

DSU: Spineless, gutless jellyfish again?

Three years ago, members of the DSU were accused of being "spineless, gutless jellyfish" when they voted to remain neutral on the issue of a faculty strike.

When the strike happened in January 1985, the faculty only went out for a day. The support wasn't there for them to pursue their demand for higher salaries.

At that time, only one councillor on the student union spoke out in direct support of the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA). He was concerned that the

administration's refusal to pay professors salaries comparable to those found at many other universities would begin a trend of professors leaving Dalhousie for more lucrative positions elsewhere. And that's exactly what happened.

David Williams, president of the DFA, says Dalhousie has lost fifty faculty members over the past two years. Whether they've retired or left for better-paying jobs, the positions aren't being replaced.

Students complain of overcrowded classrooms, classes that exist only in the academic calendar, and a general drop in academic standards at Dalhousie. Overall, they don't support a faculty strike.

If a university is only as good as its faculty, a faculty is only as good as its salary will warrant. Students don't seem to make the connection, and the student union sits on its thumbs.

Why has the DSU taken a neutral position on the impending faculty strike? Members say they want to remain "fair" and "unbiased" in order to serve the interests of the student they represent.

By attempting to represent the interests of all students, most of

whom won't recognize or support the need for a faculty strike, the student union is sacrificing leadership in favour of popular sentiment.

The DSU struggles to plan student activities in the event of a strike that will appear "neutral". The sentiment seems to be focused on neutral protest drawing media attention to the plight of the poor student, caught between two sides which warrant neither our support nor our condemnation.

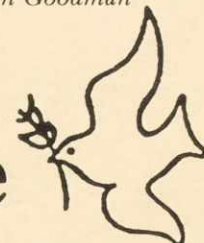
Oh, sorry. It's the *situation* we're supposed to be condemning. A situation of financial strangulation originating from our administration. It seems natural for the DSU to support a

faculty strike. When has neutrality ever been effective?

The average Dal student may be more immediately concerned with losing a week of school than with the gradual erosion of the quality of education at this university. The student union, by reflecting this view, does a disservice to the faculty, the students they represent, and the students who will be faced with a similar strike situation next year and the year after that and the year after that ... until president Howard Clark finally succeeds in running this place into the ground.

Which side of the picket line will you be on this Friday?

Erin Goodman



THIS WEEKEND!

THE GUYS AT THE LIBRARY

Saturday afternoons are live at the Grawood. This week the Guys At The Library entertain with their relaxed style of music. Admission is free! Show starts at 2 pm!

THE SHUFFLE DEMONS PLAY FRIDAY!

Toronto recording artists The Shuffle Demons are back in Halifax! With their hits Spadina Bus and Hockey Night In Canada, they're a show not to be missed! Admission is free for both the matinee and evening show. 3 & 9 pm

7

MONDAY

3 pm -- Soaps
10 pm -- VIA's Game of the Week
NFL Football: Browns @ Oilers
World Beer Tour

8

TUESDAY

3 pm -- Soaps

9

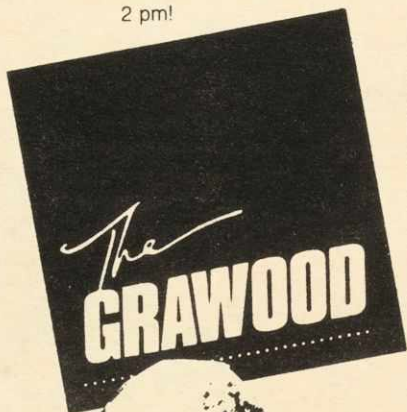
WEDNESDAY

3 pm -- Soaps
9 pm -- CKDU Night

10

THURSDAY

3 pm -- Soaps
The Grawood Rocks
Thursday Nights! Be there!



The Shuffle Demons

OPINION

Baha'i faith for peace

by Mitra Samiei

The Association for Baha'i Studies

They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

— Isaiah 2:4

The wish for peace has always occupied a place in the minds and hearts of humankind. At this time in the history, the leaders and thoughtful citizens are aware of the need for peace more than ever. The conditions which distinguish the increase in this awareness include the progress in the fields of communication and transportation, the increase in the destructive capacity of humanity, and above all, the increased willingness of the ordinary citizens to contribute to the efforts of establishing a world peace.

On October 24, 1985, the Universal House of Justice, governing body of the Baha'i Faith, addressed a peace statement to the peoples of the world, in response to the designation of 1986 as the United Nations International Year of Peace. This statement of peace was presented to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the fortieth anniversary of the U.N. as well as to a large number of states and governments throughout the world. The following passages are excerpts taken from this statement:

The scientific and technological advances occurring in this unusually blessed century portend a great surge forward in the social evolution of the planet, and indicate the means by which the practical problems of humanity may be solved. . . Yet barriers persist. Doubts, misconceptions, prejudices, suspicions and narrow self-interest beset nations and peoples in their relations one to

another.

"The winds of despair," Baha'u'llah (Founder of the Baha'i Faith) wrote, "are, alas, blowing from every direction, and the strife that divides and afflicts the human race is daily increasing. The signs of impending convulsions and chaos can now be discerned, inasmuch as the prevailing order appears to be lamentably defective." This prophetic judgement has been amply confirmed by the common experience of humanity. . . Indeed, so much have aggression and conflict come to characterize our social, economic and religious systems, that many have succumbed to the view that such behaviour is intrinsic to human nature and therefore ineradicable.

With the entrenchment of this view, a paralyzing contradiction has developed in human affairs. . . As the need for peace becomes more urgent, this fundamental contradiction, which hinders its realization demands a reassessment of the assumptions upon which the commonly-held view of mankind's historical predicament is based. . .

To choose such a course is not to deny humanity's past but to understand it. The Baha'i Faith regards the current world confusion and calamitous condition in human affairs as a natural phase in an organic process leading ultimately and irresistibly to the unification of the human race in a single social order whose boundaries are those of the planet. The human race, as a distinct, organic unit, has passed through evolutionary stages analogous to the stages of infancy and childhood in the lives of its individual members, and is now in the culminating period of its turbulent adolescence approaching its long-awaited coming of age.

Whatever suffering and turmoil the years immediately ahead may hold, however dark the

immediate circumstances, the Baha'i community believes that humanity can confront this supreme trial with confidence in its ultimate outcome. Far from signaling the end of civilization, the convulsive changes towards which humanity is being ever more rapidly impelled will serve to release the "potentialities inherent in the station of man" and reveal "the full measure of his destiny on earth, the innate excellence of his reality."

Letters

Nicaragua needs help

To the Editors,

There are few countries which have suffered as much as Nicaragua in recent times. An earthquake devastated the capital city in 1972 resulting in the loss of 20,000 lives. In the revolution which overthrew the Somoza dictatorship in 1979, 50,000 died. Since then in a war in which civilians have been the main targets of the contra rebels, there have been another 50,000 casualties. On October 22nd of this year Nicaragua was hit by hurricane Joan, resulting in widespread destruction and loss of life as well as an estimated 300,000 homeless.

As a physician who has worked in Nicaragua for a year and a half, I can attest to the fact that the Nicaraguan government has a reputation among aid organizations as being honest and efficient in its use of international relief. We are asking for your generous help in this time of need. Tax deductible donations should be made out to "Inter Pares (Tools for Peace).

Yours very sincerely,
Tim Bood M.D.