

## Faculty dispute part of long-term issues at Dalhousie

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T noticed, we at *The Gazette* support the Dalhousie Faculty Association in their dispute with the administration. In case you don't know why — here goes.

First, there are the obvious reasons. We support the right of all workers to a decent salary and pension plan. We also support the right of faculty to unionize and support their decision as a union to exercise strike action.

Then there are selfish reasons. Faculty who are paid less than faculty at other universities may leave to teach elsewhere, and that hurts us as students.

And then there's a larger issue. The faculty strike is only a symptom of problems in the governing structure of Dalhousie university.

The administration is arguing that as a community we have to work together to bear the brunt of Dalhousie's debt. They argue that if we give the faculty their salary and pension demands we'll only hurt our university in the long run. At first glance this talk about co-operation sounds nice and friendly, but it's not.

There's a problem in logic here. You see, we didn't work together to create the debt. Why should people who didn't have a say in how the university's money was spent now be expected to

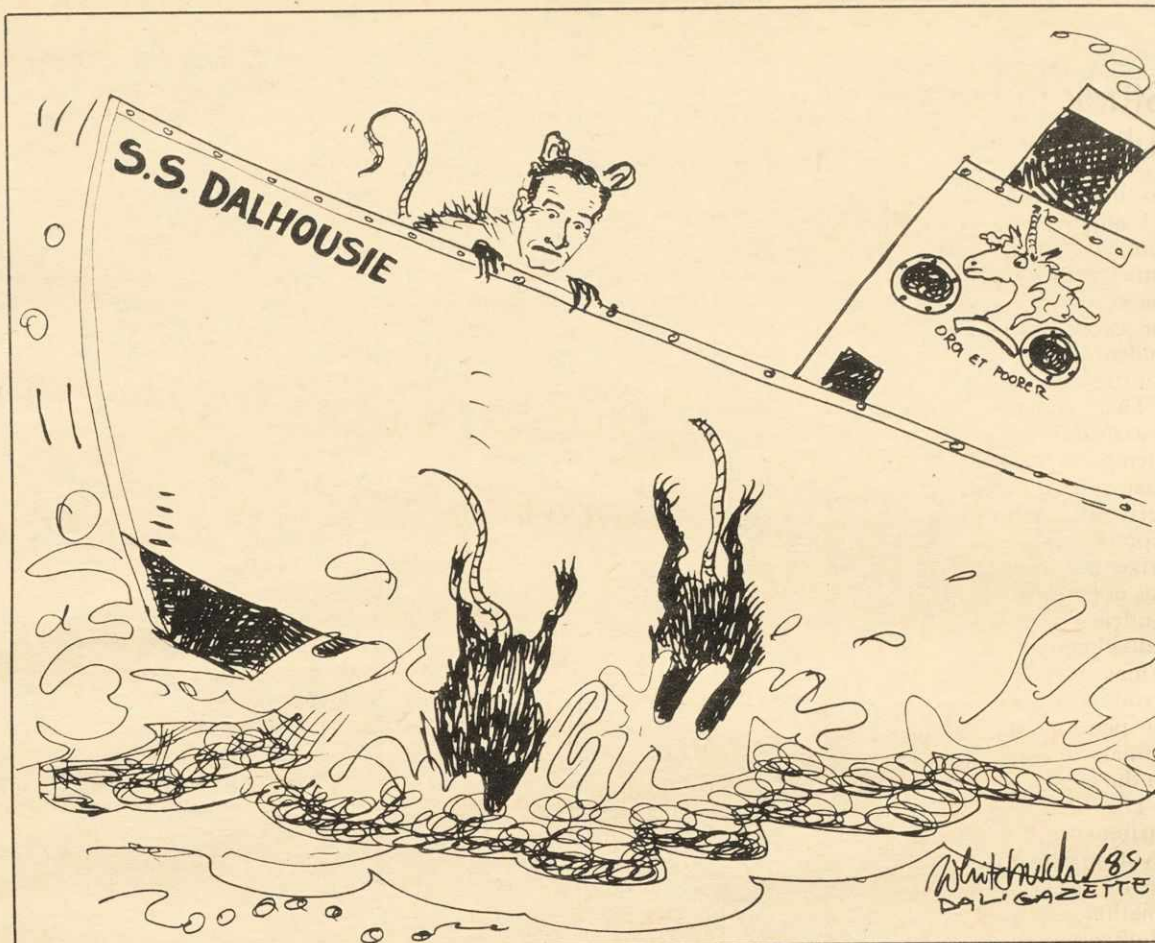
work with the administration to solve the problem.

For us the DFA issue is part of a long-term struggle — that of faculty, staff and students to have a say in the governing of our work environment.

For both students and the DFA this means wanting greater representation on governing committees of the university and an open, accessible board of governors. For students this also means a say in the setting of tuition fees and for faculty this means fighting for control of their pension plan.

The DFA has proposed a system that would move towards greater accountability by the board though increased involvement of students and faculty in the financial decisions. We support this as a step in the right direction for Dalhousie.

The bright side to this whole dispute is that the administration might wake-up and realize the strike isn't just caused by underfunding from the provincial government, or by mismanagement in previous administrations. It's the end result of years of alienation of the governed by those who govern. Restructuring the university is necessary and if that happens, in five years time maybe we won't be faced with the possibility of an indefinite strike by faculty.



## Protect political freedoms of students too.

A PROFESSOR IS CONCERNED about her students.

Speaking to the class about the possibility of a DFA strike she assures them that she'll continue to teach. "My responsibility to my students is greater than my responsibility to my pocket-book," she says.

Sounds good? Not to Susan. She's a student in that class who for political reasons will refuse to cross picket lines. Work will continue in her class. Missed lectures and class discussions are the price attached to Susan's commitment.

The Dalhousie administration has promised students that they won't penalize those who refuse

to cross picket lines to attend classes. We'd like to know how they plan to see this promise through. Professors usually reserve marks for class participation. Will those go to students who participate by taking picket duty?

The professor is right about her responsibility to students. Her responsibility is to her students and that responsibility means not teaching.

One of the reasons that professors organized in the first place was to protect their won freedom of political beliefs. The time has come for faculty to help students protect their political freedoms. Don't teach.

university children's centre. It is true that organization is still a rare phenomenon among child care workers and the Dal centre's employees should be applauded for their efforts in this area.

However, the U.C.C. is not, as your article claimed, the first centre in Halifax to unionize. At least two other centres in the metro area, the North End Day Care Centre and the Children's Co-op, have been unionized for several years, the former as a local of the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

Please be more careful of your facts in the future.

Isabel Fearon

*Editor's note: We stand corrected.*

## Politically correct now at King's

To the editors,

Thank you very much for your article referring to King's College's use of Paarl (South African) sherry. We can happily report that that support of apartheid has now ceased here at King since letters of complaint, signed by twelve people, were sent to the president and to the chapel. The response was immediate and we now drink Spanish sherry. Perhaps Dal students could make the same switch in their liqueurs and tobaccos.

Tony Russell

## Letters...

The deadline for letters to the editor is noon, Monday before publication. Letters must be signed and include a telephone number where the author can be reached (although telephone numbers will not be printed with the letters). Letters are subject to editing for style, brevity, grammar, spelling, and libel. Letters can be dropped at the SUB enquiry desk, mailed to our address (on page 2), or brought up to the *Gazette* offices, third floor, SUB.

## Erratum

IN LAST WEEK'S EDITORIAL on the Dalhousie Student Union's stand on the dispute between the Dalhousie Faculty Association and the administration ("Stuck in neutral, p. 8, *Dalhousie Gazette*, January 10) it was stated that the DSU mailed out strike information with the administration. They did not. As well the editorial said the petition being circulated was created by the student union. It was not.

However while we stand corrected on these two points and apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused the student union, we also stand by the basic argument of the editorial.

## More unionization

To the editors,

I would like to correct an error made in the Jan 10 issue of *The Gazette*, regarding the recent creation of a labour union at the

## Bioresources

To the editors,

In a recent letter, the general manager of Bioresources claims that "Bioresources does not compete with the Red Cross". Anyone with a basic knowledge of economics knows that the prospect of getting paid for plasma is preferable to giving it

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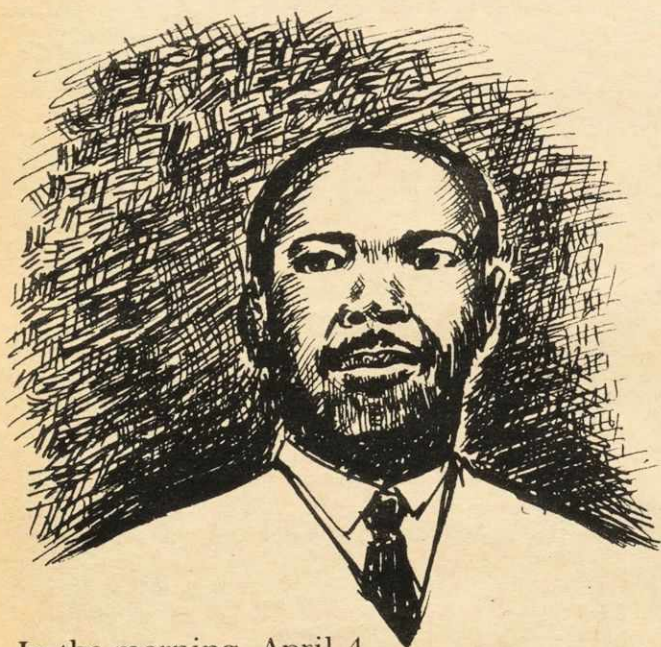


Illustration: Kimberley Whitechurch

In the morning, April 4  
A shot rings out in the Memphis sky  
Free at last, they took your life  
They could not take your pride

In the name of love  
One more in the name of love  
In the name of love  
One more in the name of love

lyric Bono; music U2  
from "Pride (In the Name of Love)"  
The Unforgettable Fire