

DSA Strike: who's hit next?

by Lilli Ju

The Dalhousie Staff Association (DSA) has been on a rotating strike since Friday, Jan. 4, so far affecting Dalhousie's administrative units and since last Friday (Jan. 18) the Weldon Law Building.

As the strike continues, there is a growing concern among students as to what will happen if the strike should eventually hit the teaching units. If this does happen, the strike is expected to have the greatest impact in the laboratories.

A number of DSA lab technicians are responsible for necessary and time-consuming preparations, clean-ups, and other duties. This past week, a number of students from various faculties of Dalhousie's Lower Campus were asked about their concerns should the

DSA of Lower Campus walk-out and how they think they will be affected.

As a fourth year Medical student, Michael Yoon said that he has not been affected by the strike to date and does not expect to be in the future. He only has one after-

noon of classes and the rest of the week is spent in a hospital setting. His only concern was whether or not graduation set for this spring would be affected by delays at the Registrar's Office.

However, Yoon did say that other Medical students in their first to third years may be more critically affected, since labs constitute a large part of their curricula.

A third year Pharmacy student, Andrea Gardner, has most of her classes and labs at the College of Pharmacy. She did not feel that she would be affected too much if the DSA strike should directly hit Lower Campus, but did say that other years may also run into more problems since many have classes and labs outside the College of Pharmacy.

Carrie Kay, a second year Nursing student, is also unaffected. She said that there was some confusion as to who was DSA and who was not. According to Kay, the only courses that could really be affected were ones involving labs teaching important practical skills and techniques for the clinical setting.

In her third year of Occupational Therapy (OT), Lynn Renton said that she had not encountered too many difficulties to date because of the rotating strike. She instead

mentioned a number of problems that fellow students were running into at the Registrar's Office because of the longer-than-usual lines and shortened hours.

Fourth year OT students are at present "working in the field" full-time as part of their degree requirements, and some are finding it very difficult to find the time to register for OT courses which begin later on in the year.

the DSA may have to target areas directly affecting students

Renton mentioned that if the lab technicians do walk-out (although admittedly reluctant to do so), this would create difficulties. The OT school year ends on Mar. 25, after which third year OT students will be working in the field. This does not leave much time to make up any missed labs.

For similar reasons, if the Kellogg Library should have to shorten its hours to 9 - 5, most OT students would find it very hard to

find time in their 8:30 - 4:30 schedule to complete valuable research in the library.

On the whole, Renton said that second year OT students "will be hit much harder because of the nature of their courses...[consisting of] 8 hours of labs per week that can't be missed!"

Candice Crocker, a fourth year Honours Microbiology student, said a number of things could happen to both students and faculty of the Microbiology department. She cited getting the necessary purchasing order numbers (from the purchasing department, which has joined the Registrar's Office in cutting its hours). Getting the much needed lab supplies is a problem which faculty have been facing

People are also uncertain whether or not they will be getting paid on time. Crocker feels that on the whole that students are "cushioned" from the real impact of the strike and if technicians do walk-out, it will just mean that those still in the lab will have to clean and prepare their own glassware and other supplies.

However, in the case of large lab classes where DSA technicians prepare large numbers of supplies, such as for the introductory microbiology class, labs will have to be shut down.

Crocker also said that a couple of her classes may be critically affected if the printing shop closes down. As of yet, the aquatic microbiology lab manuals haven't been printed. In the meantime, photocopies of parts of the manual are being made for the students each week.

In the advanced immunology class, students receive valuable handouts that supplement lectures each week. If the printing shop closes, the students will only have access to the professor's single copy on reserve, and the students themselves, will have to pay for the photocopying each week, whereas they didn't have to before.

Students were also concerned about graduating in the spring. They were uncertain whether or not the Registrar was sending transcripts on time to other graduate and professional schools to which

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FIRST AID COURSES OFFERED

St. John Ambulance Emergency First Aid Courses will be held at Dalhousie over the next few months. There is a \$25.00 charge which covers the cost of the work books and pamphlets. The one day sessions are scheduled for:

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February 21st March 21st

From 8:30 am. to 4:30 pm. Registration and payment must be made prior to the day of the course and a confirmation will be made.

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