

Will these talks pay off ?

by Lyssa McKee

One day before the strike date, Dal students are still waiting to find out if they will have classes on Friday. Though marathon discussions continue between the DFA and the administration, no

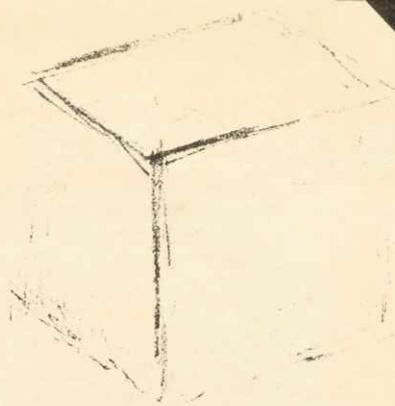
agreement had been made public by late Wednesday night. DFA president David Williams would only say that talks would resume Thursday.

In a press release distributed on Wednesday, the DFA confirmed

that "progress has been made on several non-monetary issues." The union declined to specify which issues these were.

The news that the two sides had sat down again surprised the university community. Many students see the strike as a foregone conclusion, and some have already planned what they are going to do with the time off.

Negotiations between the DFA and the Board of Govern-



The black box (famous from physics experiments).

We can only speculate about what is happening within

nors resumed at 2 p.m. on Tuesday and lasted until 1 a.m. Both sides were close-mouthed about the talks, saying the negotiations

were at a delicate point. Neither side wanted to jeopardize the success of the talks by making any premature comments.

UIC law degree

by Heather Hueston

The day before the faculty strike is supposed to happen, students will be lining up to fill out their unemployment insurance forms as part of a Law Society-sponsored protest.

Law Society president Grant Borbridge says that students want to focus attention on the provincial government and collecting UIC benefits is not the main motive.

Borbridge said that he has read UIC information and interprets it to allow benefits to persons who are not in full-time attendance at a university.

"It seems to apply in this instance so we thought we'd encourage students to sign up as a means of protest."

Borbridge says that law students face stricter time constraints than do most arts and science

undergrads. He points out that many provinces insist that articling students start at a certain date and an extended term could lose them the position. Borbridge adds that law students are required to have a certain number of weeks of education in order to qualify to write a bar exam.

Students need only prove they are available and willing to work says Bill Hayter of the Canada Employment Centre.

He adds that he ran into the same situation last year with TUNS students. Some of them received benefits after their 19-day strike.

A plan by some law students to file protest suits against the university in small claims court has apparently fizzled due to lack of support.

The UIC Application Rally takes place today at 2 pm in the Weldon Building.

DSU ready for action

by Heather Hueston

About 16 members of the Dalhousie Student Union sat down for two hours last Monday to brainstorm strike strategy.

Some of the ideas thrown away were an open forum with Dalhousie President Howard Clark at the Grawood Thursday night and another to organize a human chain of students between the Dalhousie Faculty Association offices and the Administration offices.

The meeting did decide on three strategies to express student concern about the pending strike.

The first, a media attention-

grabber of booking a table where both sides could meet and negotiate was put on hold when both sides *did* sit down to talk the following day.

Community Service Coordinator Beth Beattie says that the second idea, a mock prison holding a student is still underway. The imprisoned student is to represent how students are being held hostage by the unresolved labour situation.

A sit-in of President Clark's office is the third plan. The sit-in and the prison will happen "whenever the strike starts" says DSU President Juanita Montalvo.

A strike information table has

also been set up in the SUB lobby to answer students' questions.

Council voted last Sunday to allow the DSA, DFA and the Board to set up information tables in the SUB. Councillors did not want to allow the DFA to rent office space in the SUB, a move which Montalvo says does not prevent the DFA from booking a room in the SUB.

The DFA has stated that in the event of a strike, the administration informed them that they will not be allowed on university property.

Although the university owns the land the SUB is built on, the DSU owns the building itself, says Montalvo.

Q and A: Defining students' rights

by Lorna Irons, Ryan Stanley and Heather Hueston

What classes do I have to go to?

You don't have to attend any classes given by Dal instructors, whether on- or off-campus. This includes any classes given by non-DFA members who are "expected" by the administration to fulfill their contracts and teach. Many DFA members are giving classes in their homes on their own time. That's what John Barnstead of the Russian Department will do, because "my obligation to provide knowledge (of Russian) is paramount. It takes precedence over the strike." Barnstead says his students are not required to attend.

Student Services VP Eric McKee says it is a matter of "personal choice" whether students attend classes. In a flyer distributed across campus last week, the administration urges students to attend lectures and labs held by campus by faculty not participating in the strike.

What about material handed out in these classes? Can I be tested on that?

A motion passed October 7, 1988 by the Senate, the academic

governing body, stated that a student's decision whether to cross the picket line "should not result in any formal academic consequence". That means students cannot be penalized by marks or grades for not attending classes.

Tests need not be written nor assignments handed in until after a strike is over, says McKee.

A DSU strike strategy meeting decided not to clarify this motion because it worked better as a "blanket statement" that would take precedence over any later faculty decisions. "This is to ensure that a student who attends classes will not have any advantage over a student who refused to cross picket lines to go to class," says DSU President Juanita Montalvo.

There was some confusion when teachers were not informed of this motion and told their classes they would be responsible for material handed out during the strike. Montalvo says professors must make up the information in remedial classes to students who did not attend during a strike.

DFA president David Williams confirms this. "If you want to hear a lecture twice, go to class,"

he says.

Although administration will not comment on the possibility of the strike lasting longer than two weeks, Senate president Bill Jones says there was no time limit put on the policy regarding academic policies.

Who is going to be teaching courses?

According to DFA president David Williams, about six per cent of the DFA bargaining unit (about 700 professors, counsellors and librarians) will not participate in the strike. There are also part-time faculty who are not part of the DFA and who will not be paid if they do not teach. The medical and dental faculties are non-DFA, says Williams.

Williams confirmed that a waiver asking faculty to agree to defy a strike had been circulated by administration. He said it would never be known how many faculty signed the document.

King's

This is a grey area. Neither the DFA nor King's College president Dr. Marion Fry were able to state categorically that Dalhousie students did not have to attend

classes or would not be responsible for material given by King's professors. If a student misses material, Fry doubts whether the King's professor is obligated to make it up to the student as a Dal professor must do.

"I do see a difference between a Dal professor who is required to (provide lectures twice) and a King's professor who is not on strike and whose students are supposed to show up to class," says Fry. As for King's students, courses will continue as normal. No Dal profs are responsible for anything more than occasional lectures to foundation year students, says Fry.

Will I get any of my money back for the time lost due to a strike?

No, there will not be any refunds for classes or labs missed as a result of the strike, because the administration will make every effort to provide the full academic programme for which the students enrolled.

The administration does plan to assist students who wish to drop courses or withdraw from the university. The amount of refunded tuition drops from 70

per cent to 50 per cent after November 14. If a strike occurs before that date, McKee says the deadline will be "deferred by the number of days the strike lasts, so that students will not be at any disadvantage."

What about residence?

Again, the flyer states, and McKee confirmed in an interview, that services in residence would not be interrupted by a DFA strike. Students who returned home during a strike would not receive any portion of their residence fees. McKee said students who wish to withdraw from residence will get refunds according to the normal policy, "but individual concerns will be taken into account".

Can I still use the library?

Although reference services will be affected when the librarians walk off the job, normal circulation should continue thanks to the presence of part-time student employees and Dalhousie Staff Association members.

The flyer cited in this article is dumped in the SUB lobby by the front door.