

CUPE still out

Negotiations stalled

by Alan Adams and Marc Allain

Despite two meetings between negotiators for management and members of CUPE 1392, the strike is nearing its fifth week and there appears to be little hope for a settlement before the Christmas break.

Negotiating teams for both sides met on November 22 to discuss a University offer for a 85c increase staggered over a 20 month period. (see p 4) The CUPE negotiating team unanimously rejected the offer, claiming that it differed little from the University's original position.

CUPE representative Al Cunningham described the offer as "archaic" and illustrative of the "medieval attitude" of the administration. He said the offer was much the same as the original offer rejected "several months ago by the union". Cunningham said the union "could become flexible in some areas" in the dispute but feels the administration "has their feet locked in cement when it comes to negotiations."

Vice-President (Administration) Louis Vagianos feels the offer is fair and says he personally "wants to end this thing as soon as possible." He said the university has moved "a substantial way" in trying to come to terms with the union and hopes the union "won't stay firm" on their demands. "I don't know how the hell we can move any further," he added.

Strike support

Support for the strikers is continuing from various sec-

tors, both inside and outside the University. On Wednesday, November 29, the Maritime Fishermen's Union (Guysborough local) presented the union members with 700 pounds of fresh fish. MFU representatives said the gift was a gesture of solidarity with the just demands of the CUPE workers.

Despite some internal strife, the Strike Support is continuing its mobilization efforts. The committee is circulating a petition in support of the CUPE demands and urging the Administration to negotiate. The Committee is organizing a rally for Friday, December 1, at which time the petition will be presented to university officials. A benefit is also scheduled for December 6 at St. Mary's. Tickets are \$2 each and are available through the *Gazette* or any member of the Support Committee.

Financial support has also begun to trickle in to the union coffers. Dal economics professor Mike Bradfield, who is a member of the Support Committee, has asked all professional members of the Dal community to donate one day's pay to the strike fund. Bradfield said that before he took action people were already donating money. Since he circulated his request last Friday, he has received over \$400.

Cunningham said the donations to the strike fund are encouraging, given that the Union has not yet made a public appeal for funds. Strike pay presently averages \$60 a week. Cunningham says he

hopes to be able to increase this to around \$150 for the Christmas period by approaching other CUPE locals throughout the province.

The New Democratic Party caucus for the riding of Halifax Cornwallis has also decided to make a \$500 contribution to the strike fund. The NDP contribution came after the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS) voted to donate a similar amount to the CUPE strike fund.

At their regular Council meeting on Wednesday, November 22, DAGS also passed a motion asking the administration to "give priority to the principle of a fair living wage" and to "allocate generous pay increases to those at the lowest income levels." The Dalhousie Student Union has to date remained "neutral" in the dispute.

Dalhousie Student Union Treasurer John Murphy, however, is considering rewarding SUB management personnel with extended vacations for cleaning the SUB during the dispute. Murphy sees his idea as "a goodwill gesture on the Student Union's part" and feels "it is only fair that they be rewarded in such a way."

Student Union president Mike Power would not comment on Murphy's idea until continued on page 6

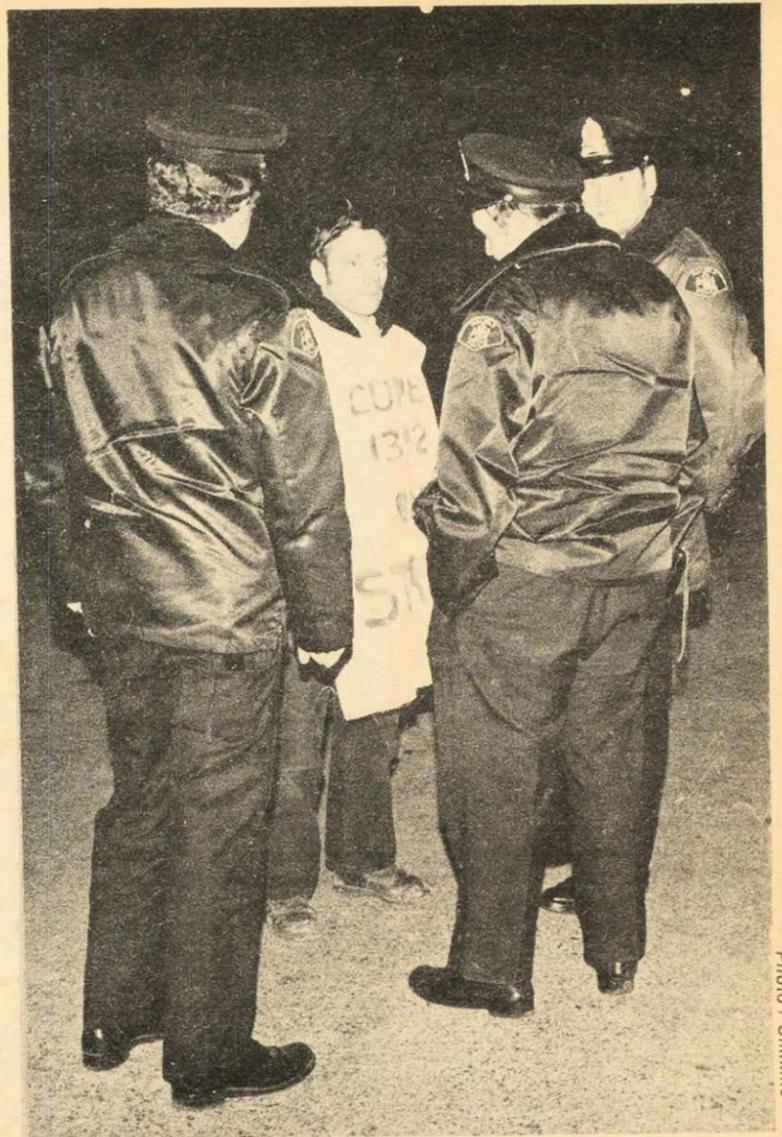


Photo / Simkins

"If we can't picket on the sidewalk, the street, or Dalhousie property, then where in the hell can we picket?" picket Captain Garth Whittaker asks Halifax police. They had a more forceful argument this time and allowed the Shore garbage truck to cross Garth's picket line.

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Engineers are 'tough'

by Susan Johnson

A Dalhousie "tradition" turned sour last week when a group of engineering students stormed the *Dalhousie Gazette* office in an attempt to remove that week's newspaper from the office.

Before their annual fall dance, the engineers steal the paper in order to stamp their red marker—"ENGINEERS BALL"—on the front page. This year they added a second phrase to their colourful banner: "ENGINEERS BALL—GAZETTE SUCKS".

Expecting the prank, the *Dalhousie Gazette* staff placed copies of a two week old issue in the lobby of the SUB for the engineers to steal. When the engineers discovered they had been duped, they returned to the *Gazette* office and angrily demanded that day's paper.

Their request refused, they waited outside the office apparently for an opportunity to take the papers despite the wishes of the *Gazette* staff. The newspapers were stored in the office of Canadian University Press staffperson

Val Mansour.

At an opportune moment they stormed her office.

In the struggle that ensued between the engineering students and the *Gazette* staff, two *Gazette* staff members were injured. Production staffer Gail Picco was knocked to the ground and received blows to her head and stomach. The engineers retreated without the paper.

Treated at Dalhousie Health Services and the Victoria General Hospital after the incident, Picco was diagnosed as suffering from a concussion. At press time, six days after the struggle, Picco was still suffering impairment to her vision that confined her to her house—keeping her from school work and continuing her work on the *Gazette*.

Both Picco and photographer Mark Simkins have been speaking to lawyers about pressing civil and criminal charges against the engineering students for the injuries they received.

Engineering Society president Dave Bolivar, a partici-

pant in the struggle wrote to Picco on November 27, expressing his regrets.

"If you were treated in a rough or rude fashion I offer you my sincere apologies (sic)" he wrote. He said they had intended to "contribute to campus spirit" not to "embitter our fellow students."

The *Dalhousie Gazette* has asked the student union to consider internal discipline of the engineering students involved, and especially of Bolivar, as president of the society.

Engineering chairperson Everett N. Patterson explained that although he didn't expect he had heard the full story from anyone about what had happened in the incident, he thought, "violence was regrettable and something to deplore."

"There is this idea that engineers are supposed to be tough," Patterson said, "But sometimes it can get out of hand and from the sounds of it I think it probably did in this case."



Dal Photo/Morris

The Maritime Fishermen's Union donates 700 pounds of cod to the CUPE strikers.