



DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

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Dalhousie presents...

Strike II: The Sequel



President Clark passes picketers outside. This is as close as both sides will ever get.

starring the student body

as the innocent victim

See hapless students impaled by picket signs!
Watch as the administration hacks mercilessly at another semester!
Feel the desolation of another classless winter!
Casp in horror as your tuition dollar slips from your grasp!
Stifle screams of terror at bureaucratic red tape!

A Dalhousie Horror Production

Conciliation talks fail

by Alistair Croll

After two days of talks in Dartmouth, the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) and Dalhousie Administration failed to agree on changes to the DFA's Collective Agreement.

David Williams, DFA president, said "in the past I called [the relationship between the DFA and the administration] cordial. I don't think I can continue to say that in the light of the past two days of negotiations."

The conciliation process involves a federally selected negotiator who tries to help both parties reach an agreement. However, if the conciliator sees no real improvements in the negotiations, a report will be filed. Two weeks after the filing of a conciliator's report, the DFA has the right to strike.

Williams said the stumbling block of negotiations was not financial. "The administration has not touched on any non-monetary issues," he said. "Their offer is not satisfactory, nor is it couched in terms that are satisfactory." Federal law prohibits parties in conciliation from discussing their demands with outsiders.

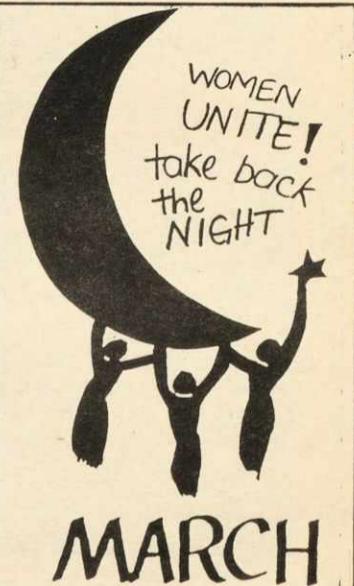
Brian Mason, Vice-president of Finance and Administration, said the administration has already agreed with about 18 points in the collective agreement, most of which are non-financial. Mason is more optimistic about conciliation.

"Both parties have made movement which has narrowed the gap that separates us. I don't know about others' expectations, but I hope it produces an agreement."

"...the vast majority [of faculty] are willing to take strike action if it becomes necessary."

Williams said the DFA is taking the idea of a strike very seriously. "In light of progress so far, it will be necessary to set in motion the

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by Lara Morris

The Service for Sexual Assault Victims (SSAV) reports that one out of every seven female university students is a victim of sexual assault. One out of every 12 male university students, by their own admission, commits or attempts rape, usually more than once. In order to address the issue of violence against women, SSAV is sponsoring this year's Take Back the Night March set for Friday, September 21.

The first Take Back the Night March was held in Germany in 1978. Over 3,000 women marched to protest rape and violence against women. Since that time, marches have taken place in Europe and across North America. SSAV organizes the March in Halifax, working in conjunction with groups such as the Students' Union of Nova Scotia, the Congress of Black Women, and the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

March organizers are looking for change: a curriculum developed on violence prevention for public schools, high schools, universities and colleges; training sessions for police, lawyers and judges on violence against women and children; politicians who attack the root causes of violence against women; and increased and ongoing funding for rape crisis centers, transition houses and other outreach services.

The March provides an opportunity for women to gain a sense of empowerment, says Maureen Meek of SSAV. "It is a chance for women's voices to be heard and express how they feel about the issue." Laurie Gray, a rape survivor and speaker at last year's March agrees, "I felt a lot of strength from the women around me. When I spoke, I gained a lot of self worth... and I gained some dignity I thought I'd lost."

There is a collective power felt
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Taxed 'til the Cows come home

by Bruce Gilchrist

A controversy has erupted over a motion passed by the Biology Department's Committee of the Whole (COW). On June 5, a 20 per cent "hidden" surcharge was imposed on laboratory manuals and study guides for the coming year, to cut department operating costs.

COW is a conglomeration of the various biology departmental sub-committees including student reps, and it deals with the annual biology budget.

This year the Faculty of Science was asked to reduce its budget by 8.8 per cent. In order to recoup the \$42,000 lost in the budget the department had to "increase its revenues," said Kimmins. The 20 per cent hike was agreed upon and passed in order to generate funds for the 90/91 year. There was no decision on whether or not they

would allow more increases year after year.

In the September 10 COW meeting a second proposal was made by Ms. O'Halloran and seconded by Ms. Beauchamp, both of whom are lab instructors. It suggested replacing the 20 per cent hike with a uniform fee.

"There was no equitability in the old measure. Some very expensive lab courses have no manuals and some cheaper lab courses have large study guides that cost a lot to make, but have few lab supply costs," said Ms. M.J. O'Halloran, a biology lab instructor.

"Although we still didn't like the idea of imposing on the students, we felt this was a fairer measure," said Ms. Beauchamp. It was to be a uniform lab fee because "there is no accurate information available on the costs per class."

The proposal was shelved after Beauchamp withdrew her support when she learned the motion had legal difficulty. It was believed that students in the Faculty of Science are protected from lab fees. Ms. Beauchamp said, "The spirit of the motion was not defeated," and "similar measures will likely be taken up in the future."

The student representatives aren't pleased with any of the measures. Dean C. Smith, president of the Dalhousie Association of Biology Students (DABS) said that the second proposal was not any better as it would simply piggyback onto the upcoming tuition hike. "The Biology Department should not be responsible for raising finances - that is the administration's job. And besides, why should students pay lab fees, isn't that what tuition fees are

supposed to cover?"

Kimmins, recently promoted to the Dean of Science, claims that the costs of the book had never been recouped in the past and that this measure actually helps to recover almost the total cost of the books. This conflicts with other reports from professors stating that the 20 per cent has nothing to do with the paper, printing, or time investment costs of producing the guides. "Instead it is only a measure to get the money back," said Smith.

In the 1989/90 year, when Dr. Kimmins was the Chair of Biology, he approved an outright 15 per cent surcharge on lab manual prices. He said that it was the same rationale behind this year's decision. He also said that it was not "hidden" last year, although

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