

700 students march on province house

By **BILL MITCHELL & JOAN SULLIVAN**

MORE THAN 700 STUDENTS from Dalhousie and Kings marched to protest under the day of the Dalhousie Faculty Association one-day strike Wednesday.

"We are standing up for what we believe in," said Rusty James, DSU vice-president, as students gathered in the SUB to begin their march.

Beth Olley, Canadian Federation of Students chair, read out telegrams of support from Mount St. Vincent, U of Saskatchewan and U of Ottawa student unions. Underfunding was a nation-wide problem, said Olley.

The march ended at Province House, the seat of the provincial legislature, with speeches from James, Alex Gigeroff (DSU president) and Mark Mackenzie, student union president of King's. Andrew MacKay, Dalhousie administration president, and Terry Donahoe, minister of education, declined invitations to speak at the rally.

MacKay replied to the invitation in letter only. He said that it was inappropriate to come in person. It could be misinterpreted by the DFA, he wrote.

"But your not here," cried a voice from the crowd. MacKay's letter said that everyone had to live within their means.

"Have you been to the president's house recently?" James added after reading the letter.

Donahoe also wrote a similar letter to the DSU. He said that past experience made him believe that there would not be meaningful dialogue at the rally.

"Bullshit," the crowd chanted in unison.

Donahoe says he found it strange that the provincial government should initiate a settlement between the DFA and the university administration. He denied underfunding was the central issue of the dispute.

Underfunding is the central issue of the dispute," said Gigeroff.

"It has led to increased class size, higher tuition (fees), no equipment replacement and uncompetitive wages for faculty. It is a major factor in the dispute," he said.

"We need competitive wages for the best university in the province. We want a settlement as soon as possible, and a mediator appointed by government," said Gigeroff.

Mackenzie said Nova Scotia should not ignore the demonstration.

"We are the victims of this thing. Summer job competition and graduation plans will be messed up," Mackenzie said.

Sandy Young, DFA president, said the faculty were victims too.

"We are asking for less of an

increase than St. Mary's University faculty received with their recent pay settlement," he said.

"We have done our damndest to negotiate for some time now. The Board of Governors don't seem to have a mandate (when they negotiate). I feel we have been reasonable and willing to listen," said Young.

John Holme, NDP education critic said Nova Scotia education was particularly underfunded. It is below the level recommended by the MPHEC, he said.

The rally ended at noon, with Gigeroff, James and Mackenzie invited inside Province House for talks with Donahoe.

After the meeting, Donahoe declined to say that underfunding was the issue. He said it was a subjective question, being dependent on the "eye of the beholder."

Both the student representatives and Donahoe agreed arbitration could be used effectively to settle the dispute.

MacKay calls it quits after one term

By **DAVID OLIE**

DR. W. ANDREW MACKAY will not seek a second term of office as president of Dalhousie University. He made this announcement to a meeting of Senate on Jan. 14.

MacKay, who became president in 1980, will complete the remaining 18 months of his six year term. The president is required to state whether he will reoffer at this time, giving the university a year and a half to seek replacement.

Dick Bowman, Dalhousie public relations officer, says MacKay's announcement is part of the normal procedure and is not a resignation. MacKay will carry on and even expand his duties in the coming months, including a trip to Ottawa to explain the current situation at Dal.

The procedure to select a new president is already underway. Seven professors have been nominated to serve on the selection committee, and more are expected. The seven are: Alan Andres; Robert Chambers; Judith Fingard; R.E. George; Robert Jones; W.T. Hoshans; and Philip Welch. Elections to the committee will take place in the coming week.

MacKay was not available for comment at press time.



With an \$11 million debt, a faculty strike looming, and grim prospects for post-secondary education in this province, Andy MacKay decides that one term as head honcho is enough.

DFA-Administration no closer to accord

By **WENDY COOMBER**

ONE STRIKE LATER THE Dalhousie Faculty Association and the Dalhousie administration are no closer to solving their problems.

Last week after a three hour meeting, DFA members decided to hit the streets for a one-day strike — testing the waters before their proposed indefinite walk-out Jan 28.

"Another day, another dollar comes very close to explaining what the Board's been offering us in terms of salary," said Tom Sinclair-Faulkner, a member of the DFA's campus support committee.

While the administration is saying they are offering the DFA a 12 per cent increase over the next two years, the DFA is saying there are figures which cannot be included in that number.

Dr. Sandy Young, president of the DFA, said the Career Development Increment (CDI) is one of those figures, because its payment is flexible and left to the administration's discretion. Sinclair-Faulkner said without the CDI and the Income Maintenance Change, the increase is only 6.8 per cent.

"This is a classic labour versus management conundrum," vice-president Robbie Shaw told *The Gazette* last November. The DFA have "a legitimate bitch" against the administration, Shaw said, but the administration's first priority must be reducing the administration's \$11 million deficit.

"The administration has not

placed faculty high enough in their priorities," said Young.

Negotiations broke down between the two parties before Christmas when the conciliators said they were too far apart over salary and pension matters.

Besides salaries, the other main area of contract contention is the pension plan. According to Young, the Board told him pensions were non-negotiable because the Dalhousie pension plan included all Dalhousie employees and not just the faculty. Young said if the pension plan only included the DFA the administration might settle on it faster.

Sinclair-Faulkner told *The Gazette* last November that the administration was taking a "pension holiday," not paying their share into the pension fund because of its \$12 million surplus. The DFA says this surplus should be used to increase the faculty's inadequate pension plan, and not used by the administration to repair its debt.

A press release distributed by the DFA on Tuesday stated, "The DFA is willing to permit the Board to take the present pension 'holiday' as an interest free loan to be repaid over two years."

Dalhousie president, Dr. Andrew MacKay, said he is "ever an optimist" and feels the strike, if there is one, will not last long because "everyone is concerned over the problems of the students."

Meanwhile, contract negotiations have not resumed and the DFA's strike date is less than two weeks away.

Referendum delayed

By **KATIE FRASER**

THE DALHOUSIE STUDENT Union (DSU) referendum asking students to support Dalhousie's capital fund drive has been postponed due to impending strike action.

DSU President Alex Gigeroff says that the referendum is not on the student union's list of priorities at this time.

"The executive has decided to postpone the referendum until next month (February). We are putting it on the back burner because we are devoting all of our time to the strike," said Gigeroff.

Gigeroff says he was concerned that going through with the referendum might complicate the two issues.

"Most students are so concerned about the impact of a strike that it wouldn't be good to confuse them," said Gigeroff.

Gigeroff says that the DFA do not object in any way to the proposal, even though it might compete for university dollars.

The DFA agreed not to strike on the day of the referendum or to interfere in any way says Gigeroff.

Regardless of this position, Gigeroff feels that because the "strike situation is on everyone's mind it wouldn't be fair to confuse the situation by introducing the referendum.

McDonough says Terry adding fuel to crisis

By **SAMANTHA BRENNAN**

TERRY DONAHOE'S COMMENTS that Dalhousie has the funds to give faculty a reasonable settlement are adding fuel to the current strike crisis at Dalhousie, says provincial NDP leader Alexa McDonough.

Education minister Terry Donahoe was quoted in the Jan. 11 *Chronicle-Herald* as saying Dalhousie's financial crisis is due to administration mismanagement not government underfunding.

"I think it's ridiculous to talk in terms of either underfunding or mismanagement as being the cause of the dispute," says McDonough. She says at the same time the administration's expansionist policies of the '70's have "come home to roost" at Dalhousie, the federal-provincial government restraint policies have drained the university's resources.

"The two coming together seem to have been a recipe for disaster at Dalhousie," McDonough said. She says she was surprised to hear the education minister making a hard and fast statement about the cause of Dalhousie's current labour dispute.