

Senior professors protest union bid

by Marc Allain

The Dalhousie faculty association's bid for recognition as a counterfiling bargaining agent is encountering stiff opposition from senior faculty members.

Opponents to unionization have circulated a fifteen page document which states that if faculty chooses to unionize they are accepting "the responsibility for ruining the university." The document, signed by eighteen senior faculty members, associates unionization with the imposition of "deadly uniform criteria . . . the loss of real freedom and professional rights."

This apocalyptic view of unionization was brought to the fore at a meeting of the faculty of Arts and Science held on Tuesday. The meeting, billed as an "information session on certification and its alternatives" was attended by over two hundred faculty, university president Henry Hicks, vice president Andrew MacKay and a legal representative of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT).

Dr. John Graham, a senior member of the economics department who emerged as the main spokesperson for the anti union faction stated that the university's teaching staff were united around salary demands, fringe benefits and the need for protection against injustices but were far from unified on the best means of achieving these goals. Graham said he represented "those that recognize trade unions as necessary in some areas of society but who see them as inimical and unsuitable to an academic community."

Graham's proposed alternative to unionization was to strengthen the powers of the DFA by granting it binding arbitration over salary and fringe benefits. Negotiations between the DFA and the administration were broken off in early January when DFA demands that

included binding arbitration were rejected by the administration.

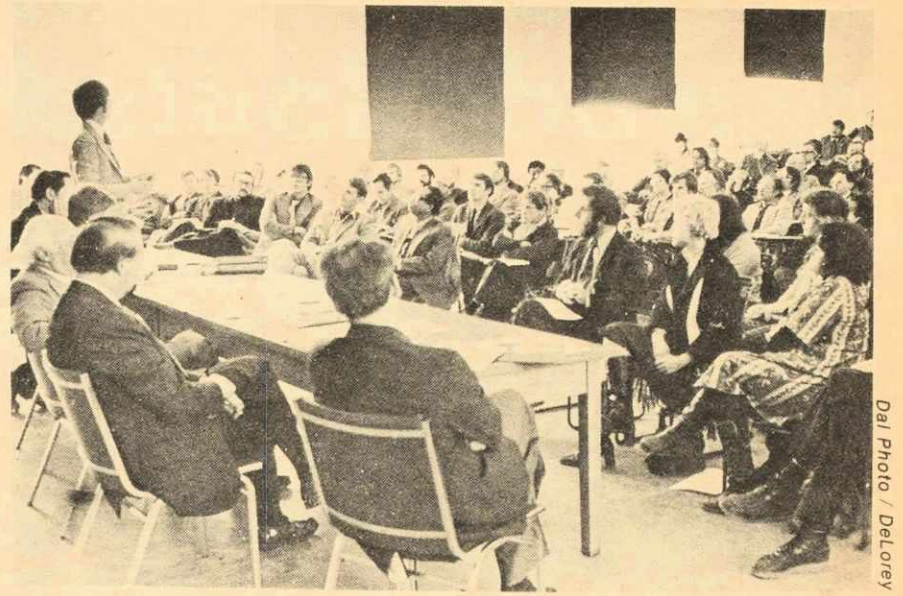
Dr. Philip Welch, president of the faculty association said that the voluntary agreement being proposed by Graham was one that the DFA had attempted to pursue but had abandoned because of its limitations. The DFA voted 120-19 in favor of beginning the certification process at a meeting in early February. This decision, Welch said, was not irrevocable and could be democratically overturned at any time by the association's membership.

Quoting from an article written by the president of the University of Toronto faculty association Welch said that voluntary contracts, because they are not enforceable in courts of law, remain based on the mutual trust and faith that both parties to the agreement will continue to observe it. He noted that in the U of T situation these had proved to be inadequate guarantees.

Ted Barclay legal counsel for the CAUT stated that in times of crisis an agreement based on trust was very likely to break down. Certification, he explained, gave faculty the guarantee that the terms of any agreement would be legally enforceable and require that both parties bargain in good faith. The Dal administration has been criticized by the DFA for inconsistent and disreputable bargaining tactics.

If a faculty association is seeking protection it should pursue the route that offers the most, Barclay said. He noted that over 40% of Canadian faculty are presently unionized and that the "professional rights" of university professors do not appear to have suffered because of it.

There were those who remained unconvinced however. Dr. J. A. Doull of the classics department said that "the underlying assumption in the existence of a union is that an adversary relationship



Anti-unionists told a meeting of the faculty of Arts and Science that a faculty union at Dalhousie would mean "a civil war within the university."

exists. The Union has to be against someone Doull said. It's against the existing constitution. The presence of a union at Dalhousie would result in a kind of civil war within the university with two governments constantly engaged in bitter conflict."

A somewhat different perspective was offered by Dr. Edgar Friedenberg of the education department. "There exists at Dalhousie he said an 'old boy' oligarchy of senior faculty that is impossible to distinguish from the administration and I want protection from that."

Demonstration against racism

A public demonstration against banks that make loans to South Africa will take place in Halifax Tuesday, March 21 at 11:30 a.m. Protestors will meet at the Grand Parade, Barrington Street, and proceed to march around the major bank towers.

The demonstration is sponsored by the local South African Information Group and is part of a national campaign. March 21 is the anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre of 1960 where 70 people were killed for peacefully protesting the racist governmental policy of South Africa.

Four Canadian banks, Toronto-

Dominion, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, the Royal Bank and the Bank of Montreal have investments in South Africa. OXFAM and CUSO, church groups and many unions will be announcing their intention of withdrawing funds from these banks if they continue to support South Africa.

The national demonstrations were called for at a recent conference on multi-nationals sponsored by CUSO in Toronto. The form and details of the demonstrations were left up to the individual groups across the country, depending upon their resources and effectiveness.

Daycare needed

by Karen Gibson

A committee established for the allocation of daycare facilities on campus has recently been running into trouble in its search for housing. About a year ago, a group of concerned graduate students examined the need for daycare facilities at Dalhousie. From their two surveys they proved that the existing facilities were insufficient. A working committee drew up a proposal and in autumn started asking the administration for building arrangements.

Judy Fingard, a member of this committee, feels the administration has been "playing cat and mouse"

with them. Last summer, a house was supposedly available for daycare arrangements but the university allocated it for another purpose. After a number of pleas by the graduate students and faculty, another house was found on South St. This section, however, is in an R1 district. In order for a daycare center to exist there, the committee would have to appeal the zoning. The vice-president of University Services, Louis Vagianos, says he "felt stupid" about this error and apologetically explains he was unaware the zoning hadn't been changed.

The present daycare center in the Life Sciences Building is only open half days and appears non-economical for many students. What the committee on daycare feels is required is an affordable organization open to the entire university community. Fingard says "the university considers this a low priority."

Fingard stresses that their quest for a building will not endanger student housing. She also says that "a full time daycare center would give women an opportunity to attend classes" thus increasing sagging enrollment.

Vagianos says this committee is "active and reasonable" and at present he is "in the process of waiting to see how much money is available."

Paper fights union

by Harvey MacKinnon

Following mass firings at the Chronicle Herald and the Fredericton Daily Gleaner, the management of another Atlantic newspaper is attacking its workers who are trying to organize a union.

Cumberland Publishing Ltd., part owners of the Halifax Barometer, and owners of the Amherst Daily news, are actively opposing the establishment of a union at the Daily.

The workers who have voted to form a union want job security and an increase in wages. Salaries at the paper vary from \$125 a week for typesetters to \$160 for senior production people. There also has been a very high turnover of staff in the past two years.

Shop steward Marshall Landry, a staff reporter with two years experience, was recently demoted to the mail room.

Landry says that the staff will "be trying to pressure the community for support. We are encouraging people to cancel their subscriptions in protest."

"A lot of papers are printed here and we plan to encourage them to boycott this company. Considering the position the Barometer took

concerning the Halifax Herald firings, we'll be expecting their support".

Ten employees of the Herald who were involved with attempts to unionize workers in the newsroom were fired in November but later, after considerable pressure, re-offered their jobs. The Barometer was sympathetic to the workers' position.

The Gazette was unable to reach the management of the Barometer at press time.

