be a member. You voted for the one dollar fee in the referendum on

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