



Mount profs walk out

# Does this scene look familiar?

by Erin Goodman

Just before exams, the faculty at Mount St. Vincent University have made their threat to strike a reality.

The 150-member faculty association which has been in a legal strike position since April 3, walked off the job at noon on Wednesday.

Conciliation talks broke down last weekend over the issue of wages. Association president Margie O'Brien said the faculty was willing to accept the first two of the administrations three-year contract offer, but wanted a salary re-opener clause in the third year.

The predominantly female faculty association says its members are the lowest-paid faculty in Canada, averaging \$40,100 annually, as opposed to the provincial average of \$47,677. But these figures haven't garnered the faculty much support from students.

"Students are just completely frustrated," says student union president Paul Card. "Both sides are acting like children, they're



Over a hundred students marched on the Legislature Monday to protest government under-funding of MSVU. Good luck ; Dal students can tell you it didn't help us.

no longer talking."

Card is angered by a directive from the executive of the faculty association, asking members of the bargaining unit to withhold tests and papers that have already

been marked in addition to keeping possession of upcoming exams. The student union is considering legal action, in belief that the faculty association is in

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## Dal's B.Ed program doesn't make grade

by Dan Demianiw

On Friday March 31, a forum was held in the education department to allow students and faculty to assess this year's B.Ed program. The forum centred on a survey compiled by a group of students which revealed that 82.4% of the 1988-89 B.Ed class would not recommend the present program to prospective education students.

The survey was compiled amidst complaints that the present program was too academic, leaving students feeling overwhelmed, and with a need for more practicality and relevance in existing courses. The overwhelming workload also strained enthusiasm within the program.

Enthusiasm and interest in a coherent B. Ed group began last September with the formation of a society that opened up a lounge located in the basement of the building. The mildew and stench of the room was masked by "Comet and cleanser", and welcomed students into the darkness which encompassed the lounge. As the weekly functions continued, numbers of enthusiastic students declined to non-existence.

Concern for the drop-off of class spirit was swept away when students raised the possibility of moving the lounge to the main floor. The noise level generated by such a room was cited by the department as the reason for

objecting to the move. This lack of confidence in the capabilities of a group of mature students seems to be at the root of the problem.

The survey's results also prompted students to suggest the formation of an orientation committee for incoming students. This committee, composed of graduates from the B.Ed program, would return in the fall to take part in an orientation session. Students could thereby be made aware of computer services, workshops and funding to enhance their year of study. However, here again the decision was put off to a later date.

Lack of resources was another major concern. Students complained of having to compile research for assignments almost totally from material found in the curriculum lab at St. Mary's. The issue was lack of funding, a problem which plagues many universities. Buying textbooks from local schools may be a low-cost solution.

The overwhelming concern which seemed to dominate the meeting was the academic focus which the program seems to encompass. The concerns raised by one English major whose thirty-seven assignments needed still to be completed at March break, were not specific to his method area. In conversation with other students, similar complaints arose. Participants said

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## MSVU students protest

by Sandy MacKay

Monday April 3rd saw one

hundred plus students, mostly from Mount St. Vincent University, march in protest to the Pro-

vincial House. Their aim was to protest government underfunding in light of the upcoming strike by MSVU faculty.

Bearing signs like "VICTIMS" and "Quality Education - R.I.P." students marched from the Commons to the Provincial Legislature Building (politely stopping at all the red lights). At the front gates, student leaders equipped with bullhorns, led chants of "Underfunding under John (Buchanan)" and "We pay our fees, but no guarantees".

MSVU student union president Paul Card agreed that "Mount Profs should be brought up to the regional average", but also stated that the protest was in support of neither the faculty nor the administration. The march was officially organized to be a "Students for Students" rally, but some protestors added slogans to their placards like "Profs, we support you" and "Let the Profs continue" to their Student Union approved slogans.

And what did the protest accomplish? One student said she felt that it was mostly a chance to allow students to vent their frustrations. Premier Buchanan was not in the building to witness the event.



Tolson Smith: Picaro