

Breakdown— strike inevitable

By **WENDY COOMBER**
and **DAVID OLIE**

THE DFA WILL STRIKE ON Monday, barring a last minute breakthrough in negotiations.

The administration and the DFA called press conferences late Wednesday night to announce a breakoff in contract negotiations, after 50 hours of talks.

"I could have sworn the two parties were in different rooms (while negotiating) after listening to them tonight," said Rusty James, vice president of the Dalhousie Student Union.

The immediate cause of the breakoff seems to have been a proposal by the DFA to go to binding arbitration on the issue of salaries.

"We offered binding arbitration, which is something one does when it appears that the negotiation process is, unfortunately, not going where you would like it to go," said Dr. Sandy Young, president of the DFA. "They claimed that we offered it at the end of the fifty hours, and when else would one offer arbitration but at the end of a process which you hope will settle things."

The administration rejected the idea of binding arbitration.

"It's like putting the loaded gun of binding arbitration, which is loaded and aimed at us by the DFA, but only on their terms," said Brian Crocker, chief negotiator for the administration.

Robbie Shaw, vice president of finance at Dalhousie, believes most of the issues under

discussion were settled before the breakoff.

"We've even agreed on the salary rate increase for the current year—6.9 per cent," said Shaw. "The only difference is at what time in the year it's going to be paid."

Since the beginning of negotiations last April, the DFA has maintained it would not accept Income Maintenance Change (IMC) or Career Development Increment (CDI) figures in the final salary figures since, they say, both are arbitrary, decided on by the administration according to the individual professor's merit. The 6.9 per cent increase cited by Shaw and Crocker includes both.

"If they offered us 6.9 per cent IMC," said Young, "I promise you we would sign on the line immediately."

The administration and the DFA seem to have been talking at cross purposes during negotiations. Neither understood how the other was negotiating.

"We played with a lot of packages," said Young. "Unfortunately, the Board seems to have selected those parts of the packages that they liked and have now said that those things were settled. Of course the packages are packages and one does not select what they like and reject what they don't like and then go to the press and say those things were settled."

The Board, on the other hand, was willing to settle issues on a point-by-point basis, leading to their conclusion that certain matters had been settled. The DFA feels that nothing has been agreed upon since no package has been settled.

Since neither side has anything further to put forward on the negotiating table, a strike seems inevitable for January 28.

Said Young, "As our (DFA) members have indicated, if we did not have an acceptable package, we would be on the streets on Monday. We do not have an acceptable package."

Senate cushions blow of strike

By **MARY ELLEN JONES & COLLEEN MACKEY**

STUDENTS MAY NOT LOSE out completely in the event of a strike by the Dalhousie Faculty Association.

In a special Jan. 21 meeting the Dalhousie Senate passed a motion allowing the professors to grant a half credit based on Christmas marks for a full credit course.

Every professor has the option whether or not to give half credits. "There will be different answers for different classes," said professor Michael Bradfield, who proposed the motion in an attempt to see that students won't be as hurt by a strike.

Other professors aren't so sure that this motion is an answer to

all the problems that will come up in the event of a strike, saying it may cause an "academic nightmare."

Student senator, David McCann, introduced a motion to extend the deadline for withdrawal from classes without academic penalty. This motion was deferred. If they choose to senate can retroactively extend the deadline in the event of a protracted strike.

Senate also defeated a motion waiving the maximum number of non-Dalhousie credits for a degree. This would come into effect if the student exceeds the maximum by taking the second term of the 1984/85 year at another university.

This motion allowing students to transfer from Dalhousie in the event of a strike, also met with negative reactions from some

professors. "This is a very hypocritical view to take," says John Graham, an economics professor.

"If the faculty are really concerned about students, they will continue to meet with their classes," he said. "Unfortunately senate is being used in some ways to blunt the harm done to students," says Graham.

"Your personal fervor towards students is very commendable," retorted McCann. Even though professors like Graham will continue to teach, some professors will not. "People like myself (who refuse to cross picket lines) are still left up a creek because of their conscience" says McCann.

Senate meetings will not be held in the event of a protracted strike.

CFS takes St. Mary's to court

By **WENDY COOMBER**

THE CANADIAN FEDERATION of Students (CFS) is continuing with its lawsuit of roughly \$12,000 against St. Mary's student council even though CFS itself owes \$66,000 to other organisations.

"It's the principle of the thing," says CFS chair Beth Olley, adding, CFS is hoping to make "a few bucks from it."

St. Mary's University withdrew from CFS in March 1983 after collecting membership fees from its students. St. Mary's said it wasn't receiving enough services

to warrant its membership in CFS. The fees were withheld and CFS has been trying to retrieve them ever since.

"Principles and dollars are the main things as I see it," says Dave Peters, president of St. Mary's student council.

"I would prefer not to be in a legal case with a member or an ex-member, but . . ." says Olley. "If they get to keep the money it will be like they stole it from us."

"We've been trying to settle out of court with them for the past two weeks," says Peters, who was only elected council president in January after last year's president, Dave Phillips, was asked to leave. But, says Peters, his council doesn't want to end up paying the entire sum of the lawsuit.

According to Peters, CFS hasn't been receptive to out of court negotiations. Although Olley says her organisation "was making every effort to try and settle it," she declined to explain what these efforts were.

Peters says the court date has been set for early February.

CFS, which was formed in 1981, has been chained to a huge debt for the past two years—\$41,000 which they owe to their services branch, and another \$25,000 owing to "outside parties."

SUNS chair resigns

By **COLLEEN MACKEY**

THE STUDENTS' UNION OF Nova Scotia (SUNS) is facing its second resignation within two months.

SUNS chair Geoff Martin has resigned his position effective Feb. 3. In November executive officer Judy Guthrie left the organization to accept a full-time job as the Canadian Federation of Students Atlantic fieldworker.

Resignations are nothing new to SUNS. Both Peter Kavanaugh, Executive Officer and Atul Sharma, chair resigned in October, 1983.

Martin cited a full course load and other commitments as reasons for resigning.

"SUNS needs a chair who is highly motivated without other

commitments," he says.

Despite his resignation, Martin sees important issues for SUNS to deal with in the future. He says he fears the upcoming Nova Scotia Royal Commission Report on post-secondary education may include recommendations similar to those of Ontario's Bovey Commission. The Bovey Commission recommended a 50% hike in tuition and a six per cent decrease in enrollment.

"I can easily see the Nova Scotia government advancing the same thing. It would allow them to reduce their commitment to education," says Martin. He says the key for SUNS lies in fighting a public debate. He also says they should continue to address the issues of quality and accessibility and student summer employment.

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