

## WHY THERE IS A STRIKE

What does a strike of clerical employees at this University have to do with congregation ceremonies?

These ceremonies which you are attending are representative of more than just completion of a degree; they may well mark a return from the somewhat artificial life of higher education to the reality of the working world.

AUCE represents clerical workers on this campus. Many of our jobs require degrees, but degrees are no guarantee of respect and decent conditions. As an employer, this University does not live up to and fulfill its cherished philosophies of liberalism and enlightenment. When faced with the serious fact that campus jobs which are mainly filled by men (such as CUPE Technicians, labourers etc.) are paid substantially higher than those AUCE jobs of similar complexity and requiring similar qualifications, they refuse to address such an issue.

The overwhelming majority of AUCE workers are women. It may have been true at one time that women's salaries were 'secondary', supplementing a husband's income, but this is no longer the case. Single women, not to mention single parents, are joining the work force in increasing numbers and it is obvious that everyone - whether contributing to a larger income or as sole supporter of children - is entitled to a living wage.

For the past four years, we have been falling behind the cost of living.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>VANCOUVER'S RATE OF INFLATION</u>	<u>AUCE WAGE INCREASE</u>
1976	9.7%	4.8%
1977	7.2%	3.0%
1978	7.7%	5.5%
1979	<u>7.7%</u>	<u>7.0%</u>
Total	31.3%	20.3%