

# DFA and administration one step closer to contract

by Paul Creelman

The contract talks between the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) and the Dalhousie administration have moved one step closer to resolution in the past week, according to administration negotiator Dr. Cameron.

"We have moved a lot closer to settlement. If you recall, there were four main issues still in dispute, including promotion of librarians, inclusion of the affirmative action program in the contract, the articles dealing with academic planning and money," said Cameron.

"We have reached substantial agreement on two of the four issues, but the others still remain to be resolved."

"There is agreement on the promotional policy in Library Services, and an agreement about affirmative action has

been reached outside of the contract. However, there is still disagreement over articles 23 and 24 concerning academic planning, and the DFA has failed to come to an agreement over the income maintenance clause."

DFA chief negotiator Chris Axworthy does not view the resolutions as a breakthrough in the contract talks.

"We're still no closer on salaries or articles 23, 24, 25 than when we began the talks," said Axworthy.

"There's still the problem with academic planning—when will faculty members be replaced. At present, the member can only not be replaced if there is agreement between the Dean and the head of the department involved. What the Board of governors wants is the reverse—that is there will only be a replacement when the Dean decides that it is necessary. Naturally, we don't trust the Dean always to make the right decision in those circumstances."

Axworthy states that the present situation in the contract talks does not really seem to be changing much.

"It's always getting more and more frustrating. We're getting so late in the year now, that the delay in receipt of the money will have income tax implications for many of our members. This may be something that we'll have to do



some negotiating about," said Axworthy.

"It's getting to the point where we may have to take more intensive job actions to get the contracts going. If we do take these steps, we'll want to explain to the students beforehand the reasons, and that we're certainly not going to attempt to prejudice their

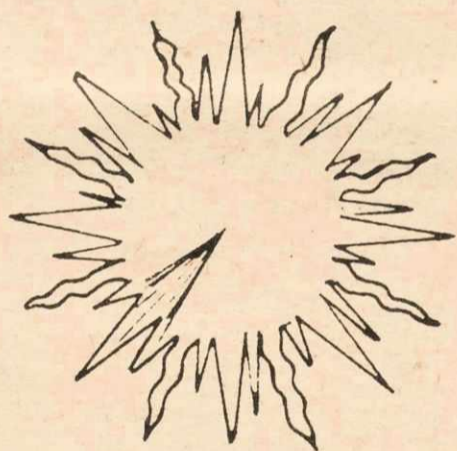
education in any way."

However, contract talks are still ongoing, and Dr. Cameron points out that agreements are always being reached by the process of continuous negotiation.

"I would not be as pessimistic about the negotiations. I think it all depends on what you mean by 'apart'," said

Cameron in reply to Axworthy's statement concerning the salary settlement.

"Obviously, we're going to be 'apart' until we've come to an agreement, but the question is how do you measure how far apart we are? It seems to me that we're certainly closer together than when we started negotiating."



**SUNS**

## Slow going at NUS conference

by Andrew Sinclair

The NUS/AOSC conference held in Winnipeg three weeks ago achieved far less than it might have, says Mike McNeil, NUS Central Committee Rep for the Students Union of Nova Scotia.

Dealing largely with the upcoming merger and restructuring of the two national student movements, the conference lasted five days, and, according to McNeil, a lot of time was spent both in the restructuring workshops and in plenary sessions trying to involve the delegates from six universities opposed to the merger. In the end, however,

the six dissenting institutions walked out on the conference, leaving McNeil with the suspicion that perhaps their sole intent had been to slow the conference up: "I guess we were pretty well duped."

SUNS chairperson Loretta Mullen also felt that the conference could have gotten further than it did.

Mullen, who sat on the Restructuring Committee responsible for drawing up the basic restructuring proposal, said that "more could have been accomplished if everyone had been clued in." While SUNS began discussing the restructuring issue in August, many of the

delegates, she said, had no knowledge of basic principles and ideas, and these often had to be explained and discussed before work on the various began.

Both Mullen and McNeil agreed, however, that the conference was a success.

Pointing out that talk about restructuring has been going on since 1976, they said that more had been accomplished than ever before and that now there was at least a framework to build upon. The conference was also a success from the point of view of SUNS, whose main concern, they said, was to see that members of SUNS not belonging to NUS were not disadvantaged by the merger. Currently an autonomous body, SUNS will become a provincial component of the new national organization. Thus institutions such as Dalhousie which belong both to SUNS and to NUS will be able to join one larger movement with both provincial and national representation. Universities such as Acadia and St. FX, however, do not belong to NUS. In order that they might still belong to SUNS, then, the Nova Scotian delegates pushed for and received, thanks to what McNeil termed "considerable pressure," an associate membership plan which will allow these institutions to continue to have provincial representation even if they do not join the new organization.

McNeil also stated that SUNS members were successful in lobbying for a total policy review, which will take place sometime in the future.

## For women — a reopening of the night

by Estelle Small

Members of a committee concerned with Dalhousie campus security are pleased with the recommendations follows up since the committee's report last August. Dian Gifford, committee head, said in an interview with CKDU last week. But she added recommendations are still to be implemented.

The Committee Concerned about Violence Against Women was formed after a rape occurred in the Life Sciences Building last March. A preliminary report was released in April, but the final report was issued to the administration four months ago.

Changes in campus security have been taking place since this summer to improve university safety.

Gifford, a Ph.D. student in oceanography at Dalhousie

University, said lighting has been improved around the chemistry building parking lot, in front of the Arts and Administration building, the rear of the biology wing of the Life Sciences Building and the biology parking lot.

As well, a system of key controls is now being studied, Gifford said, and an extra security patrolman makes foot patrols of the Life Sciences Building and the chemistry building between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.

Gifford said Halifax Police began to patrol the campus before the report and have continued to do so. Another recommendation which has been acted upon is to prune trees around the campus and the trees nearby.

But Gifford said it is not enough to have two men from

campus security patrol Dalhousie's 100 acres by car, which is the situation now.

She urged women to report any incidents of harassment to Dalhousie security and or the police.

"It is not practical to expect women to walk alone at night," she said.

Gifford said women must "be aware at all times" when walking alone at night. She said the area around the dental school and the medical building have been "earmarked" as places where sexual offences occur.

A sexual assault was attempted in September near Fenwick Place. Subsequently, notices were issued to female residents of the building not to go out unescorted at night.

Dalhousie President Andrew MacKay said in an inter-

view Tuesday that he was "favorably impressed with the reaction of Ms. Gifford and her colleagues."

McKay said letters from Gifford after the rape incident last March were "more than just expressions of concern" because concrete suggestions had been made.

He said he did not know if the number of security staff had been increased, but suspected it had not.

McKay said an ad hoc administrative group headed by John Graham, manager of the student union, will release another report "soon," but did not know when.

McKay said he hoped the proposal in the August report to develop an educational process on security is being carried out such as the Women's Faculty Association.