

the

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Forget your vacation...

Union and Admin settle - for now

by Alex Burton

It appears Dalhousie Students will not have to face a second strike in three years as the Administration and Faculty Association reached a tentative settlement Tuesday night.

Both the Vice Presidents Office and the Office of the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) confirmed a tentative settlement had been reached. However, both sides are refusing to comment on the content or nature of the agreement until a definite settlement is reached.

David Williams, president of the DFA, said "an agreement was reached in the wee hours of the morning" and the settlement package includes monetary and non-monetary issues.

The settlement is not a final agreement, and the DFA executive will meet this Wednesday to discuss endorsing the agreement. "We will take the agreement to our members tonight (Wednesday) and they will indicate to us how to proceed in regards to ratification" said Williams.

Asked if he was pleased with the settlement Williams replied "I

have enormous confidence in our negotiating team."

Any settlement must be ratified by the Faculty Association and Dalhousie's Board of Governors.

Eric McKee, vice president of

student services, said he was "not aware of any plans for a special meeting of the Board (to ratify the deal)." The Board is not scheduled to meet until October 16.

"Its going to take a couple of

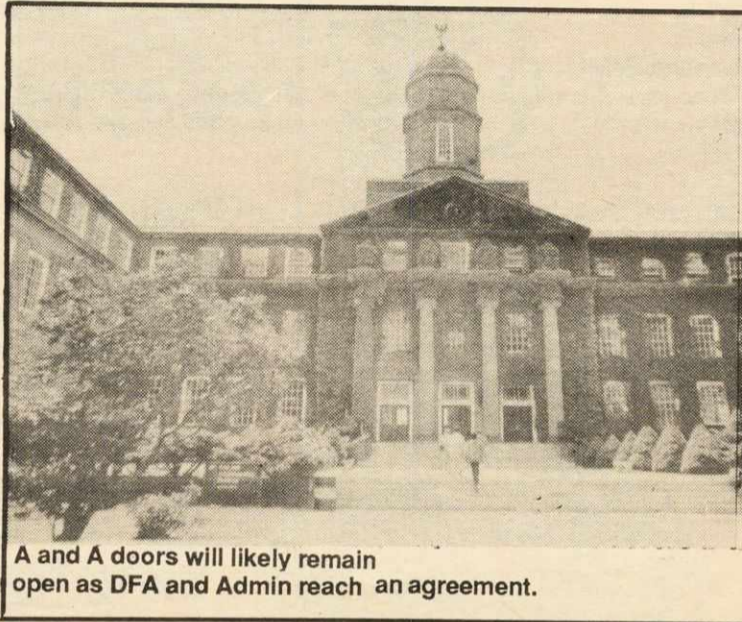
weeks to print out a true agreement and make sure the t's are crossed and the i's are dotted" Williams said.

If everything goes as smoothly as possible the DFA could have a new contract by mid to late October said Williams.

Students Opposed to a Strike (SOS) spokesperson Kevin Young remains cautious about the agreement. "As long as it is tentative it means there has not been a settlement" he said.

Don Manson, student representative on the Dalhousie Board of Governors said he is "cautiously optimistic (about the settlement) and hopes it will all work out."

Young feels the information SOS distributed had an impact on negotiations. "I think students making an effort and getting informed definitely had an effect on the mind set of the negotiating parties" he said.



A and A doors will likely remain open as DFA and Admin reach an agreement.

Great march

Gazette staff

Approximately 1000 women participated in the annual Take Back the Night March held in Halifax last Saturday.

The March is held to raise awareness about violence against women and children. Focussed on reclaiming the streets at night, the march also addresses physical and emotional abuse women experience in their homes and at work.

Lara Morris, a Students Union of Nova Scotia representative and one of the organizers, described the march as a big success. "The number of women who showed up was overwhelming. It gave me a sense of the collective power women have to fight the injustices we have experienced," she said.

The march was organized by SSAV, Service for Sexual Assault Victims, and a handful of other women's organizations including the Nova Scotia Council on the Status of Women, Stepping Stone and Pandora.

"There was empowerment in the air as women took their right to walk the streets at night and in the day," said Shannon Gowans, a participant in the March.

Women rallied at the Grand Parade and listened to Donna Marshall, a representative of the Low Income Network (LINK), talk about women's experiences with oppression in a society still largely dominated by men.

The crowd wound its way through downtown Halifax and up Spring Garden Road. Gathering participants as they marched and becoming increasingly vocal, the women continued up Coburg Road, turned down LeMarchant and arrived at the Dalhousie Campus.

Finishing in the Green Room of the Dalhousie Student Union Building, the crowd was welcomed by the band Earthwitch. An open mike session was held and individual women spoke of their experiences with violence.

The march is designated as a women-only event. When this was announced at the beginning of the march some women expressed their disagreement by leaving. The issue of men not participating in the march was also raised at the open mike session, but women set aside their differences and the spirit of the evening continued.

SOS has information line

by Lisa Legatto

Students Opposed to a Strike (SOS) have established a telephone line to provide up to date information on the status of negotiations between the Dalhousie Faculty Association and the Dalhousie Administration.

Dialing 494 - 1275 connects students to a recorded message stating the latest developments in the negotiation process. "The service is one more way to provide students with as much information as possible" said SOS spokesperson Kevin Young.

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Amnesty at work in Halifax

by Michael McCarthy

Although there have been encouraging changes in eastern Europe, serious human rights abuses are still common in many countries, says worldwide human rights group Amnesty International.

Last year political prisoners were detained in at least 92 countries. Prisoners of conscience, persons detained for their origins or peaceful expression of their beliefs, were held in 71 countries. Reports of torture and ill-treatment were received from 96 countries - over half the countries in the world.

"The events in eastern Europe show that when the will to end them exists, human rights abuses can be stopped. The world needs human rights now, there can be no excuses for violations," says local Amnesty member Jim Cruikshank.

An impartial, non-governmental organization, Amnesty International aims for the observance by all countries of the principles in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights that are relevant to the group's mandate. Amnesty seeks the release of prisoners of conscience; fair trials for all political prisoners; and the end of torture and the death pen-

alty in all cases. It also works on cases of extrajudicial execution, "disappearances", and refugees at risk of abuse if returned to their country of origin.

Amnesty International members write letters to governments responsible for human rights violations, urging them to protect basic human rights. Last year, the organization worked on behalf of 3,376 prisoners of conscience worldwide, 1,143 prisoners were released.

Many of those freed credit Amnesty's work on their behalf as being the key factor in their release.

"One released prisoner wrote, 'We could always tell when inter-

national protests were taking place... the food rations increased and the beatings inside the prison were fewer...'", says Cruikshank.

The local Amnesty group is presently working on behalf of Hayyan Habbus, a Syrian teacher imprisoned for his memberships in an opposition party. It also works on human rights concerns in South America, and will soon join a campaign against abuses in Sri Lanka. Meetings are the third Thursday of every month. The next meeting is Thursday, October 18 at 8 p.m. in Rm. 316 of the Dalhousie Student Union Building. All are welcome. More information can be obtained by phoning 429-8164.

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