

DSU doesn't march

by Gazette staff

Only seven Dalhousie students, including one member of the student council, attended the National Student Day march held on Oct. 17 in Halifax.

The annual march is part of a Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) campaign to raise awareness of post-secondary issues and to protest specific government policies.

Lynn MacMichael, Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) Vice-President External and one of the march organizers, described the turnout as a "disappointment", and an "outrage".

MacMichael said she was the only member of council to attend the rally. "Councillors are elected to represent students... I believe they have a responsibility to show up (at the rally), because tuition is affecting their students," she said.

Ralph Cochrane, President of the DSU, said he was unable to attend

because of a family emergency.

Patti Dow, DSU Vice-President, said "I had three students in my

executive were not planning to attend the march, including Dow.

Other members of the executive



Dal photo: Rochell Owen

Only seven Dalhousie students and one council member attended this march for National Student Day.

office and my job is to help them first and foremost."

However, MacMichael said she knew on the morning of the 17th at least four members of the DSU

had various reasons for not attending the rally. Jean-Guy Forgeron, the Communications Chair, said he was busy meeting with a representative of the mature

students association. "I really wanted to go...but I had so much on the go" he said.

Both Peter Pottier, DSU treasurer, and Jamie Lougheed, Vice President Community Affairs, said they did not attend because they did not believe rallies changed policies. "If we had wanted to go we would have been there," said Lougheed.

Dow said the rally was not publicized well enough. "It was poorly advertised. Students weren't given enough notice... I didn't even know about the rally until the Sunday before," she said.

Other councillors also said poor advertising of the rally was partially to blame for the poor turnout. Charles Aldrich, Board of Governors representative, and Forgeron said they thought the event could have been promoted better.

MacMichael said, "I probably could have done more [to promote the rally]". However, she said she put up posters, made announce-

ments in class, told student council twice, put a notice on the electronic board in the cafeteria, and handed out 250 leaflets.

MacMichael would not comment on whether Dow knew of the rally before Sunday.

Dow said she felt the rally was at a difficult time (noon) and many students are in class. "For some students classes take a priority," she said, adding students need to know specifically why they are rallying and need to be contacted personally in an attempt to "get them out".

Dow admitted council had to take some responsibility for the poor turnout, but said "Because students are a top priority for Ralph (Cochrane) and I, we try to put that across to our councillors, but we can't force them to make students a top priority."

Cochrane said the DSU had learned a valuable lesson. "This is a good indication that it's going to take more preparation to get people out to the events," he said.

Vandalism eats up student dollars

by Gazette staff

Vandalism is on the increase at Dalhousie this year according to Stephen Vaslet, Supervisor of General Maintenance and Renovations.

"It could be in retaliation for increased tuition fees, I don't know,

but there has been an increase" he says.

Broken windows in the Chemistry building, the Grawood, Student Union Building, and signs taken from all over campus have contributed to the increase.

Bill Lord, Director of Dalhousie Physical Plant and Planning, estimates \$50,000 will be spent this year on repairing vandalized property.

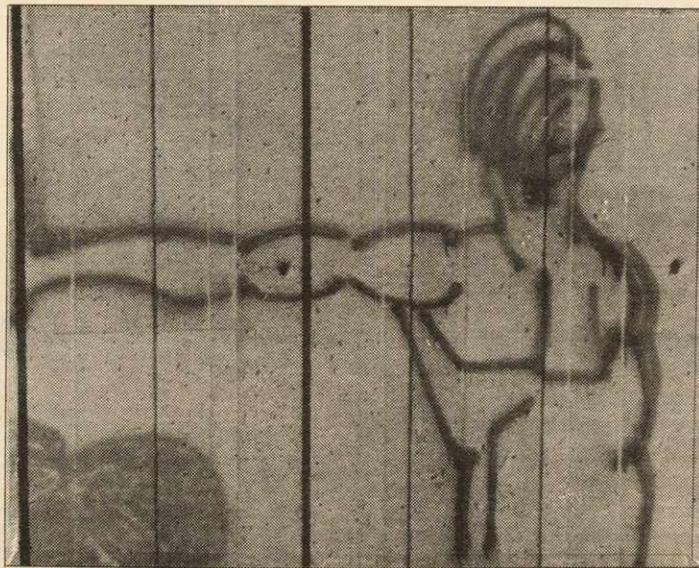
Vaslet says the carpentry shop alone, which functions as a division of the Physical Plant, will spend in excess of \$15,000 to repair vandalized property.

Sandy MacDonald, Chief of Dalhousie Security, says one of the biggest problems is the removal of signs. "In one room in Howe Hall we recovered six signs."

MacDonald says an amnesty period was given to those who had taken signs from both school and

municipal property. The amnesty period ended October 28 and MacDonald says he will charge those who take signs in the future.

"Once an amnesty period has been given and people are warned, the only way to proceed is criminally" McDonald says.



Graffiti spray painted on wall of Chemistry building

Dal photo: Bruce Homer

Ralph Cochrane, President of the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU), thinks the amnesty period was a good idea but it was not publicized enough. "It [the amnesty] should be extended because not everyone who would take something would understand the legal implications" he says.

However, MacDonald disagrees. He says "You don't have to know the criminal code to know tearing down a sign is against the law."

Vaslet says the vandalism is "almost always tied around an event on campus where there is drinking" and 90 per cent of the vandalism is liquor related.

Vaslet is cautious not to blame any particular group for the vandalism, but says "one can only suspect it's students on campus, but I can't say 'yes it's students'".

Both the Physical Plant and Security hope to enlist student support

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Strike vote held by the DSA

by Gazette staff

The Dalhousie Staff Association (DSA) held a strike vote this week, but are not making the results public.

Bette Yetman, Executive Director of the DSA, said the results

are not being released because the DSA "does not want management to know the specifics of the vote."

She admits not releasing the results could be perceived as a sign the vote was not favourable for strike action. However, Yetman said "It has never been the practice of the DSA to release vote results.

Michael Roughneen, Chief Negotiator for the Administration, called the strike vote "premature". "I don't know what one would be voting for" he said.

Roughneen said the vote was a "bargaining tactic and is part of the negotiating process."

Yetman said the vote is impor-

tant. "Management knows we have a strike vote and we are prepared to use it if we have to."

There are a number of strike options available to the DSA said Yetman. "Everything from job action, to rotating strikes, to a one

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"Education is not a right, it's an asset."
-author of guide to Canadian universities
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