Volume 130. Number 22.

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

JA/F

both sides seem willing to be

complement is the line in the sand.

facing 46 early retirements in July,

the issue is even more important.

And given that the university is

flexible about salary

Thursday, March 12, 1998

not possible

But Michelle Gallant says full

"It is absolutely impractical, it's

continued on page 4...

not feasible for the university to

replacement of complement is just

Strike aversion remains goal for both sides

BY KAVERI GUPTA AND SHELLEY ROBINSON

A legal strike is within spitting distance after a report on the unsuccessful conciliation between faculty and administration was filed with the province.

The Department of Labour's Robert Durdan submitted his report on the conciliation talks between the faculty union and the Board of Governors on Mar. 10. After a two week cooling off period — during which negotiations are still possible — the faculty association is in a legal position to strike.

But both sides are still saying there is hope for settlement before the Mar. 24 deadline.

"Everyone's objective is to avert strike," said Dalhousie Faculty Association president Ismet Ugursal.

"I am seriously hoping that in a few days this will be unpleasant history for all of us."

University spokesperson Michelle Gallant agrees.

"Our interest is in avoiding a strike...and we're hopeful that there can be meaningful discussions," she said.

New talks have been tentatively scheduled for Mar. 12-13.

The conciliator's report was filed later than either side expected. But talk about it being stalled to avoid a strike during a provincial election campaign has been largely dismissed.

"That's fun speculation but I have no idea," said Michael Cross, chief negotiator for the faculty association.

"It seemed to me that the conciliator, Bob Durdan, has been pretty open and straight with us." Durdan would not comment.

The two issues still on the table are professor's salaries and faculty complement. Complement is the number of faculty positions maintained by the university.

The board's latest offer to the association was a 9.5 per cent salary increase over 32 months. The offer, which included no change to the complement policy, was rejected by a strong majority of the faculty association.

Currently the university does not have to replace vacated positions, and the faculty union is trying to make sure they have to - at least until the end of this contract.

"[Complement] is the issue which most directly affects the quality of education and we simply have to have a breathing spell. We can't go on with this pattern of savaging the teaching ranks of the university," Cross said.

"We've always been prepared to be flexible but there are certain things that simply have to happen and doing something about the complement issue is one of them."

The faculty union is asking for a 13 per cent salary increase over the contract's 32 months, but while

DSU launches media campaign \$40,000 set aside for television and radio ads

BY ANDREW SIMPSON

Although they may not know it, Dalhousie students are funding refrigerator breaks across the province

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) has launched a media campaign - that could cost up to \$40,000 — which they say will promote education issues in the final two weeks of the provincial election.

A DSU commercial began airing on Mar. 10 on two local television stations. The campaign will expand into radio and possibly print advertising next week, says DSU president Chris Adams.

"None of the three [political] parties have put enough focus on education issues - this is a chance for us to jump at that," Adams said.

"We thought it was a feasible idea that would have an impact and

would send a strong message as well as being very professional," Adams said.

> The student council unanimously endorsed the ad.

> "We wanted [the commercial] to start off talking about the problems university students have - debts, cuts to education...then we wanted to tie it in with a statistic that would affect everyone in Nova Scotia, which was that by the year 2000, 45 per cent of jobs created will require a university education," he said.

> Council approved expenditures of up to \$40,000 for the media

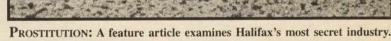
campaign, but the DSU has already committed half of that to television advertising.

Adams says the message speaks to people across the province on behalf of all Dalhousie students, and that it is important to promote education issues to those outside of the post-secondary community. However he does not see education as being in competition with other election issues.

"Education is a part of all the other issues, it envelops all the issues," he said. "For example,

continued on page 4...

for more.



(Photo by Ryan Lash)

udents really wa

BY NATALIE MACLELLAN relief. Education has definitely

Tuition freeze. It's the allpowerful phrase provincial still looking politicians are using in their attempt

student in the Foundation Year become a high profile issue and this Program at King's College. has many students encouraged, but

Job creation is also a concern for students, particularly for those who would like to remain in Nova Scotia the government might hide behind Sable oil when addressing the general problem of unemployment. "If it wasn't for offshore [oil], the

government would have nothing to

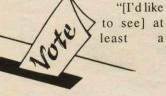
we ran with it."

The commercial is airing on ATV and CBC and can be seen during shows such as This Hour Has 22 Minutes, The Simpsons, Hockey Night in Canada and the ATV News . Produced by the CBC, it cost about \$1000.

"We wanted something that

to capture the student vote. Unfortunately for them, this approach might be just a bit too simplistic.

Both the Nova Scotia Liberals and the New Democratic Party have promised a tuition freeze if elected, while the Progressive Conservative Party is talking job creation and debt



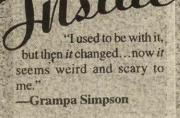
tuition freeze. That's what's realistic, rather than what the ideal would be," said Megan Clare, a

after graduation.

"For me, I guess Sable Gas is the big issue. As a student I'm concerned about the future, and that's going to have a big effect on the future of Nova Scotia," said Michael Landry, a Dalhousie Political Science student. Other students were worried that

propose [about say ог unemployment]," said Karl von Holtzhause, a BA student at Dalhousie.

However, in many respects, the politicians are right on the mark with their "pro-student" campaigns. When asked, the majority of continued on page 3...



National News

Chapters takes over McGill bookstore. Page 7.

York students trap president in car after breaking up a Board of Governors meeting. Page 6.

focus

Prostitution, life on the streets of Halifax. A former prostitute tells her tale - what it's like to be a piece of property. Page 11.

Arts & Culture

It's down, it's up again...it's veteran regurgitator Stevie Starr. Page 13.

Greek tragedy goes musical, Gospel at Colonus. Page 16. Portrait of a local busker. Page 13.



First ever women's university hockey championships. Page 22.

Everything you ever wanted to know about AUAA Track and Field. Page 19.

Wrestling have best ever showing at CIAUs. Page 21.