

Dal faculty voting on strike action

by C. Ricketts

The Dalhousie Faculty Association is voting this week whether or not to go on strike.

Outstanding issues between the faculty union and the University are wages and benefits, and union security. The results of the secret ballot vote, taken this Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in the DFA office, will be kept in the confidence of the executive, pending future progress at the negotiating table.

The difference between the DFA and the administration over salary increases is five percentage points. According to the University, the offer is 10 per cent with the DFA asking 15. The DFA says it's asking for 12 and the Board is offering 7.

The DFA claims negotiations, which started last April, ground to a halt in mid-November. The union requested binding arbitration on November 17.

"There didn't seem to be any movement on the issues," said

DFA president Om Kamra, a Biology professor. "Not even a dime in four months."

The University refused to implement binding arbitration on November 22. According to the chief negotiator for the University Board of Governors, David Cameron, binding arbitration was not needed. "We hold the view that negotiations have not broken down," Cameron said. "Although right now they don't seem to be doing anything," he added.

The DFA and the Board agreed to a mediator, Dr. Michael Cross, to continue the negotiations on November 27 and 28. Although no progress was made, it was agreed Tuesday that Cross would resume negotiations "for a few days" commencing Wednesday, said DFA chief negotiator Pat Kerans.

Nonetheless, the DFA is continuing with the strike vote. A mandate of 50 per cent plus one of the 725 members in the bargaining unit is needed before steps toward strike

action can proceed. The bargaining unit includes professors (except for dentistry and medicine profs), instructors, professionals/librarians and counsellors in Psychological and Counselling Services.

According to Nova Scotia statute, a strike mandate may be sought at any time. But before a strike may be legal, all negotiations must have broken down and a provincially appointed conciliator must attempt to negotiate an agreement. Failing that a report must be presented to the Minister of Labour.

The report is kept confidential from both parties. Fourteen days after it has been presented, the union is in a legal position to strike provided 48 hours notice is given to the employer.

Strike action is not only walking off the job and manning pickets, says Kamra. "A strike means many things - it is any concerted or combined effort in pursuit of negotiations," he said.

No one is predicting the outcome of the strike vote, nor to what extent job action will be carried out should the situation deteriorate. Kerans says he has not met anyone who really wants the strike to happen. When asked how long it might last if called, he says, "That's the last thing I'd like to estimate."

Kerans notes the longest walk-out strike for university faculty in English Canada has been only a week.

"It may not necessarily be the case that all professors would support the strike," says Cameron. He continues that every effort to minimize damage to students and education would be taken.

The university's financial situation is the other reason for the Board's strong stance against more than a 10 per cent increase. According to its calculations a 10 per cent raise would increase the 1982-83 operating deficit by close to one million dollars. In addition, close to another million dollars would be added to the deficit since other salaries being negotiated in the near future would expect to have parity with the DFA agreement, said Cameron.

The DFA and the Board appear to be using different figures for calculating the increase. The Board maintains the DFA is asking for a 15 per cent increase. Kerans says the Board is offering a 7 per cent hike on the base salary while the DFA is asking for 12. The discrepancy is caused by inclusion of the Career Development Income (CDI) in the percentile figure on the part of the Board and the exclusion of the CDI amount on the part of the DFA.

"No one has said before that the CDI was a problem," said Kerans. The CDI is an increment in salary given annually to reward professors for good performance and keeping current in their field.

In a memorandum dated November 29, Cameron included figures verified by Statistics Canada on Atlantic region salaries for university teachers. He indicated recent media reports that the average professor's salary was \$27,000 was "very misleading", because they used base salaries for calculation.

"We don't operate on a lock-step salary system. They're comparing starting salaries, not the ones that

the Dalhousie Gazette

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Night prowlers stalk Glengarry rooms

by Ken Burke

Reports of what may have been a premeditated rape attempt at Glengarry Apartments, a Dalhousie women's residence, have renewed concern about security at Dal.

On November 4th, a resident of Glengarry Apartments was awakened at approximately 2:15 a.m. by the touch of a male intruder. When the resident stirred and brushed his hand, she heard the intruder say, "They lied, she's not ready." At that point the woman became hysterical and the man fled.

Residents of Glengarry saw another man run from the side of the apartment building when the woman began screaming and jump into a grey Chevrolet parked in front of the building. The car then quickly drove down the street, suggesting the presence of a third man at the wheel. The intruder then ran down the street and was picked up by the car. He was "big, had dark hair and a cut jean jacket," according to Glengarry resident Patti Wolfe.

Security Committee chair Chris Hartt said the women at Glengarry hadn't previously been alerted to the hazards of the neighbourhood. "Until recently, people left the front door open for friends," said Hartt.

The apartment building has no system for "buzzing" rooms for identification before entry through the security door. After a break-in four weeks ago, the residents of Glengarry wrote a letter to the Gazette asking for an improved security system, as visitors "have to knock on the outside door, yell, or wait for someone to see them" in order to gain entry.

Also of concern is the lack of proper security screens at the building. The intruder gained entry through a window in Patti Wolfe's first-floor apartment, went through the room without disturbing her, and entered the second resident's room at the end of the hall.



Glengarry Apartments on Edward Street, nice to live in but not very safe.

On several of the ground-floor and basement apartments there are no screens in place now, including the apartment of a woman who had been broken into a week before the incident took place.

On Wednesday, Dean of Women, Christine Irving, said the screens are "being worked on". She said they have to be made to the size of individual windows. "We hope to get some in place this week," she said. Wooden blocks have also been placed in windows to prevent them from opening all the way. However, this move hasn't been satisfactory to all.

"The windows still open 6 inches," said Hartt. "You can reach in and knock the blocks off quite easily."

Irving added that an improved buzzer system was being looked at. "They're going ahead right now with a system outside the door," she said.

Glengarry residents have also complained of "paper-thin" doors which are easy to break into. In the

past, when residents have forgotten their keys, they would "jimmy" the locks to gain entry, according to Wolfe. "We're paying a lot of money to stay here, and our safety

leaves a little to be desired," said Wolfe.

Dean Irvine said the locks have deadbolt capability, with a special feature on the existing locks.

Women attacked on campus

Two women were attacked on campus last Wednesday night, according to Dal student council Member-at-Large Erin Steuter at last Thursday's Security Committee meeting.

One woman was followed from Alexandria Hall en route to Sheriff Hall. Her assailant pushed her from behind, then ran in front of her and dropped his trousers. She was kicked in the leg.

The victim attracted attention of passersby with her screams, and the man ran off, after grabbing her purse.

Another woman was chased from Sherriff Hall to the Killam. Her assailant did not stop pursuit until she had gained access to the front doors of the library.

The Security Committee is in the process of determining which routes would be the best lit and most frequently travelled on campus at night. Committee chair Chris Hartt hopes a map with the recommended route will be distributed in the near future. The possibilities of student patrols for nights with heavier late-night travel are also being investigated.

Rockwell/Dal Photo

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