

### IPA research

## CUPE would lose

## University might win

by Susan MacLeod

Five researchers from Dalhousie University's Institute of Public Affairs have publically criticized the university's decision to sub-contract cleaning services to Modern Building Cleaners.

In a six page statement released December 28, the researchers outlined the implications of sub-contracting based on a 2-1/2 year study, conducted within the institute's Marginal Work World study program, on the Halifax-Dartmouth building cleaning industry.

Dr. Frederic Wien, a member of the research project, said that while Modern's contract "may or may not" have long-term advantages for the university, "if I were asked if it would have long-term advantages for the CUPE workers, I would say no."

Modern Cleaners' arrangement to sub-contract with Dalhousie is valid only with the conditions that employment is offered to the CUPE workers and that they bargain in good faith to achieve a wage and benefit package as good as or better than Dalhousie's offer.

The university's latest offer to CUPE would mean wages from \$4.22 to \$5.24 an hour. Modern's rates are closely linked to the minimum wage. (Modern employees at the Lord Nelson Hotel, the IWK Hospital, and the Victoria General receive between \$3.25 and \$3.50.)

Wien speculates if Modern is to make a profit then, sharp staff reductions will result, possibly as high as a third of the current staff. CUPE workers may also be transferred to other institutes that employ Modern Cleaners, thereby losing the benefits of the Dalhousie provision and seriously weakening the union, he said.

In addition to the job instability of contract work, CUPE workers will receive few of the fringe benefits of most in-house contracts such as maternity leave, pension plans, long-term disability, group insurance, paid holidays and vacations, according to the Institute of Public Affairs statement.

It also outlines implications that go beyond the immediate concerns of the CUPE workers, stating that the collective bargaining process in Nova Scotia will be undermined if the precedent of contracting-out during the middle of a strike is allowed to continue.

The report also states that bargaining positions of all units are jeopardized by the university's recent action and the use of short-term employment can affect the job security of all positions within the university.

Wien added that Dalhousie's action will destroy all positive labour relations that have been achieved to date through "pained" negotiations.

"This encourages low-wage and unstable employment in a region that is already economically depressed," Wien said. "It means that 200 jobs with reasonable pay and working conditions have been lost for the future."

Modern Cleaners, a division of the Ontario-based Dustbane Enterprises Ltd., is taking the control of 200 jobs out of the province.

Wien pointed out that the expenses saved by Dalhousie through sub-contracting must be weighed against the disruption in service caused by staff cut-backs and the high turnover characteristic of contracting firms.

When asked what impact he felt the statement would have, Wien replied that the "denunciation will have some affect, not so much in swaying the administration, but in informing—both about the issues and implications."

Wien said that because of media attention the administration has had to a reply to the questions raised by the statement.

**Anyone interested in sitting on the SUB Ops Committee Council please attend the Council meeting on Sunday 28 Jan. , 7 pm. 2 positions are open**

### Council elections

## Grab a buddy and run

by Danièle Gauvin

Elections are in the air again. No, it's not the long-awaited federal variety, but the famous Dalhousie Student Union elections. February 14 will be voting day and President / Vice-Presidential teams must have their candidacy announced by January 29.

All Dalhousie students who have paid their student fees are eligible, including part-time students. Faculty reps, members at large, student senators and student reps on the Board of Governors must collect 10 signatures while the President / Vice-President team must collect 25. Renumeration is mostly pride (a \$100 allowance for S.U.B. events is

provided to guarantee attendance) although the executive positions have salaries attached.

Arts rep. Jim Wentzell spoke with the Gazette about the duties and activities of councillors. "We form a direct line, bringing faculty and department concerns to the attention of the full council. Basically, we have a redistributive function. We channel fees into clubs and societies, manage the S.U.B., approve firings and hirings, handle entertainment and cleaning etc. We form a liaison between the administration and the students," Wentzell explained.

Councillors have a chance to work on a variety of important committees which oversee all aspects of student affairs, Wentzell said. Some committees that aspiring councillors will be able to participate in include: the Recruitment Committee, the Grants Committee, which had \$22,000 to allocate to student groups this year, the Constitution Committee, the Sports Review Committee, the Senate Disciplinary Committee, Finances, S.U.B. Ops. Committee etc.

Anyone interested should contact Chief Returning Officer Tab Borden. Remember that a refundable \$10 deposit fee is a must for all applicants.

## GLAD examines priorities

Members of Dalhousie's fledgling gay group, Gays & Lesbians At Dalhousie (GLAD), re-examined their goals and priorities at the organization's annual meeting on January 12.

Glad activist Robin Metcalfe said the primary purpose of the group is to help gay people on campus meet other gay people, and to overcome the isolation and loneliness common to most lesbian and

gay male students.

GLAD is hoping to increase the visibility of gays at Dal and to encourage a sense of community, as well as to counter the anti-gay hostility which appears everywhere from wash-room walls to within the curriculum, Metcalfe said.

The group has set up several projects, including improving the representation of gay-related materials in the university libraries, holding

educational events for GLAD members, and advertising the group's existence.

The meeting also elected a new executive for 1979. The new officers are Glenn Walton, president, Metcalfe, secretary, and Anne Fulton, treasurer. The group now has a mail box. Anyone wishing to receive information about GLAD or to be placed on its mailing list can write to it c/o the SUB.

## Debating tournament

Sodales, the Dalhousie Debating Society, is hosting its annual tournament here this weekend, January 19 to 21. The tournament has entries from both Nova Scotian and other Canadian Universities including Acadia, Mount Saint Vincent and King's, as well as, Western, the University of Toronto and McGill.

The defending champion of the Henry Hicks Trophy is the University of Ottawa. They will be represented in this year's tournament.

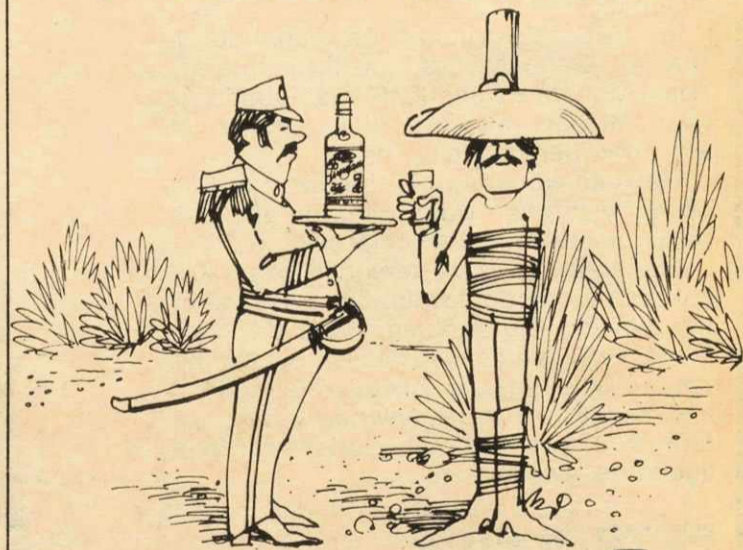
Several of the nation's best university debaters will be on hand for five rounds of debate, both impromptu and prepared. The tournament also features two rounds of public speaking.

The traditional Pub Round will kick off the tournament Friday evening in the Eighth Floor Biology Lounge, LSC. The Pub Round is an informal gathering which enables the visiting and home debaters to meet each other on a level other than that of competition.

Debating will begin at 9 am on Saturday morning in the Weldon Law Building and continue until 4 pm. To change pace from a hard day's work Sodales will host cocktails and a buffet dinner at Dina's on Saturday evening.

Sunday will be the last day of debate. The final championship round of debate will be held in the Red Room at Province House at 3 pm.

# One Last Shot



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