

Student Council avoids issue

by Lorrie Hayden

Al Cunningham, representing CUPE, and Dr. Vagianos, representing the administration, presented their sides in the strike conflict at the Student Council meeting Sunday night. Both men urged students to continue their education as best they could under the circumstances. Cunningham told students if they felt compelled to take a side to do so with conscience. Council members voted for neutrality in the situation.

Only two members, Denise Roberge and Ellen Wood, voted against the motion. The two members felt that by taking a definite side, pressure could be applied to the parties involved in the situation, thereby forcing it to a swift conclusion. The majority of members opposed this stand as the students have no legal basis for action in the situation and taking a side could incur the ill-will of the other side.

It was decided the best position students could take was to remain neutral while encouraging the two sides to resume negotiations.

Members agreed that no "scab labour" will be hired to clean up the SUB and that the decision as to whether entertainment continues in the SUB will be left to the judgment of the SUB manager.

Council members decided that \$300 and \$200 be given to the French Club and Malaysian-Indonesian-Singaporean Club, respectively.

February 14 has been set as the date for the next general Student Council election.

Various committees were set up at the council session, among them a committee concerned with the review of the Health Plan and a committee to coordinate an anti-cutback campaign in provincial funding of education at Dalhousie.

Two Atlantic universities censured

OTTAWA (CUP)—Disputes over the dismissals of two professors at Memorial and Acadia Universities may lead to a recommendation that no professors accept jobs at those universities.

At a meeting November 3, the board of directors of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) recommended administrations and boards of governors of the two universities be censured for the dismissals.

If the recommendation is accepted by the CAUT council next May, and if the maximum degree of censure is imposed, the CAUT would urge professors not to accept jobs at those universities.

The disputes are over the dismissals of social work professor Marlene Webber last winter by Memorial and of music professor Robert McCarthy in 1973 by Acadia. Webber did not have her contract renewed because of her political involvements. McCarthy was dismissed despite a recommendation from an independent hearing committee that he be kept on for another year.

Neither case has yet been settled, but CAUT executive secretary Don Savage said November 7 that he was "hopeful that in both cases the presidents and the chairmen of the boards of governors will reach a just settlement."

If settlements are reached, the censure motions would be dropped.

In both cases, the CAUT board concluded the reasons for dismissal were not valid. They felt the reasons for McCarthy's non-appointment

were "neither substantive nor substantiated", while, in Webber's case, CAUT said the university failed to prove its charges before a university appeals committee "with admissible and cogent evidence capable of supporting such a charge".

According to Savage, both administrations are aware of the recommendation of censure, but neither has made any formal response.

Both universities had refused to submit the cases to binding arbitration, the board noted.



Dal Photo/Morris

The National president of CUPE Grace Hartman with Dalhousie picketers

Student aid postponed

TORONTO (CUP)—After six weeks of classes, thousands of Ontario students still haven't received their student loans and grants.

As of Oct. 25, the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities still hadn't processed over 10,000 of the 76,000 applications it received this year.

The delay was caused by a four-month delay in the implementation of the new OSAP computer program. According to the student awards officer at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, Dave Butler, it has created massive backlogs which can virtually not be erased.

Although hard work by financial aid officers and ministry employees reduced the backlog to about two months, he said, there are still other problems which may leave students dry for some time.

For instance, because new OSAP application forms were difficult for students to fill out correctly, a 50 per cent student error rate resulted.

Because some of these errors were not caught by individual awards officers,

Butler said, over 4,000 applications were rejected by the computer. Ministry officials must now go through each of these applications individually.

As well, 3,466 "special consideration" cases must be assessed individually, he said. About half the cases concern students whose parents have

"declared assets in excess of the guidelines".

Butler said the ministry staff are "busting their gut to get this stuff through." Financial aid officers from post-secondary institutions are also spending a great deal of time at the ministry, he said, trying to help the employees clear the backlog.

Here's big AI

NEW YORK (LNS-CUP)—For companies with a security problem, Quasar Industries in New Jersey has come up with the very latest in mechanical muscle to keep things under control. It goes by the name of "Big AI"—a 685-pound robot programmed to act as a security guard.

The robot's electronic voice can ask for identification. And "Big AI" can immobilize any-

one who gives an answer it doesn't like with a shrill deafening sound, a strobe light, or "hands" having a 1,000 pound grip.

Available for a mere \$100,000, "Big AI" can run at 30 mph, is bullet proof, and won't join a union or go on strike. The company which makes "Big AI" says it already has several orders.

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