

While trying to figure out if campus would be plowed in the event of a strike, I was surprised by a sentiment which is echoed by several maintenance workers. I learned that back in the 70's there was a maintenance strike, which was not supported by many professors (the Faculty Association did donate \$1,000 to a strike fund). Close to 30 years later there is still resentment.

In the achieves I found several articles which reflect this. What did maintenance want? Retroactive wage parity with other Maritime universities. There were 49 workers at UPEI, of whom 26 were making \$2.30 an hour. For three weeks they were on strike. Students manned picket lines, and classes were cancelled.

Let's hope that almost 30 years later UPEI does not have to deal with a similar situation, and that we can learn from the material presented here.

Thomas Lloyd, Editor-in-Chief

# UPEI Workers Ratify Contract With University Administration

*Guardian, Nov. 6, 1975*

Maintenance workers at the University of Prince Edward Island are to be back on their job today after three weeks of picketing at the university for higher wages.

The workers made the decision to return to work during a meeting Wednesday morning when 80 per cent voted in favor of a proposed contract worked out at a bargaining session Tuesday.

## DOUBLE PAY

Terms of the new contract include double pay on all overtime and increase in wages for service workers, comprising the majority of maintenance workers at the university, said Phil Flemming, business manager for the 49 striking workers.

Under the new contract service workers all earning \$4,700 per year will receive an increase to \$5,900 effective July 1, 1975; and \$6,500 on Oct. 1, 1975, with all pay retroactive, said Mr. Flemming.

The new contract is a nine month contract instead of the previous one year agreement, said Mr. Flemming. The new contract covers July 1 to March 31 and negotiations will probably start again in February.

Because the new contract covers a nine month period it will bring about negotiations in three months.

Citing further wage increases in the contract, Mr. Flemming said an electrician now making \$7,600 receives an increase to \$10,400, effective July 1 and \$11,000 on Oct. 1, 1975. This increase also applies to plumbers.

## MOST HAPPY

Stationary engineers who were receiving \$8,300 go to \$9,500 on July 1, 1975 and \$10,000, Oct. 1, 1975, said Mr. Flemming. Utility workers who were earning \$5,600 per year have received an increase to \$7,000, effective July 1, 1975 and \$7,600 on Oct. 1, 1975. These increases as those for the service workers are retroactive.

Commenting on the settlement, Mr. Flemming said "as usual the lowest paid — the service workers, took the worst beating in the settlement."

The majority of the workers are happy with the settlement and returning to work after three weeks on the picket line, said Mr. Flemming.

*The Cadre, Oct. 28, 1975, page 5*

## Lecture Number 1432 IBEW

A big moron and a little moron were sitting on a fence. The big moron fell off. Why didn't the little moron?

Because he was a professor.



## U.P.E.I. Students Return To Classes Today

*Guardian, Oct. 28, 1975*

Students at the University of Prince Edward Island voted to return to classes today pending the outcome of a meeting this afternoon between striking maintenance workers and the university administration.

Student Union President Gerald MacDonald said last night approximately 300 students met and the majority favored the return to classes. However, Mr. MacDonald said, if there are not some signs of progress in the negotiations the students will go back to the picket lines Wednesday in an attempt to "shut down the university."

Monday afternoon about 350 students marched to Premier

of local 1432 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers on strike at the university and of these 26 have an annual income of \$4,700.

### POVERTY LINE

"When you consider that this is \$91 per week it is amazing that the families of these workers have managed their income to provide food, clothing and shelter. These workers are asking for an increase of a present income which is on the poverty line," the petition read. It went on to state "the maintenance workers at UPEI, the 26 previously mentioned, are making \$2.30 per hour and are asking for a \$1.25 per hour increase with an end result of \$3.55 per hour."

The document further reads "on Oct. 24 the Student Union of UPEI in an attempt to get the two parties to negotiate ar-

**Negotiations Resume Today**