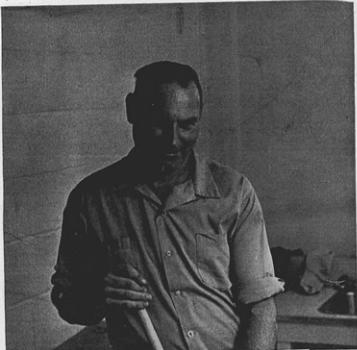


The Athenaeum

THE ATHENAEUM, Thursday, January 19



Maintenance workers finally have a contract after months of negotiation — Paul Mann

Maintenance Union Looks to Future

by Brenda Nesdoly

Today, one month after signing a collective agreement with the BOC, maintenance workers on campus who are members of the International Union of Operating Engineers will hold their first meeting of the new year.

By December 19 of last year, after a series of unsuccessful negotiations, the Union was prepared to strike unnecessarily. At this crucial point, a call came from the conciliation officer requesting the Union representatives, under Reg Fenerty, to meet with reps from the University in order to come to an agreement.

Fenerty revealed that at one point the University tried to negotiate with members of the bargaining unit, thereby undermining the union as a whole. He said, "we got over that and we're hoping for better experiences in the future . . .

The Union presented many pages of demands; the main gist of being an improvement of the wording of the overall agreement because the then-present contract was worded, as Fenerty put it, "in such a way as not to give the workers a very fair deal". A different aspect of the December 19 meeting was that the Anti-Inflation Board had to be dealt with as well.

The workers had ratified the contract before it was ever signed. Of course they got less than they had hoped for but, "as far as the union people were concerned, we thought it best to accept the offer at that time", said Fenerty. The wage package of an average increase of 6.5 percent per hour and improved benefits was agreed upon before all negotiating was over.

The wage reopener clause permits bargaining this coming June solely on the matter of wages for the second year covered. This is some of the long-range planning that must be done in today's monthly meeting. As well, Stewards and committees will have to be appointed.

Fenerty stated that this year, "with the bad deal and other experiences that union members have gone through, everybody will be watching to see what the University does".

RCMP and CBC Boycotted by CUP

HALIFAX (CUP) — Many student newspapers in Canada will no longer accept advertising from the RCMP, following a decision by delegates to the 40th annual Canadian University Press conference here Dec. 26 to Jan. 3.

Delegates agreed the RCMP had historically been used "to suppress and persecute Canada's native people, workers, immigrants and people who held progressive political views", and that CUP newspapers should refuse advertisements to protest RCMP actions.

Student newspapers have been running ads promoting the image of the force and inviting students to join as officers. Some delegates explained that financial constraints forced them to accept the objectionable advertisements, but their papers would run articles explaining the negative work of the RCMP.

The conference also reaffirmed a one-year-old boycott of Canadian Broadcasting Corporation advertising. The CBC network continues to refuse public service announcements to gay groups in Canada, and CUP has joined

the National Gay Rights Coalition in fighting the public corporation's discriminatory practices.

The CUP plenary voted to withdraw the organization's \$200,000 account from an Ottawa branch of the Bank of Montreal. The bank has been an active financial supporter of the white minority government in South Africa.

According to CUP president Susan Johnson: "The four major Canadian banks are lending large sums of money to the South African government. This money goes into the military or police budgets and is responsible for the maintenance of severe repression of the majority of the population".

CUP papers, have been critical of the South African apartheid regime for many years, and have supported recent initiatives by student unions across Canada to remove their money from banks which are involved in South Africa.

The CUP account will be moved to a credit union or trust company as soon as proper arrangements can be made for commercial loans and salary payments across the country.



The library doors are opening to expansion

Library to Expand

by Jonathan Chevreau

In the near future, the Vaughn library may double its present size.

Dean Hansen, dean of student affairs, advised that the departure of several departments to the new Arts Building will enable major expansion plans. The top two floors will be renovated in preparation for the conversion.

Although at this point nothing is finalized, a further statement will be issued at the end of January.

In the meantime, crowded library users can dream of better days to come. Among some of the ideas proposed are the provision of more study carrels, a microfilm centre for non-current journals and periodicals, and an addition to the rare books collection.

The latter may be in memory of Dr. Kirkconnell, the distinguished three-knighted, multilingual research professor that Acadia was honoured to retain for so many years.

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