



Dal Photo/Morris

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Private eyes at Dal

by Alan Adams and Marc Allain

Evidence Research Associated Limited of Dartmouth, a professional investigating firm which specializes in security, surveillance and undercover operations, has been retained by Dalhousie to provide extra security men and monitor strikers and strike supporters.

Evidence Research has been employed by Security and Traffic since November 6, the first day of the strike. Between 8 to 10 men have taken up duties all over the university at a cost of between \$450.00 and \$500.00 per day.

CUPE lawyer Blaise MacDonald said that firms similar to Evidence Research have been known to gather information on disputes in support of injunctions against strikers and that he has "no doubt" they are involved in the very same thing at Dalhousie.

Director of Security and Traffic, Art O'Connell, would

not comment on whether the agency was hired for those purposes but added "plans have been made to do certain things" in the event of a continuation of the dispute.

Evidence Research spokesperson Pat Barrett said that he could not comment on the duties being performed until his superiors returned from outside the province. He did say they have been "retained by Dal to conduct security duties", although he didn't clearly define these.

In other strike related events, Vice-President MacKay said the Provincial Conciliation Services has called the two sides back to the bargaining table in an effort to end the two and one-half week old walkout. CUPE and the administration were to meet yesterday for the first time since the strike started.

CUPE representative Al Cunningham described the meeting as "a chance to see

what the situation is" and assumed very little would come out of this attempt. Cunningham described morale of the strikers as fantastic and added "we are making plans for difficult times ahead."

Strike support

Support for the strikers reached its highest point to date on Friday, November 17 when over 300 people gathered in the lobby of the Student Union Building for a rally organized by the Strike Support Committee. Following speeches by representatives of provincial labour organizations, faculty, and university secretarial staff, the demonstrators marched through campus to the front of the Arts and Administration Building where they chanted slogans and dedicated a song to the administration "scabs," Louis Vagianos and Roger Jollimore.

Speaking on the A&A steps, CUPE representative Al Cunningham said people are being misled into working against the union by doing work normally done by the strikers. "The University has a responsibility to keep this place clean. The onus is in them. Yet they are asking students to pitch in and help keep things tidy. What they're asking is for people to "scab", he said.

Several people have identified a photographer present at the demonstration as the RCMP agent present at the student march on Province House last spring. Last year

the individual in question admitted in a conversation with a member of the *Gazette* staff, that he was employed by the Security section of the RCMP. He was seen after the Friday demonstration taking pictures of picketers in front of the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium.

The Strike Support Committee has been meeting regularly since the rally and are presently organizing a benefit concert tentatively set for Thursday, November 30. Tickets will be available on campus early next week, according to members of the publicity committee.

The Support Committee has also attempted to bolster the strikers' picket lines. On Tuesday morning (November 21) approximately forty picketers gathered at the Central Services Building in an attempt to block the entry of a Shore garbage truck. They gave way following the recommendations of Cunningham after he consulted with Halifax Police.

Rumours

The *Gazette* has been unable to confirm rumours of isolated incidents of violence between management and strikers. There have been allegations of beatings, but a wall of silence prevails around these harassments.



Dal Photo/Morris

Open hours on hold

by Danièle Gauvin

The proposal to bring "open hours" to Shirreff Hall, Dalhousie's women's residence, has yet to be examined by the university's board of governors. The Residence Committee, a special arm of the board, will be studying the idea during the next week and will then make recommendations to a formal board meeting.

Although the proposal was drafted a month ago, problems with timing and the unavailability of results from a special survey delayed the project. That survey was intended to provide detailed information about the needs and concerns of residents. According to Anne Marr, a Shirreff resident, survey results will be ready in a few days.

The proposal would extend men's visiting privileges in the hall, allowing them to be signed in for an unlimited period on weekends. An initial survey taken a month ago

revealed that the vast majority of the women were in favor of the change.

According to Cathy McLean, Dalhousie student union vice-president, and one of several women co-ordinating the effort, Dean of Women Christine Irvine had a generally favorable reaction to the proposal. Her major concern, shared by most of the women, is security.

Some residents have suggested that a permanent security guard could be hired to replace the present volunteer watch-dog duty of the hall's cleaners. That idea is one of many facing the Residence Committee.

The committee consists of Jim Prentice, a student, and two representative board members from each of the two campus residences. McLean said she hopes to have a decision by Christmas so that, should the board accept the idea, the change could be implemented after the Christmas break rather than in midterm.

Board bars press

by Alan Adams

The Executive Committee of the Board of Governors have denied the *Gazette* permission to attend and report on Board meetings.

In a letter to the paper University president Henry Hicks said the decision was based on the consideration that no other university in the region opens its meetings to the press. He added that the "nature of the proceedings of the Board of Governors does not readily lend itself to press coverage", and that the press does not normally have access to meetings of private organizations. Hicks qualified the last statement by adding that Dalhousie is largely supported by public funds.

The Board did consent to call press conferences following Board meetings "whenever appropriate".

Gazette editor Marc Allain said he was not surprised at the decision. "By having closed meetings they have a complete monopoly over information, especially the financial data. Why would they want to change that situation?"

Elsewhere, board meetings are moving away from administrative secrecy to the open concept. The University of Guelph's board went into closed meetings only three times last year and then only to discuss the appointment of a new chancellor or vote on whether to award honorary degrees. York University's board met in private only once or twice last year while at the University of Toronto their board went in camera only four times.

But in some instances

where boards still meet in secrecy the leaking of controversial decisions has resulted in embarrassments for the boards. Such a leakage at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto brought an unknown settlement of \$217,000 to former Vice-President George Korey and a \$75,000 settlement to Vice-President Havelok Yates into the open. Korey resigned because of a conflict of interest with Ryerson, while Yates had sued Ryerson over his dismissal. In both instances the settlements were decided on in closed sessions of board meetings and would have gone unnoticed if it wasn't for the leak to the press.

Ryerson is considering harsh measures against board members who break this oath of secrecy.