



The Dalhousie Staff Association is opting for government conciliation in their contract negotiation with the administration — hoping to open the doors to greater success at the bargaining table. Photo by Scot Campbell/Dal Photo

DSA cuts out

By TOBY SANGER

The Dalhousie Staff Association broke off its contract negotiations with the administration last Friday, forcing the two parties to government conciliation for a resolution to their five-month old contract talks.

The two sides have met 26 times since June and agreed only on "housekeeping items" so far, with provisions dealing with technological change, work jurisdiction, tuition fee reimbursement and wages still to be decided upon.

"I guess the DSA figured they could make more progress with a conciliator," says administration negotiator Allen Cameron.

Many of the DSA's remaining demands deal with issues raised by the Ritchie and Associates labour management study being conducted at Dalhousie.

"We were ready to bring very few proposals to the table before Ritchie," says DSA executive director Delphine du Toit.

"The Ritchie study is at the root of many of the issues. We want more consultation with staff about management but the administration says 'get lost' every time we bring it up."

"We're just asking them to talk to us before they make any major management changes," says du Toit.

Cameron and du Toit both agree the Ritchie study has resulted in an uncertain labour situation in which workers feel their job security threatened.

Cameron says "we've done all we can to alleviate their concerns." But du Toit says, to alleviate these concerns, staff need to be consulted on major management matters.

She describes it as ironic that the university has organized a government funded "Quality of Working Life" project to get supervisors and staff to share responsibility for decision-making, yet is reluctant to practice it when it comes to drawing up contracts with its staff.

Cameron says the university is not opposed to consultation with staff over management issues but says they are trying to establish useful limits to the things that must be discussed.

If no agreement is reached in the conciliation process, each party is free to call a strike or lock-out two weeks after the conciliator's report is filed.

Walk home service under-staffed

By TROY WAGNER

The walk-home service may be cancelled this year due to a lack of demand and the small number of people volunteering their services.

Jolene Pattison, a member of the Dalhousie security council, organized the service last year to meet the concerns of some students who were not feeling safe about walking alone on campus.

"We were trying to prevent flashing and mugging from becoming too big a problem on campus. If people took steps to protect themselves, the muggers and thieves won't come around campus because they would know that it would not be worth their while."

Last year the reports of flashing tripled from 8 in 1984 to 24 reports in 1985. This year there have been 6 reports so far.

Pattison says that if she finds a demand for the service this year she will set up the service again after Christmas, although it may be with a skeleton crew, due to the lack of volunteers.

The service ran from January to exam time last year and operated from 7:30 to 11:30 each night out of the Dalhousie SUB. An average of 3 calls per night were received, mainly from female students who lived off campus.

Each shift was organized in teams of threes. Two escorts, usually a man and a woman, would walk the student from the library to their car or to their bus stop.

If desired, the escorts would wait until the bus came and arrange for the student to phone the SUB once they reached home.

If a phone call was not received by a certain time the service would notify Dalhousie security, who would then contact the police.

Dalhousie now has only one walk-home service, operating out of Shirreff Hall and open only to those who are in residence there. It was started last year because of the increase in flashings on campus and is run along the same lines as the service set up by Pattison last year.

"It was efficient last year and we have about the same demand for it this year," says Bernadette Romeo, an organizer of the service. "We are getting about two to three calls a night. We hope that the knowledge of the service will deter flashers from making any advances. People should realize that a campus is a target for crime and people should therefore not take any chances."

Max Keeping, director of Dalhousie security, says the number of violent crimes on campus is relatively low, considering the high number of female students in such a concentrated area.

In the past seven years there have been only three violent crimes on campus, the latest being a stabbing on Studley Field last year. In fact, acts of vandalism have dropped and to date there has been no reports of any mugging.

"Most of the assaults that occur on campus are fights that occur indoors, between people who know each other," Keeping explain.

Considering the low number of violent crimes on campus, some students may have an ungrounded fear of assault but Keeping thinks that this is a good thing.

Council notes

By ERIN GOODMAN

At the Council Meeting of Sunday, November 2, a judicial board was appointed to determine the constitutionality of allowing fraternities to sit on Council. Glen Johnson, a third year law student, has been appointed chairperson of the Board, and he will be work-

ing with law students Mark Morris and Barney Miller.

In other business, the council approved a \$400 grant to the Drama Society to help finance their upcoming production.

The October 19 decision to allow council member and senator Addesh Mago to retain his seat was appealed.

Students back to school

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sense of community but it will take some time for the other wounds to heal. The work has just begun," says Horne.

Comiter says the board backed down from their earlier threat to close the school because of pressure from students, media, and possibly the government, and because they underestimated the unity and strength of the faculty.

"It took them a long time to discover that we were serious," says Comiter.

President Garry Kennedy was unavailable for comment.

The student union at NSCAD yesterday tabled a non-confidence motion regarding the administration and the board of governors, resulting from their handling of the negotiations.

At noon on Wednesday, a motion of non-confidence in stu-

dent union president Ken Robinson was defeated by 58 to 10 with 13 abstentions. Robinson is also the only sitting student representative on the board of governors. The motion was put forward because some students felt he was not bringing enough information from board meetings to the students about the negotiations and because some were critical of the "neutral" stance the student council took during the negotiations.

"People wanted him to be a demi-god: that just isn't possible," says Marjorie, a design studio student at the college.

NSCAD administration offered students who wished to withdraw from the college as a result of the strike a full tuition refund. An official in the registrar's office said she expected "a few students" to take the college up on its offer.

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