

Stop the war— NOW

by Paul Webster

Speaking at a meeting of the Dalhousie Troops Out of the Gulf Coalition on Monday evening, Spokesperson Paula Cornwall noted "Dalhousie students have a lot to lose from this crisis. Especially if it escalates further."

"We've already begun to see educational cutbacks linked to the \$350. m requisitioned by the military for troops in the Gulf," said Cornwall. "If there's a war in the gulf it'll be murderous and fantastically expensive. Young people and students especially are threatened."

The Coalition is organizing a Public Forum in the McInnes Room of the Dalhousie Student Union Building, at 7:30 pm January 14.

A panel of academics, army veterans, students and peace activists will discuss the situation in the Persian Gulf as part of a variety of events being organised by various Halifax groups to protest the Canadian Government's policy toward the Gulf Crisis.

Other Halifax protest-related events include the daily noontime Peace Vigils which the Voice of Women of Nova Scotia have held in front of the Halifax main branch library since mid-December, a rally and march being organized by the Halifax Peace Action Network starting at the Grand Parade at noon on Saturday the 12th, and a public forum being organized by the International Students' Association for the evening of January 21.

A day of concern is also being planned by members of the Dalhousie Faculty Association.

Concerned Dalhousie faculty members will conduct a public forum in the McInnes Room at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15.

According to Philosophy Professor Steven Burns, "the original idea was that we should shut down the University and have a teach-in. As it stands now we want to use a forum as our first step toward raising consciousness about the situation as an academic function of the University."

Cornwall explains the broad range of protest on campus and in the community by noting "If there's going to be a war students may be called up. Thousands will



Dal photo: Maria Parquin

The Dalhousie Staff Association, now in a legal strike position, have begun a series of rotating strikes in an effort to put pressure on the Dalhousie Administration.

DSA on rotating strike

by Chris Lambie

The Dalhousie Staff Association began a series of rotating strikes last week, designed to accelerate their contract talks with management.

Ten staff members did not show up for work at the facilities and operations section of Dalhousie's computer centre on Friday. Management had planned to process December's financial reports there over the weekend. Sixty-four more Arts and Administration staff walked out on Monday, leaving the registrar's office, student accounts, purchasing and the safety office desperately short of personnel.

Bette Yetman, the executive director of the 760-member association of clerical and support workers, said that the union is trying to get a quick settlement slowing the output of December's grades and financial reports. "While a full walk-out would be most effective, the DSA [members] are not willing to do that to students at this time," said Yetman.

While she was hesitant to comment on specific demands, not wanting to be seen as bargaining in the press, Yetman said the differences between staff and management "are not an insurmountable gap by any means." She added that she "was surprised management would see [them] go to strike over such issues." She does not, however, expect to see conciliation within the next week.

Dalhousie offered the DSA the same package the Faculty Associa-

tion accepted last fall: a three year deal that involves a 4% increase in the first year, another in the second and a cost of living adjustment in the second and third years. The union's major disputes deal with better wages and the lack of a comprehensive sick leave policy.

Student Union president, Ralph Cochrane, has expressed his concern over the strike. With the possibility of a total shut-down of both the registrar's and payroll offices looming on the near horizon, his fears are well founded.

A student group opposed to the strike (SOS) is waging a non-partisan information campaign designed to inform students how picket lines and striking staff workers will effect their classes and other campus services. An information/conciliation program is scheduled on CKDU Radio for Friday at 5:30 p.m.

"The registrar's office seems to be coping well with the strike, but it's difficult to say how long they can hold out," said Cochrane. "They [staff] are obviously an intricate part of the university." He hopes that the two sides can reach an agreement quickly so that students can get back to their term's studies.

Staff and management are presently at a deadlock; neither side is prepared to back down from their respective stands. It remains to be seen whether or not the DSA's unscheduled rotating strikes will put the university into a more malleable position in terms of contract negotiations.