

Dalhousie Gazette celebrates 130 years of publishing

Protesters plan to wake Dal administration

BY PAUL MANSFIELD

Part-time instructors and teaching assistants are protesting because of Dalhousie's unwillingness to settle wage disputes the easy way, according to union officials.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) local 3912 represents teaching assistants

(TAs) and part-time professors at Dalhousie, Saint Mary's and Mount Saint Vincent Universities. On Feb. 13 at 11 a.m., union members will hold a rally to protest what they say are unfair wages and work conditions.

This protest is one of the last steps CUPE 3912 is taking before a strike vote on Feb. 18-19. If the ad-

ministration is still not willing to negotiate after Friday's protest and TAs and part-time professors requests are ignored, a strike involving all three schools could occur, effective March 4.

There are currently between 600-700 TAs assisting with classes and approximately 200 part-time instructors teaching one or more

classes at Dalhousie.

Chris Riou, who is completing his Master of Arts in History, is Dalhousie's TA representative for the union and he shares these thoughts about the current situation.

"[There are] TAs which are required to instruct tutorials which can have more than 40 students per class which is more like teaching one class a week," Riou said.

This alone is a big responsibility for a TA, and Riou wants to know what Dalhousie is going to do in the case of a strike. He also has concerns for the students.

"We are going to be protesting on campus on Friday to let the

students know, if they already don't, that we are in a legal striking position and that we are really striking for fair wages and for their future education."

Asked about support for their protest, Riou stated that everyone is supportive of them, and everyone understands why they have to take this course of action.

"We have gotten a lot of support from our professors as well as the students that we teach, but the administration keeps making these decisions without consulting us," said Riou.

The main issue concerning the part-timers and TAs is pay and benefits. Presently TAs will get

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CKDU DJ Rebecca Barker is the co-host of *Cod is my co-pilot*. (Photo by Ryan Lash)

CKDU just short of goal

BY PHIL E. LEWIS

The number 13 turned out to be lucky for Dalhousie's radio station, CKDU. This year marked the 13th year for the radio station's annual fundraising drive. The station set a goal of \$50,000, and should reach it by Friday.

"It went really well, Sunday afternoon at 5 p.m. was the deadline for the phone aspect of it," said Shane MacKinnon, program director for CKDU.

"We were a little short of the goal. I think we were \$48,500 at that time. There are still some avenues we're looking at that we are hoping to balance out the rest of it."

During the drive, CKDU held a variety of events where pledges were made, or cover charges donated to the station.

"The one that we had on the

opening weekend on January 30 at the Market Street Jazz Cafe, did really well in conjunction with the ECMA's [East Coast Music Awards], just because there were so many people around," MacKinnon said.

"I guess there were line-ups around the corner to get in. I would say overall it was the best event, just in terms of money brought in and exposure."

Despite the fact that the phones were not ringing off the hook, events were very successful this year, considering the competition.

"It seems every funding drive has its own flow. This year it seemed like the pace was there. The phones were not ringing as much as they were in other years, but I figure between the ECMA's and the Olympics we had our competition cut out for us. Overall, I think we did really well considering a lot of

circumstances that were kind of out of our control."

The money raised from the funding drive is in support of the maintaining of operations at CKDU. The station has a number of fees that it has to pay, and funding is not available from advertising. There are license fees, as well as licensing fees to the Society of Composers Authors and Music Publishers of Canada, to actually air music. CKDU also has to pay administration fees, for full-time staff members and two part-time staff members.

The station's budget is roughly \$150,000 dollars. MacKinnon said in terms of funds "a major chunk of our money does come from Dalhousie [\$9 per full-time student, \$4 per part-time] but a majority is from the community at large. Overall, the people who support us

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Dal launches partnership with ITI

BY SHELLEY ROBINSON

A new graduate program — with a hefty price tag — is in the works between Dalhousie and a private computer college.

The proposed Masters of Information Technology Education would be granted through Dal, but offered through the Halifax branch of the Information Technology Institute (ITI). The program is the first of its kind in Canada.

Tuition for the 12-month program is \$28,000.

The graduate degree is waiting to be formally introduced, and passed, by the Dalhousie Senate. Until then, the program is being offered as an advanced certificate of information technology education through Henson College — an affiliate of Dalhousie.

Information technology is, among other things, the maintenance of large systems of information, while providing easy access to that information for the average user. Information technology education will train students to teach at schools like ITI.

Warwick Kimmins, Dalhousie's interim vice-president academic and research, says the idea of a joint program grew naturally from previous partnerships between the two schools. ITI based its problem-based learning approach on a

model developed by the Dalhousie Medical School.

Kimmins also says the latest partnership affords many opportunities to both schools.

"The University brings [an] assurance of quality control and a much greater experience at providing programs at the post-graduate level," he said.

"[But] it [allows] the University to develop programs in areas perhaps otherwise we wouldn't have."

Louisa Horne, ITI's vice president of academic programs, agrees.

"This is a field that is growing, is in demand and...it's going to be a dynamite program that will get Dal some recognition, nationally and internationally," she said.

The first class in the certificate program began this month. Thirty-six students were chosen from the over 300 applicants who responded to the full-page ads that ran in local papers in Halifax and St. John's. Ads are now running for a new session of the program, beginning in April.

ITI's standard applied information technology program is \$21,800 — Dal will get the extra \$7,200 from the information technology education program.

But Horne says she doesn't think the tuition is a stumbling block for people who want to take the program.

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