

# "We are all in it together"

by Tony Kelly

It's time for all of us to start standing up and make our views known. At 12:30 Friday in the SUB cafeteria there will be a General Meeting regarding the strike of the Operating Engineers, the first strike this campus has ever seen.

At last week's "open" meeting our Student Council kicked us all out of the room before they decided for us what our student position on the strike would be. Lost in a sea of

its own constituency, our paternalistic "leaders" will not likely try to go in-camera at Friday's meeting.

Students, faculty and staff should pack the cafeteria Friday to show our support for the I.U.O.E. Their strike is the first of the battles which we may all be waging in the coming year. We know the need for those battles are coming. The administration has told all Dal's paid employees to expect an inadequate wage increase. The MPHEC has told all paying students to expect a sub-

stantial tuition increase.

And we know that our problems come from the same source: an administration which refuses to democratize the university to give us a meaningful say in how the money is spent, and a provincial government which refuses to finance education adequately.

So, joining the I.U.O.E. in its fight is the first step in our fight against the proposed tuition increase. It is also the fight of the

Comment is an opinion column open to members of the university community who wish to present an informed opinion on a topic of their selection.

community, whose access to higher education is being increasingly limited.

We should supplement the Union's numbers on the picket line. There are picket signs in the Gazette office, and even a half hour on the line would be good for both us and the workers. And all of us should be there Friday.

We'll soon be looking for allies in our tuition fight. In a unified attack against us, it's best to give a unified response.

## Halifax Herald anti-union

by Sheena Masson

While writing the article on the Herald's "layoffs", I tried to keep my approach as objective as possible. This became increasingly difficult. To begin with, most reports were incomplete and biased depending on the person with whom I was speaking. After speaking to both pro-union and anti-union, employees and ex-employees, it is impossible not to support the grievances of those fired and those who still work at the Herald.

But first a few things can be said in support of the paper. The Herald does mail additional checks, on a random basis, to those on their pension plan. Their wages are comparable to those at the **Globe and Mail**, and the best reporters have secure positions and good chances at advancement.

Unfortunately, the "best" reporters are often those who are least controversial and follow known editorial specifications. These specifications include little or no negative coverage of those issues that the Herald supports. While reporters who keep to editorial policy are favoured, those who disagree are unlikely to keep their jobs. Job security should not depend on how well one gets on with the management. As one involved said, "If you want to be a yes-man, you could stay at the Herald forever." Pro-union employees, on the other hand, are in fear of their positions. (In fact, because of this I could not use all the information I was given.)

In this way, management has effective control over what news reaches the reader. Not only are jobs in jeopardy, but the staff is not able to report all the relevant news. The Halifax public has a right to all the news.

Halifax is not alone in this situation. The **Gleaner** in Fredericton is also controlled in this way and had

similar union problems some time ago. The feeling of some employees at the Herald is that the paper is only concerned with producing as many pages of news print with advertisements as possible.

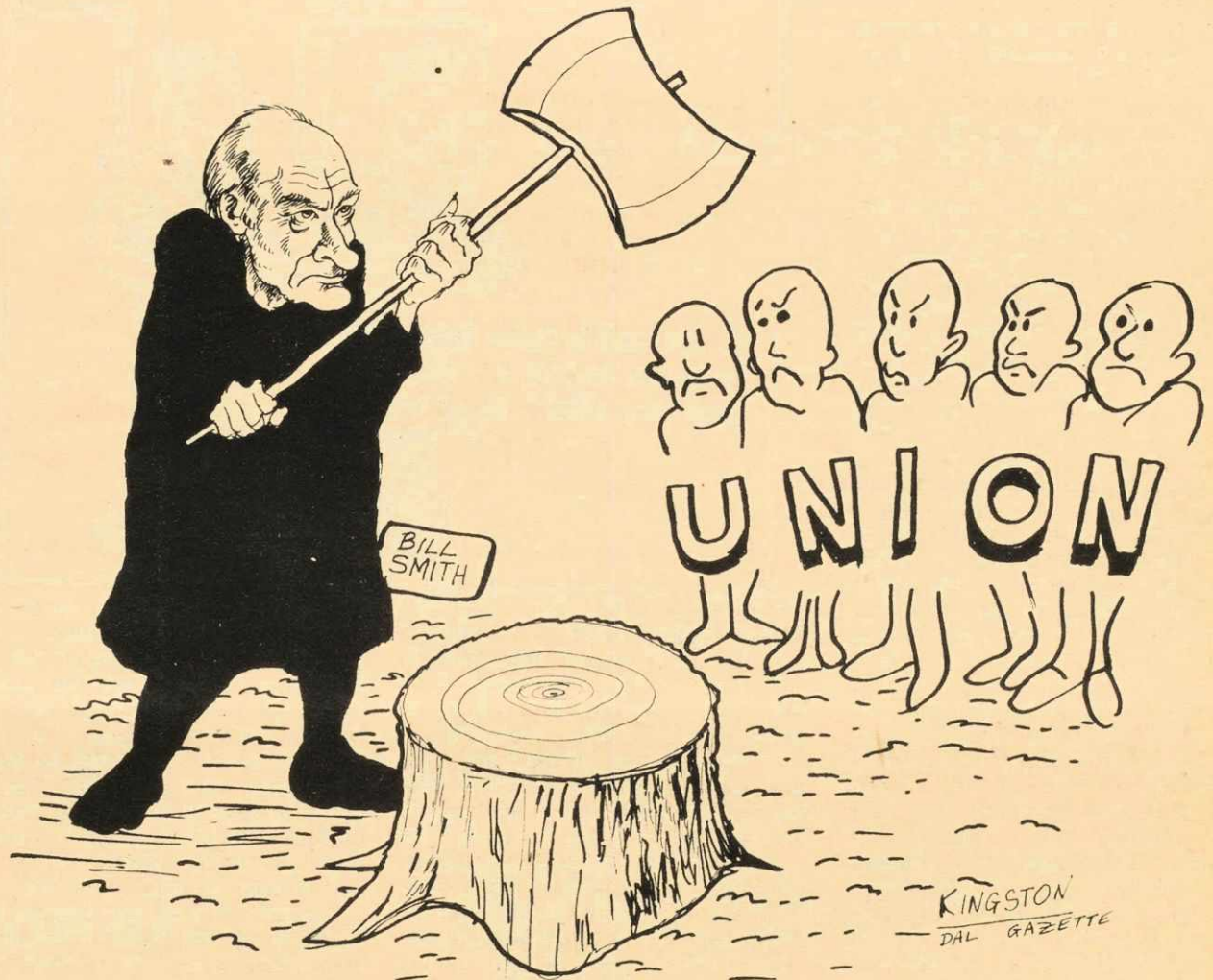
The Herald might discover that a better quality newspaper would be even more profitable in the long run. Hopefully, a unionized newsroom will produce just such a paper and provide the service that readers are entitled to.

The blatant use of equivocations by you to give Dalhousie credit for services never rendered and at the same time discredit students from other institutions and the AFS, who donated a lot of time and money, can be considered nothing but disreputable.

As one of the individuals who donated time and support to the march, I demand an apology for SUNSCAD and all other students who helped to make the event a possibility. And furthermore demand that the true facts be stated to the Dalhousie students at the next student council meeting.

Respectively yours,  
Todd Davis  
Secretary, SUNSCAD

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