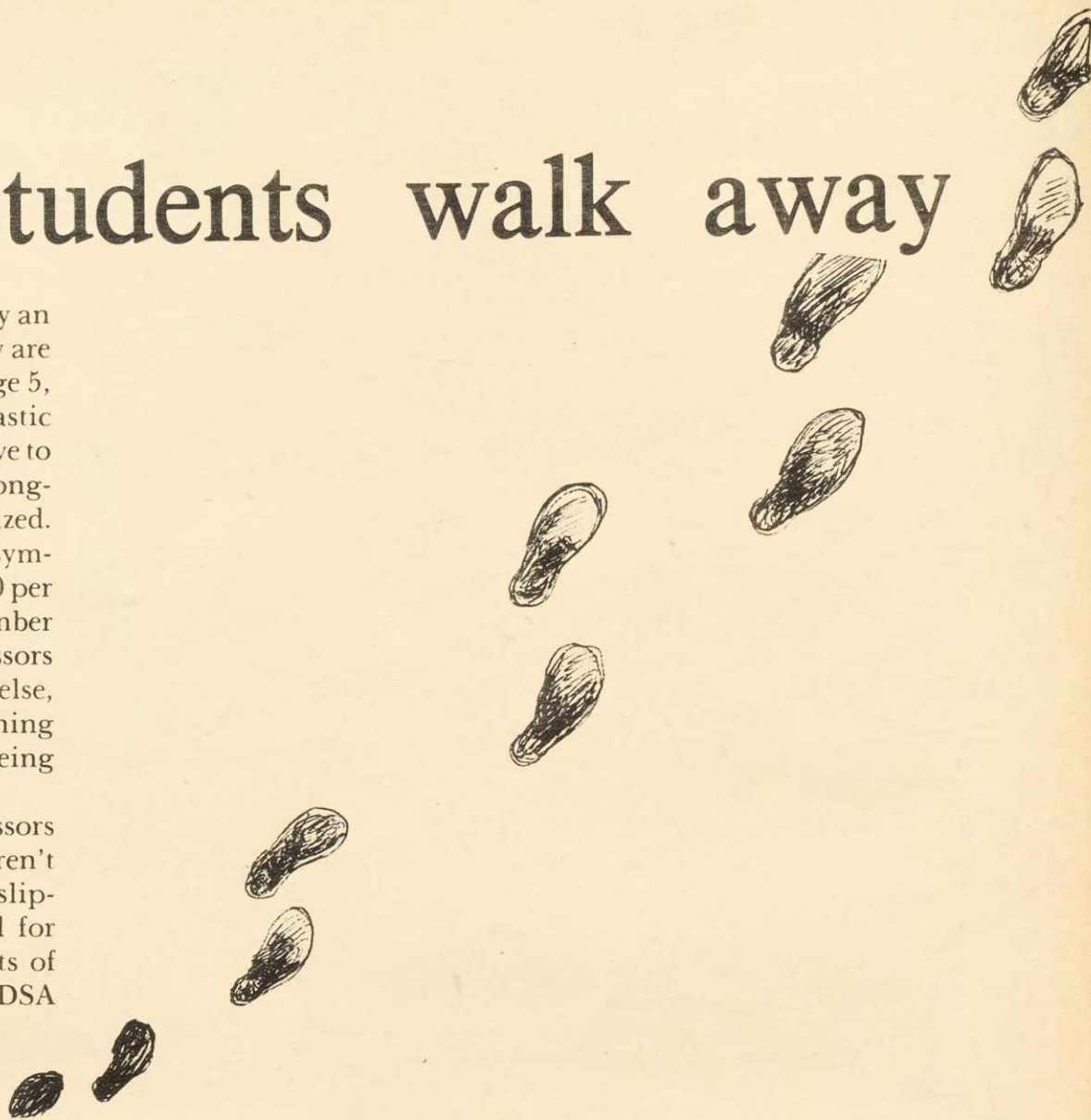


Faculty and students walk away

It's going to take a strong stike vote and possibly an actual strike before the demands of the Dal Faculty are met. Taking a look at some of the statistics on page 5, one can see why the DFA is resorting to such drastic tactics. Faculty salaries and pensions are low relative to other universities across Canada and the long-promised faculty appointments have yet to be realized.

As a student perhaps it's somewhat difficult to sympathize with someone who earns more than \$40,000 per year but even if quality of education isn't the number one issue, it is directly related to salary. If Dal professors aren't earning as much as they could somewhere else, we are liable to lose them. This is already happening and professors lost through attrition are not being replaced.

The quality of education is suffering and professors aren't the only ones turning away. Students aren't going to attend a university which is so quickly slipping downhill. A new set of priorities is called for Dalhousie University and with any luck and lots of persistence, the strong measures of the DFA and DSA will provoke some positive action.



LETTERS

Mandatory AIDS testing

Dear Editors:

I am writing the Gazette and the general public of Dal to address the touchy subject of AIDS. Now I understand that at all universities sexual activity is an unavoidable fact of life. I do not advocate wild, uninhibited sex with every other John/Jane but let's face it, if it weren't for AIDS such practices would be quite acceptable.

But this is not applicable and I propose that Dalhousie and indeed other universities lobby the MPs of N.S. to get mandatory AIDS tests put in place for the good of all students as well as the general public. It may seem to be quite unacceptable at first glance but stop and consider the gains. The number of AIDS cases in general would be known and those people could be dealt with. I'm not advocating sending them to the Antarctic or banishing them forever to some desert isle, I'm merely stating that such an affliction as AIDS cannot be ignored. Unfortunately the current government is doing just that. Just because AIDS has a fatal connotation, we shouldn't ignore it, we should give it special priority. I think AIDS is infinitely more important and more

relevant than Free Trade. Stop and consider this, think how much more popular a government would be if they helped cure AIDS. (Infinitely more popular than the inventors of the wheel, the lightbulb or the cabbage patch doll rolled into one). Notwithstanding this, we have to consider the personal gains. I have known three 'acquaintances' who have contracted the evil disease and they wouldn't have if someone had thought of AIDS testing. We aren't talking about constitutional rights, we're talking about the lives of 3 young women. When will Nova Scotians and all Canadians wake and smell the coffee?

Sincerely,
Sherley Leigh, BA

Frosh squads build spirit

Dear Editors:

Oh no, not another letter about the Frosh week issue! Sorry, but I want to put my two-cents worth in this one. I can understand that onlookers (such as Brian Hill) would find Frosh week activities at Dal too militarized. But as with all things, there are many viewpoints on this issue. The "marching" parts of the week (which take maybe 5% of the whole week) are meant to build spirit. And they do! Unfortunately, it is mostly the marchings that the rest of Dal students seem to remember. The Squad does not get power-high. In order to have a

morning walk at 5 am., the Squad must get up at 4. The Squad is made up of volunteers who donate a lot of time (and some money) to welcome the Frosh.

I was new last year, and enjoyed Frosh week so much that I wanted to participate again this year. Only alternative: be on the Squad. We are no longer meant to be so authoritative, but more "motherly". Example — on 4th Floor, each leader trotted through Halifax with some Frosh on a scavenger hunt. The leader was NOT EVEN ALLOWED to participate, but rather to assure that Frosh didn't get lost or run over. Example — each leader was assigned 6 Frosh who had to be personally contacted and cared for.

These "little brothers/sisters" were to be helped with registration and other problems. Example — for each leader, participation in Shinerama was MANDATORY. Example — bus tickets, ferry tokens for scavenger hunts, etc. were often paid for by Squad. All in all, the 1st year students and Dalhousie at large got a pretty good deal out of us volunteers.

Alex Burton called for "activities such as barbecues, evening cafes and friendly sports competitions". Did he check the activities calendar? We had 2 BBQs, a banquet, a sports competition on Studley Field, dances, fundraising (Shinerama), etc. What could be so embarrassing or humiliating about that?

Yes, peer pressure about alcohol is a touchy subject with me, too. As someone who drinks very little, I was glad/impressed that

the Floor Presidents repeatedly stressed that we were not to lend out I.D.s or buy liquor for the Frosh. As I notice these days, warm-ups and dances are even more strictly monitored than last year.

So maybe instead of judging

Frosh activities by the marching that goes on periodically, one can listen to the frosh and Squad and make up an opinion that way. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Nikola Czerwonka
4th Floor Sherriff

Please TYPE all letters to the editors!

O P I N I O N

Book-buying 1000

By Scott Neily

Agreed, for most students, it is a bit too late to hand out tips on how to navigate through the demilitarized zone the Dalhousie Bookstore has become. However; class changes do occur, there is always next year, grad school, etc.

As is well known, most departments hand out supplements on the texts expected to be used in the coming year for their various courses. As soon as they are released, the normal procedure is to run to the bookstore like a bat out of hell and hope to blaze that the other umpteen dozen students that have overloaded the course haven't been there first. Of course, when running like a dog with his butt on fire through the bookstore, one does not stop and

read the sign that says "STOP! Go to classes first!" No, one continues on like a shopper at supermarket coupon riot and promptly discovers on the first day of classes that most of the book list has been changed due to difficulties in obtaining sufficient quantities of the proper textbook. At this point, some options are available. One is suicide. The others are not.

One could go through the madhouse of Week One in the bookstore to exchange your books. Or, you could wait until the crowd dies down to go for the exchange and hope that there are still some copies left of the books you need. Of course, the problem of prices higher than the national deficit remains and many students die every year from the prospect of

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