

# Association of University and College Employees

LOCAL No. 1 (U.B.C.)

## AUCE CONTINUES STRIKE

AUCE has been on strike against the University of B. C. since May 2nd, 1980. At a membership meeting of Wednesday, May 21st, the membership forcefully reiterated its stand that the strike would continue until the University makes a serious effort to address the issues of equal pay for work of equal value and other concerns such as job security for Union officials and an increase in benefits payable to shift workers. We need the University to seriously attempt to treat the Union's demands with the respect that they truly deserve.

To date, contract negotiations has been limited to the Union's requests supported by reasons, examples and honest statements of aims and objectives; the University's response has been singular in its unwillingness to come up with valid reasons for refusal; instead, vague statements of policy, or phrases such as "The University is opposed in principle to the concept of \_\_\_\_\_" were forthcoming.

We have made repeated attempts to point out to our employer that, despite their academic stance of social leadership and liberal views, women workers on this campus receive remuneration far less than their male counterparts for jobs requiring similar experience and qualifications. Unable to deny that this is in fact the case, they obscure the issue with lengthy propaganda on budgets.

Well, even we realize that budgets are real, and UBC's appears to be particularly inadequate this year, but the approach which the University maintains of approximately equal percentage settlements for all their workers results in significantly higher increases to the 'male sector' once again. A 10% increase to CUPE members represents, in real money, about 15% to AUCE members; yet we are offered 10%. The gap grows and when does it finally get addressed?

Not last year, or the year before, or the year before that and apparently not this year, either. The point is: the University will never voluntarily address this issue. And this is their moral crime. Espousing high-minded motives and progressive philosophies, they not just turn a blind eye to sexual discrimination under their noses, but actively campaign to contribute to this discrimination.

It is a pathetic situation that a strike is necessary to bring these issues to the forefront, but here we are - in the middle of a strike of underpaid, undervalued, educated and intelligent workers whose services are highly prized by those who use these services, against a powerful elite whose double standard doesn't even seem to embarrass them.

Can you see the issue? Do you understand and sympathize? Tell the administration yourself. If they refuse to see the argument when presented by us, maybe they'll take another look if people like yourself support us.