

CUPE awaiting support

B of G ratifies Dal association

by Bruce M. Lantz
and Don Retson

A small war is shaping up between the Dalhousie Staff Association, the Canadian Union of Public Employees and the Dal Board of Governors, with the non-academic employees at this university caught in the middle.

The complaints of the employees concerned centre on low salaries, long hours, arbitrary firings and poor benefits. The secretaries in particular make less than the maintenance staff at Dal, often as low as \$2500 a year.

The Staff Association which has a possible membership of 195 out of 700 employees, was recently ratified by the Board of Governors as the representatives of these workers.

According to the president of the Staff Association, Tony Nicholas, that organization will try to avoid the "union image" and maintain friendly relations with Dal. He admits that they are not representative of a majority of the employees concerned, but hopes to remedy that within six months to a year. By that time he hopes that the

association will be powerful enough to agitate for certain demands which would be indicated by the workers.

Nicholas stated that the group will be serving a social function as well.

Talk of unionization began not long ago, when several employees wrote to CUPE President Charlie MacDougall and asked him to explain the situation to them. MacDougall claims that 287 employees filled out union membership cards before CUPE backed off because of some unfavorable talk that was circulating among the employees.

An unsigned letter was sent to the CUPE office stating that there is "A new awareness and appreciation of our current privileged position at Dalhousie — and a realization that a communist dictatorship such as CUPE has its place in Cuba or Russia, but it has no place in Canada". So the union decided to give the new association "a chance to hang itself" and pulled back.

Dalhousie vice-president D. H. McNeil denied that the new Association has any powers

other than being recognized as an organization on campus. He went on to state that their decisions would not necessarily be binding on other employees. This contradicts a recent article in the 4th Estate which remarked that the interim executive of the Association was making decisions and proposing resolutions which it has no right to do.

According to McNeil, the Staff Association was recognized by the Board of Governors without any exact information as to its purpose or the number of employees actually in the group. He maintained that any group would get the same treatment if they asked to be recognized. McNeil stated that the group "seemed like a responsible lot" and so little needed to be asked as to their

intentions. However, President Henry Hicks is supposed to be checking with the association's president, Tony Nicholas, to learn more about their plans.

In an interview with the GAZETTE, MacDougall stated that he felt the Board of Governors would rather support a non-union organization because such groups are easier to control and do not make such high demands on the management. "No association can function, due to lack of an efficient structure and inner turmoil," said MacDougall. He added that the Association has no real recourse to legal arbitration as they are not certified under the Trade Union Act.

On the other hand, CUPE has an extensive nationwide net-

work of educational, research and legal facilities — the most up-to-date in Canada.

McNeil repudiated the allegations made in the 4th Estate article, saying that they "could not be taken seriously as they came from a bad source". He went on to say that it was biased and untrue — that CUPE was recognized by Dal and no pressure was being exerted against the union.

Meanwhile CUPE is waiting for a break in the Staff Association. "Then we'll have the full confidence of the employees", said MacDougall. The Association is striving to obtain more support, and the Student Union, according to President Brian Smith, is keeping out of the matter. "I don't know anything about it".

Anti-poverty group to meet

The Nova Scotia delegates to the newly-formed National Anti-Poverty Organization will be meeting early in this new year to co-ordinate efforts to bring together low income groups. The organization, formed as a result of a resolution passed unanimously at the Poor People's Conference a year ago, comprises two representatives from each province and territory.

Rose Adams of Halifax and Gordon MacDonald of Sydney, the NS interim representatives said that the basic aims of the organization are:

1. To provide information about and to low income groups.

2. To present a united national voice on common issues.

3. To assist in developing and strengthening new organizations in areas where they do not exist.

4. To ensure that resolutions passed at the last and future conferences be acted upon.

Provincial low income organizations in Saskatchewan and British Columbia have already elected permanent

members. The other provinces have plans underway to elect their representatives.

The interim delegates were appointed by the Nova Scotia delegates at the Poor People's Conference last year and will sit as representatives only until the low income groups of the province get together and elect permanent representatives.

For further information contact Rose Adams at 429-1658.

THE COLUMN

Several proposed amendments for the Student Union constitution have been submitted by Commerce rep Mike Bowser. They will affect, if passed, the election by-laws...all constitutional amendments must be put to a vote of the entire student body...this should happen about February 26...As well, nominations for positions on next year's Student Council will open February 2 and will close on the 9th. Election is on the 16th...The York University Homophile Association is hosting a conference January 28-30 on "Sexuality and Civil Rights". For more information, write to the YUHA, CYSF Office, Ross Bldg., York University, Downsview, Ontario...

Dave Murdock replacing fired Ken Campbell as SUB

Affairs Secretary...Mark Mosher is an assistant.... Murdoch reports a Valentine's Day celebration is in the works, with a possible \$1 dinner and other fun-type things...

Going to Vancouver? There's a year-round youth hostel in Jericho Park...all the facilities for \$1.50. Information at P.O. Box 6109, Station G, Vancouver 8...Works by two photography students at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design have been selected for inclusion in a national exhibition of photos. Carlo Lunn and Peter Shepard, both second year students in photography, had their work selected from more than 17,000 entries. The exhibition, which opens Jan. 27 in Ottawa, will also come to Halifax...

...and finally, is Brian Smith really running for President on the Student Union — again?

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

McInnes Room, Dal SUB ISA Annual
Soiree, 8:30 p.m.

Jazz and Suds, Green Room, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

SUB Chambers, 9 p.m.

McInnes Room Dance, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

Dalhousie Concert Series, Netherlands
Chamber Choir, Cohn Auditorium, 3 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, lecture, DICK
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

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