

Faculty protest handling of pension plan

By SAMANTHA BRENNAN

Members of the Dalhousie Faculty Association met in the Board-Senate room of the Arts and Administration Building Nov. 27 to express their concern about the administration's handling of their pension plan.

The DFA says that by taking "pension holidays" the Board of Governors has drained substantial amounts of money from the plan. A pension holiday means that the administration withholds their payments into the jointly-funded plan. At a Nov. 25 meeting of student council, vice-president finance Robbie Shaw defended the Board's action by saying the administration was making up for "over-matching contributions" in the past.

"We should settle for nothing less than complete control of the pension plan," said Professor David Williams, addressing the DFA meeting.

The DFA is concerned about two things—"pension holidays" taken by the administration and control of the plan. At present the plan is administered by the administration with limited control through an advisory committee composed of members of the DFA and of the administration.

The faculty association is asking for inclusion of the pension plan in their collective agreement, allowing for third party intervention and negotiation should disagreements arise.

After the meeting about 100 members of the DFA wrote letters to the Board of Governors stating their own personal concern about the pension. Letters were left on the table of the Senate-Board room as Dalhousie's Board of Governors were meeting in the room directly after the DFA meeting.

Passing out sheets of DFA letterhead to those attending the meeting, Professor Tom Sinclair-Faulkner said he hoped that by writing, the faculty association would move the administration to reconsider their position on the pension plan.

Dalhousie Student Union president Alex Gigeroff says that after hearing both the DFA and the administration discuss the issues at their Nov. 25 council meeting, council is drafting a position paper on the dispute. He says this will include a section on the DSU's position on the pension plan.

The Dalhousie Faculty Association represents 728 professors, instructors, professional librarians and counsellors. Negotiations between the DFA and the Board of Governors broke off after eight months at the bargaining table. The faculty association passed a strike vote on Oct. 25.

The Minister of Labour has now been asked to appoint a conciliator. □

United Way breaks targeted goal

By BILL MITCHELL

The United Way Fund has broken its target this year reaching \$73,500, and money is still coming in. The goal of the fund was to raise \$70,870.

United Way provides money to more than 40 organizations, such as the Red Cross. Heather Sutherland, organiser of the fund on campus, says the agencies count on United Way for a substantial part of their income.

Sutherland says the success of the fund raising can be attributed

to the strong foundations laid by last year's fund drive.

"A lot of individuals put in a great deal of effort," says Sutherland. "It was very much a team effort." More than 100 canvassers worked on the fund drive.

United Way will be hoping to add to the funds total until the end of December. □

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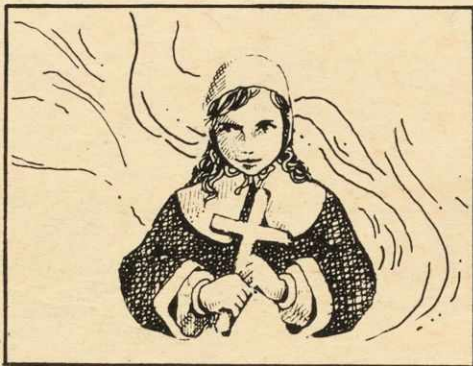
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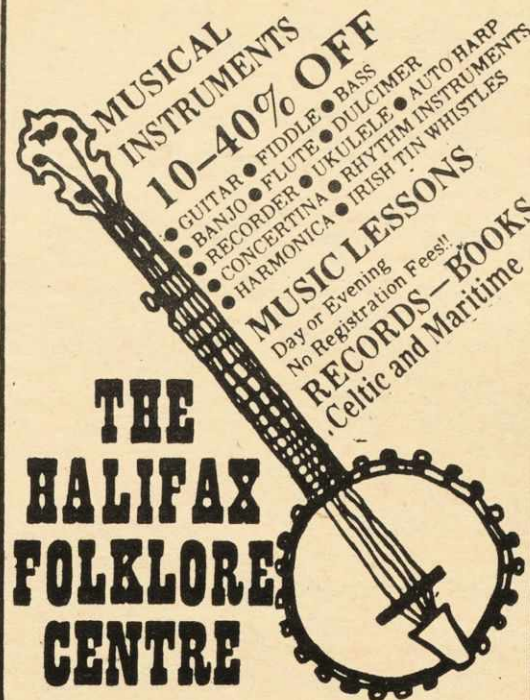
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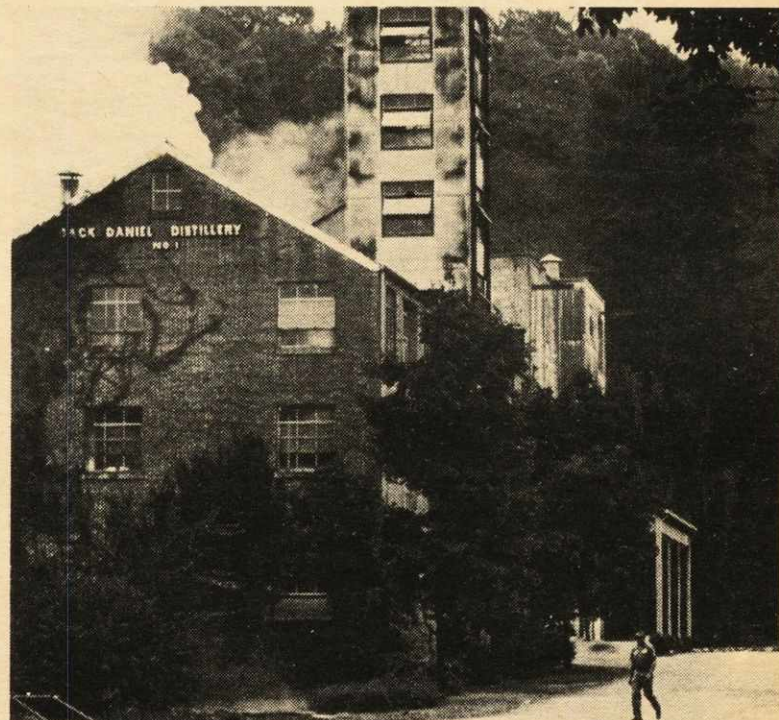
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