

Why students should support the DFA

For most of us negotiations are things that go on behind closed doors. People in suits meet over long boardroom tables and haggle over 4.3 versus 4.5. Sure we see strikes on the news—coalminers in England or workers on strike at the Glades Nursing home, but somehow it doesn't seem real.

For the faculty and librarians that make up the Dalhousie Faculty Association labour negotiations are real and they may come closer to home for us when DFA members vote on strike action Oct. 23.

The biggest fear of students when faculty take a strike vote is the cancellation of classes by a strike. This will happen only in the most extreme of cases. The faculty's main concern is putting pressure on the administration to return to the negotiating table with a reasonable salary proposal. The faculty is aware of the concerns of students and has prepared a list of other options short of a complete walk-out.

When faculty can get better pay elsewhere they leave. For those who stay, they'll be making less money than university professors anywhere in the country. And that hurts us, the students. At UBC, in sacred land, professors are leaving for better paying schools in the U.S. That could happen here.

One example people love to bring up in defense of faculty not taking pay increases is the University of Victoria. The professors there accepted a wage freeze.

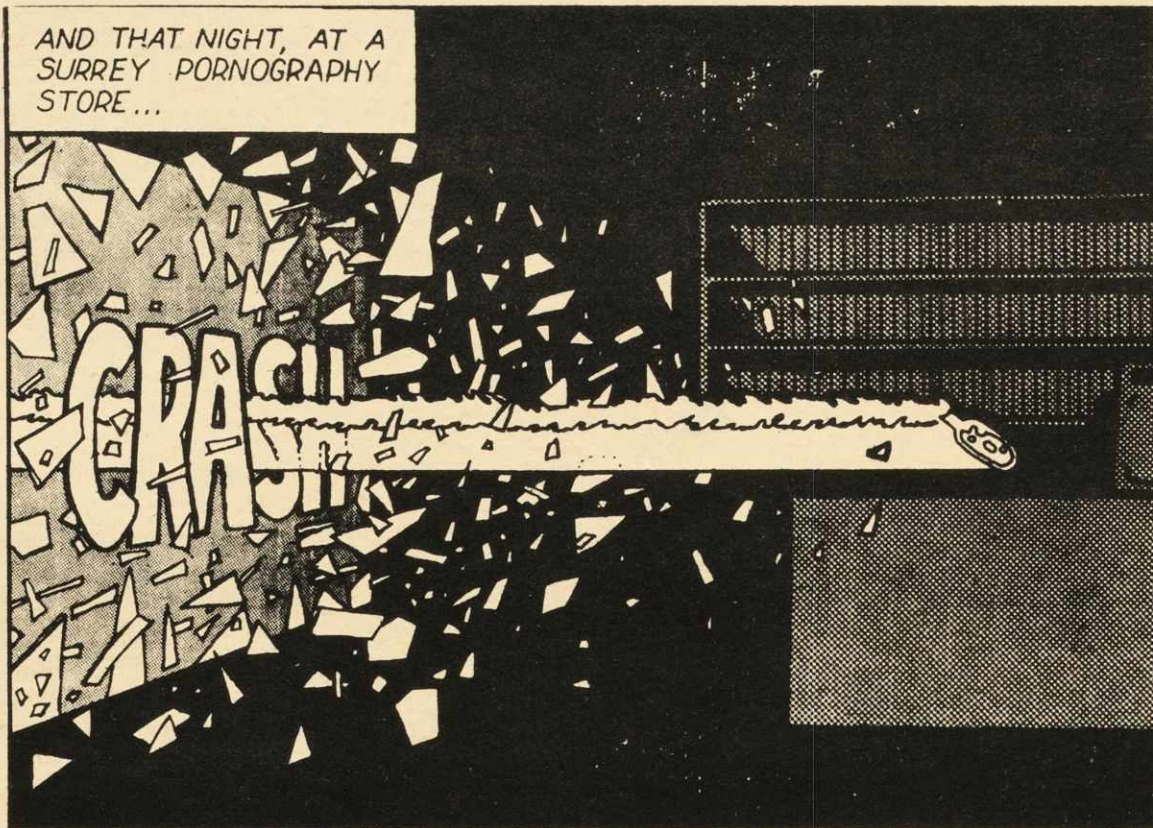
But there is a flaw in that example: to be at par with the faculty at U. Vic., Dalhousie faculty would need an increase of 18 per cent.

When they get behind closed doors . . .

Under a veil of secrecy the Board of Governors is making the decisions that shape the future of Dalhousie University. It is accountable to nobody; in fact, few people even know what it is doing.

The Board of Governors meets monthly in closed sessions, and the minutes of its meetings have been closed since 1945. Only in the past month has a decision been made to open the minutes up to 1963.

When a group with such power is not accountable to anyone, not even the press, abuses of that



There is also more than pay at stake in this strike decision. The administration wants a clause put in the collective agreement that would make Deans responsible for knowing what every faculty member is doing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

They also want a share of all copyrights and patents held by Dalhousie professors. This means if a professor patented an invention, that professor would have to hand a percentage of earned royalties over to the administration. The administration uses the bizarre thinking that since the money was earned on so-called university time, a share should go to the university.

To us this sounds like a direct infringement on academic freedom. It should make students nervous to see the administration acting in such a fashion, with little regard for the other people involved in this "business" they call Dalhousie University.

Both students and faculty are hurt by funding cuts by the provincial government. If the administration were as hard-lined with the provincial government as they are now with the faculty, both faculty and students would be better off. □

power may result. Several cases have been documented where Board members have been involved in giving contracts to companies they had an interest in.

Obviously there is certain business the Board of Governors need not divulge, but why must it be kept hidden long after the business is done? How can the people who have an interest in the university, the students and faculty, be certain the Board is operating in the best interests of the university if the Board does not conduct its business openly? □

Violence against whom?

Just recently the *Gazette* has been criticized for running two graphics depicting the explosion at the Vancouver hydro station and the Litton plant by a Direct Action group.

Well, here is the third—the fire

bombing of a red-hot video store, compliments of Direct Action supporters.

It has been suggested that the *Gazette* is advocating "armed rebellion" in a country that need not resort to violence. Canada—so the

Doonesbury relief amid right wing clatter and rubble

By RICK JANSON

One can imagine how Dick Smythe's day starts out. He probably lights up that pipe of his, stretches, then opens his top right hand desk drawer, slowly exposing a hit list.

"What will it be today?" he might muse in his nauseated boredom. "Let's see, last week I kicked around the poor, the week before the women's movement, gee, I haven't done gays in a while . . ."

Smythe has stated in his radio and television commentaries that he not only wants a return to capital punishment, he wants hangings—public hangings.

Smythe, along with such notables as Barbara Amiel and George Jonas, get a lot of time and space in the commercial media to scream at us in their shrill voices about the threats posed to us by such groups as the national anti-poverty organization.

According to Smythe, Canadians

have no poverty. We have welfare, and that means we have no real poor. Dick knows, he's walked the streets of Toronto and hasn't seen any poor lately. He says in his commentary that the poor are in countries like Bangladesh. He says Patrick Johnson and the national anti-poverty organization are lying to us when they say 18 per cent of Canadians live under the poverty line.

It doesn't bother Dick that he hasn't researched this. He walks the streets of the richest city in the richest province in the country, and he knows. He just knows.

Statistics and hard evidence probably mean little to people like Smythe, Amiel and Jonas.

Jonas put out a book last year on a supposed Israeli secret agent describing the killings he and a small hit squad enacted to avenge the deaths of the assassinated Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics. None of the stories this

story goes—as a democratic country provides the necessary channels for social change. Lobbying, a letter to your MP and even voting are said to be the vehicles through which the grass roots population can effect change.

Let's wake up.

"If voting changed anything they'd make it illegal."

It's quite simple. The mainstream has made quite clear what forms of protest it considers legitimate and those it doesn't.

When the five members of the Direct Action were apprehended by the police, the media tried to discredit the group by portraying them as "sick" individuals.

Upon sentencing one of the members of the Direct Action group to twenty years in prison, the judge said the Canadian way of life would not tolerate the use of fire, explosive substance or weapons as a means of furthering even worthy objectives.

Does Canada extend its intolerance over the use of bombs to countries like South Africa? After years of lobbying for black rights, the African National Congress were no further ahead than when they first started. Frustrated by the worsening conditions, the ANC began a bombing campaign.

The west was "surprised" by the ANC's turn to violence to prevent violence. Ironically, more attention has been paid to the ANC's bombing than to the violence built into apartheid.

It would be fair to say that the violence against women in red-hot videos and pornographic material has been tolerated for too long in our society. How long will it take for politicians to recognize the magnitude of potential destruction in the production of cruise missiles?

How long must we wait??? □