

Donahoe at Mount

Minister paints pessimistic picture

by Janet Mrenica and Francis Moran

An overall picture of pessimism was painted by the provincial Minister of Education, Terrence Donahoe, when he came to Mount Saint Vincent University yesterday to address students.

Donahoe said that the "expansionist mentality" which led to the creation of many of the existing post-secondary programs and institutions had been replaced by a need for restraint.

Donahoe opened his remarks by telling the 60 students present that public funding for universities "is relatively new". Funding only started in 1963 when the government made \$1.5 million available, a sum that had increased to \$30 million in 1970. At the same time, the government supplied "well over \$100 million" in 20 year self-liquidating loans for capital expansion.

In the current 1979/80 operating year total grants from the provincial government amounted to \$96.7, with

an additional \$7.2 million added for interest and amortization of outstanding loans.

"\$104.2 million is a great deal of money," Donahoe said.

Donahoe said Nova Scotia universities have taken advantage of these monies and the "expansionist boom to multiply both programs and facilities in an unprecedented manner."

He said while no one would question the right of a university to exist, it has become

time to "question the difficulty that we do experience of duplication of programs and expensive facilities."

Donahoe said particularly the small universities, such as the Mount, have the ability to become leaders in specialized areas, and should not attempt to "lead the world in everything".

"I think we have to promote to a greater extent than has been the case in the past greater inter-university co-operation to share our available resources," he said.

The minister said a number of people have stated that he has the jurisdiction to tell the universities which programs they can teach and where. But he said he was unwilling to use this approach.

"One of the last things in the world we would want to have is any minister of education . . . sit downtown and send out directives to the universities . . . and start calling the shots. Over the time this would be fatal," Donahoe said.

continued on page 3

the Dalhousie Gazette

Volume 112
Number 16
January 25, 1980

Staff association "breaks off" negotiations

by Tom Regan

The Dalhousie Staff Association (DSA) has "broken off" negotiations with Dalhousie University and has requested the Minister of Labour, Ken Streach, to appoint a conciliator.

The 650 member union has been in negotiations with the

university since June, 1979.

"Negotiations have come to a standstill", said Blanche Potter, president of the DSA. "We've agreed to many points but now we're down to the nitty gritty. The university is not moving at all. After seven months we feel it's time for a new approach."

Issues that the two sides

have been unable to agree upon include wages, seniority, overtime, layoff and recall and management rights.

"Our previous agreement was for a two year period", said Potter. "It gave us 4.2% spread over the first year and 6% the second year. The membership feels that we have to have the cost of living this time and the university is just stalling on this point."

Allan Cameron, spokesperson for the administration, said "breaking off negotiations" is not the proper way to describe the

decision to ask for a conciliator.

"I don't view it as a decision to break off negotiations," said Cameron. "He or she will just help us to iron out some of the difficulties that we are having at the present moment. It is also required in a collective agreement that a conciliator be appointed before any kind of strike action can be contemplated."

When asked if he thought strike action would take place, Cameron said the possibility was unlikely.

"I don't think there will be a strike. The union are

reasonable people. Both of us want to see a satisfactory end to this problem."

Potter also was asked about the possibility of strike action.

"No one looks forward to that," she said. "We hope we can settle it but it's always a possibility."

A spokesperson contacted at the department of labour said nothing had been done yet to appoint a conciliator but that the process usually takes two or three weeks before someone could be appointed. There are only six conciliators for the whole province of Nova Scotia.

Dalplex deflates

by Paul Clark

Onlookers were stunned Wednesday morning when the roof of the Dalplex collapsed 12 feet into the bleachers of the fieldhouse.

Apparently a buildup of snow on the roof forced the roof down. More air pressure was applied to the air supported roof shortly afterward and it was restored to its original position.

Joel Jacobson, Community

Relations manager for the Dalplex, said the experience was a first important "test" of the system of having an air pressurized roof.

"We hoped it wouldn't sink but there was no possibility of danger", he said.

Bystanders said only one of three fans to melt the snow on top of the roof was operating the night before, leaving Tuesday evening's and Monday morning's snowfalls weighing down the Dalplex roof.

inside the Gazette

- Kent named dean p.3
- Campaign closeup p. 8
- Margie Gillis p.12
- Woodstock recalls sixties p.13
- Huskies edge Tigers p.20



Matt Adamson

Inside Michelin..see pages 6&7