

Crisis leads to education and protest

Haligonians work for peace

by Paul Webster

Over 1200 people showed up Tuesday to hear local academics and "experts" speak at a "teach-in" organized by Dalhousie faculty.

Concern about the possibilities of war were prevalent as students packed the McInnis Room and the second floor of the Student Union Building.

The Tuesday teach in was just one of many events held over the past week to discuss and protest the events in the Gulf.

Speaking at a teach-in organized by the Dalhousie Troops Out of the Gulf Coalition (DTCOG) Monday night, Dalhousie Faculty Association President, Sociology Professor and Korean war veteran David Williams made his views on the sociology of war quite clear. "War doesn't work. There are no problems that can be solved with war. It drives people crazy. It drives populations which support war crazy. Our friends to the south have been indulging in this madness for at least forty years."

Halifax area residents and Dalhousie students have turned out in large numbers to protest and learn about the implications of war in the Persian Gulf over the last week. Last Saturday a thousand people braved a blizzard to march and rally at the Casino Theatre.

The tone of the protest Saturday afternoon was angry, urgent and emotional. To many, however, it was clearly reassuring to see the depth and scope of reaction against Canada's role in the crisis.

An enormous cut-out poster of Brian Mulroney licking George Bush's hand carried by two protestors spoke volumes in echo of the crowd's disappointment with Canadian foreign policy.

The rally, organized by the Halifax Peace Action Network, permitted a wide representation of women's groups, labour activists, religious spokespeople, poverty activists and artists to speak out.

Noting the diversity of the crowd as well as the absence of people of colour, Black community leader Reverend Gray noted the sinister disproportion of coloured service people in the US forces sent to the Gulf and insisted that protest "is not about nice white boys. It isn't about nice white girls. This isn't about college professors. This is about people."

Nonetheless college professors did have something to say Tuesday afternoon. Perhaps unaware that the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) had rejected an International Students' Association sponsored resolution calling for peace and condemning Canada's role in the Gulf, Williams thanked the "strong, activist" DSU Government for supporting the faculty teach-in.

History Professor John Flint began the discussions with a quick history lesson. The Iraqi invasion must be seen as an effort to repudiate debt and expropriate oil resources, he said. He then detailed Saddam Hussein's militarization of Iraq, and his oligarchical mode of political control. He also avoided committing himself to any opinion concerning the necessity of further bloodshed in the Gulf.

Oceanographer Bob Fournier proposed "the environmental costs of war in the Gulf may turn out to be the most disastrous of all: war by definition is an environmental disaster".

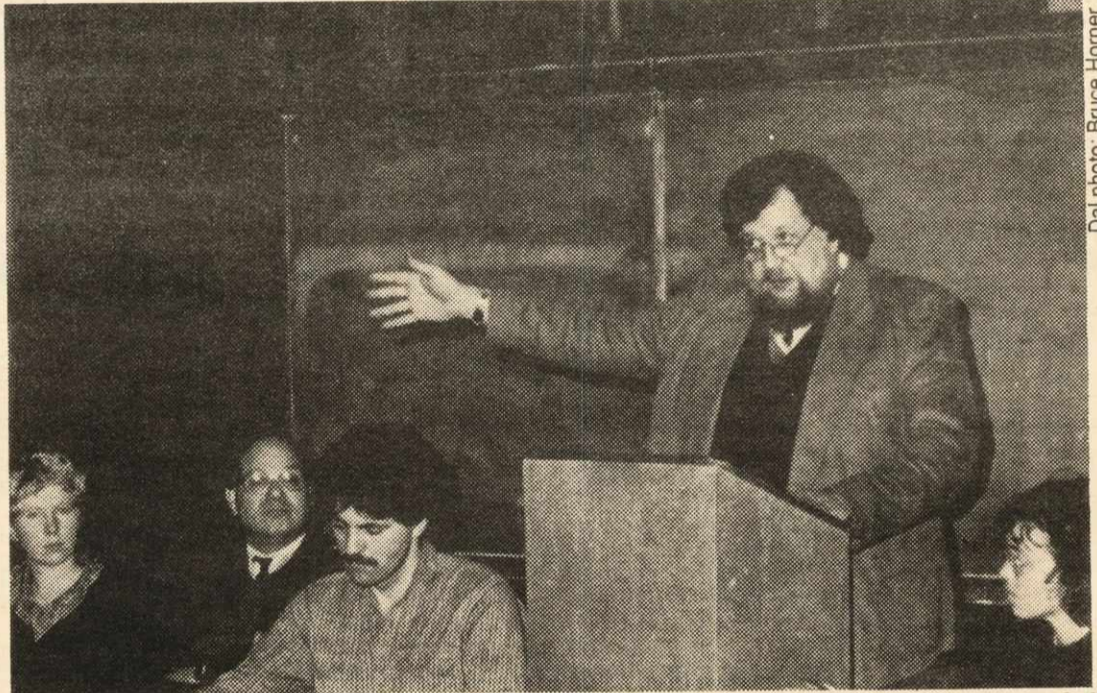
Citing the consensus of a recent conference of environmentalists in London, England, Fournier said

war in the Gulf will inevitably lead to the destruction of regional oil-fields, massive ocean oil-spills and flourocarbon release. Extreme heat release, weather pattern destruction, ozone damage and world-wide environmental repercussions are predicted, he stressed. Concluding on an even grimmer note, Fournier emphasized the dangers of accidental or premeditated

this with world leaders talking about 'kicking ass'. We've heard from George Bush that Hussein is worse than Hitler. Today in the House of Commons we heard Brian Mulroney create a sort of comic book version of the UN Charter. We need a restoration of Parliamentary democracy. We have to counter the collective amnesia projected by the media," she

Sinclair-Faulkner's insistence that war in the Gulf will create a lasting enmity between the West and the Islamic world, and John Flint's timely suggestion that the western industrialized nations reduced their dependency on oil, particularly from the Gulf Region.

Reacting to the teach-in, second year journalism student Bernice Landry said, "The forum has given



Dal photo: Bruce Horner

President of the Dalhousie Faculty Association, David Williams, speaking at a teach-in on the Gulf

nuclear violence.

Physicist Donald Betts pursued the macabre theme of atomic weapons deployment as a very concrete possibility.

SMU English Professor Jillian Thomas followed with forceful suggestions concerning the social and intellectual role Universities and academics can play in the current situation.

"We can raise the level of discourse. We have a bad example of

said.

Echoing his words at the DTCOG teach-in Monday night, Medical Professor Ismail Zayid spoke of the war as "an orchestrated effort to maintain American hegemony in the region". He strongly endorsed suspicions of US complicity in encouraging Iraq to invade Kuwait on the basis it serves long-term American interests.

Other contributions from the academic panel included Tom

me ideas I've never encountered in the mainstream media. Obviously the urgency of finding creative ways out of the warfare approach to conflict resolution is crucially important. Professors and academics have a responsibility to speak up. Let's hope they don't forget what they started today."

If the faculty teach-in grabbed all the media attention and a free

• continued on page 8

IBM program gets shot in the arm

by Jeff Harrington

HALIFAX (CUP)—Come April, Dalhousie's law program for black and Micmac students just may be healthy enough to leave the intensive care ward.

Nova Scotia's Attorney General Department announced Jan. 9 that the provincial and federal governments and the province's law foundation have agreed "in principle" to help fund the university's Indigenous Black and Micmac (IBM) Law Program for three years.

"Meetings are scheduled in the next couple of weeks to formalize the arrangement," A-G spokesperson Peter Spurway said Jan. 15.

Spurway said he didn't "want to jeopardize anything" by releasing any details of the agreement.

A year ago, the Marshall Inquiry into racism in the Nova Scotia justice system recommended the three parties support the two-year-old IBM program, to encourage Micmacs and blacks to become lawyers. The government of then-premier John Buchanan promised to implement all the Marshall recommendations.

The program has led a hand-to-mouth existence since last fall, after the province provided only \$50,000 of \$130,000 requested by the law school. Most of the money was to fund nine black students, including a \$500 per month living allowance. The Micmac students are funded by the federal government.

The money for the black students ran out in December and an extra \$10,000 from the Nova

Scotia Law Foundation will be gone by the end of February. The law school has paid the second

installment of the students' 1990-91 tuition fees.

The promised deal could make

• continued on page 8

DSA strike continues

by Alistair Croll

If you call the Dalhousie Staff Association these days, you'll get a polite recording telling you the union has moved into the ominous-sounding "Strike Headquarters".

The DSA has been on a rotating strike since Jan. 4. The union and the administration are at odds over wages and have not met since Dec. 5.

The DSA feels a full lockout is very unlikely, but it is certainly preparing for the worst.

Bette Yetman, the DSA's Executive Director, said her union is ready. "We're a fairly conservative union, and not prone to radical action. But we have enough in our strike fund to give us a confident safety margin."

In addition to the strike fund, which would pay picketing union members a fixed wage in the event of a lockout, the Nova Scotia (Government Employees' Union (NSGEU) has promised the DSA interest-free loans if it needs them.

The NSGEU is the largest labour

union in the province, with 13,000 members.

Yetman said the union is willing to go back to the table "as soon as the administration is willing to move."

Yetman feels the rotating strike is having an effect. "All our reports tell us the administration is hurting. They're working because they face disciplinary action."

"Middle management, unlike employees, have no job protection."

• continued on page 4