

# STRIKE UPDATE

## Administration has not yet made specific plans

by Lyssa McKee

Although Dalhousie administration has not yet made any contingency plans in the event of a Dalhousie Faculty Association strike, they are trying to anticipate potential problems and collection information regarding how various departments would be affected.

Vice-President Denis Stairs stressed that they hope such plans won't be necessary: "we are doing

everything possible to avoid a walkout."

Making specific plans is difficult because the dimensions of the problem change depending on the length of the strike. Stairs said that if the strike were to last less than two weeks, the lost time "could probably be made up within normal operations of an academic year." If the strike lasted more than two weeks, how-

ever, problems become much more serious.

A prolonged strike could mean a shorter Christmas break, an extended school year, or cancellation of the spring break. Each of these alternatives involves its own set of problems, and the administration is not willing to commit itself to any particular course of action at this point.

The President's office recog-

nizes that students are innocent victims who will undoubtedly suffer in the event of a strike. But, though the administration is sympathetic to the plight of the students, they "can't guarantee that financial loss on the part of the students will be compensated." For instance, when asked if residence fees would increase if the school term were extended, Stairs responded by saying that

"extra time means extra costs."

When asked if the administration had considered the various problems involved in the event of a DSA strike, Stairs replied that "we haven't given a great deal of attention to that at the moment. We're focusing on the most immediate of our potential emergencies. We have a big enough problem on our plate with the Faculty Association."

## DSA still waiting . . .

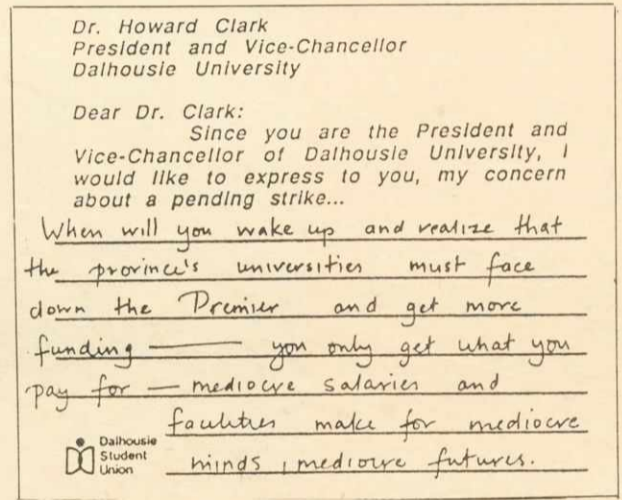
by Lyssa McKee

The Dalhousie Staff Association (DSA) is still waiting for its first meeting with the Department of Labour conciliator.

The union, which represents approximately 740 clerical, secretarial, and technical employees at the university, has been without a contract since June 30. Negotiations between the DSA and the administration broke off in August, and the services of a conciliator were requested at that time. The conciliator appointed was Gordon Keeler, who was also assigned to mediate for the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA).

After conciliation has begun, either party can decide to end the talks if they feel nothing is being accomplished. Once this occurs, the conciliator files a report, and two weeks later the union can legally go on strike.

The DSA has already had a strike vote, and 85 per cent of the members who voted support a strike. The main issues in the dispute are job security, wages, and pay equity.



Sample postcard, one of over 1000 completed by concerned students.

## "Dear Howie: Please settle."

by Heather Hueston

Dalhousie President Howard Clark got a little light reading from Dalhousie Student Union President Juanita Montalvo last Monday.

Montalvo handed over four shopping bags of postcards filled out by students at a DSU press conference held to publicize students' problems with the possible DFA/DSA strike. Clark promised Montalvo he'd read each and every one.

The cards were handed out over

a two week period beginning October 7. DSU reps went to residences and university classes distributing the cards and urging students to write down their concerns.

Montalvo said the cards were addressed to Clark because the students' contract for classes is made with the administration. She added that as president and vice-chancellor of the university Clark is ultimately responsible for the state of Dalhousie.

Most of the students were con-

cerned more about their own welfare than with the labour issues at stake. Said one, "... I do not want a strike on campus, I can sympathize with the DFA and DSA, but I have to be selfish about this. A strike could be detrimental to my education ..."

Those who did mention issues were overwhelmingly concerned about the decline of the quality of education here. "Without decent salaries and benefits, Dal will lose its decent professors and will go down the drain as a university."

## Faculty opinion

by Edward Fobes

Dalhousie Faculty Association representative Carolyn Savoy says the union does not want to go on strike but is left with no choice because the administration is not giving up enough on their end.

She says, "In negotiations, both sides have to move. If you want to sell something for one hundred dollars, you don't accept

an offer of five dollars."

A professor who wishes to remain anonymous said the last thing he wants to do is hurt the students by striking. Citing the main reason for a possible strike as the administration's failure to move, he says both sides are just flexing their muscles. At the time, he doubted the possibility of a strike actually occurring.

Professor Duncan MacIntosh was also sympathetic to the needs of the students but said the strike has to be a threat to the students in order to be effective. Professors who cross picket lines or who continue to teach elsewhere would greatly reduce the impact of the strike.

According to MacIntosh, many Dal professors are being drawn by better offers from other universities, and unless the administration takes radical steps, a strike is inevitable.

Not all professors take such a hard line. One, who wishes to remain anonymous, secretly hopes students put enough pressure on the administration and faculty in order to keep the strike as short as possible.

## Globe reporter disillusioned

by Laurie Cook

The former African and Middle East Bureau Chief for the Globe and Mail thinks his coverage of events there between 1983 and 1986 was an "imperfect mirror".

Michael Valpy told an audience at the Dalhousie Art Gallery that he thought the Globe and Mail "saw a writer's assignment which is why they sent a writer, someone capable of presenting a Canadian audience with emotive word-snapshots of a continent that would have meaning to the Canadian experience."

Valpy also told the standing room only crowd that the situation in South Africa in 1984 became "a story requiring harder



Michael Valpy

Raymond Mah: Dal Photo

things for himself, however slow the process."

Valpy originally tried to see the reasoning of both the white Afrikaners and the black Africans. But the accumulative "mindless" violence of the South African police in confronting any display of dissent, and the "ridiculous" lies of the Bureau for Information changed his mind. This was "the deflowering of one liberal Canadian journalist."

Valpy's conclusion on the subject was that "there are clear disadvantages in placing correspondents in situations for which they are not adequately prepared and very clear advantages when the correspondents are prepared."

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## TUNS work in Africa

by James Hamilton

Two students from the Technical University of Nova Scotia worked last summer in South Africa for the Anglo American Corporation, a South African mining company.

Anglo American representatives conducted recruitment campaigns across Canada in hope of filling the company's many vacant positions.

Ian Glazier, a University of Toronto student who recently returned from South Africa, said "There are only two universities in South Africa where you can study metallurgy. Only 25 graduates per year are produced. Anglo needs about 100 students per

year."

When asked about the political implications, Glazier responded "Most engineers are practical enough to realize that it is just a job, they don't get emotional over that." He added, "I liked the idea of going to South Africa. I never saw anything like what was portrayed in the Canadian media."

Anti-apartheid activists saw the situation differently. "They are enjoying the spoils of apartheid," said Madoda Mngadi, coordinator for the Biko-Malcolm coalition. "These naive young people have been manipulated. Anyone could think everything was o.k. under such skillful direction."