

## WASHERS AND DRYERS IN LIMBO (AT FARRAGO) DURING CONTRACT DISPUTE

by Dave Snyder

Dozens of washers and dryers which had been piled up outside Farrago have been moved back inside, awaiting the outcome of a legal dispute. The washers and dryers belong to Solon, the company which supplied laundry services last year. Harvie Jordan of St. Andrews awarded this year's contract to Canteen. Solon representatives claim that their contract with St. Andrews has been breached and they refuse to collect their machines.

The dispute hinges on a contract clause called the "right of refusal." This clause would guarantee Solon salespeople the right to keep St. Andrews' business if they could undercut competitive bids. Jordan claims this clause had been "stricken on subsequent contracts and initialed by both parties" in the days when Jerry Surface was the Director of Administrative Services. Solon officials claim that the clause was never stricken. Jordan did not give Solon the "right of refusal" when he awarded the contract to Canteen.

"Our whole intent was to improve a vending situation which had become distasteful," explains Jordan, "Canteen came in with a good proposition and we took it. They're doing a good job. Solon are just poor losers."

Rick Bagby, Regional Vice President of Solon, could make only a limited comment, "there was a contract which guaranteed certain rights and it wasn't handled that way."

Litigation progresses between the lawyers of both parties.

Canteen's contract began at the beginning of this fall, and includes all vending on campus in addition to washers and dryers. Solon's laundry machines were stored in the halls of the dorms for weeks until they were moved to Farrago. When the machines interfered with a planned student function in Farrago, Jordan authorized students to move the machines outdoors.

Jordan acknowledged that there probably was some minor damage to the machines while they were stored outside. "But," he says, "we asked Solon to remove their machines and they refused. We had no alternative."

Jordan expects the dispute to be settled between the lawyers, without going to court, before Farrago is needed again for a student activity. ■