

Peter and the Wolf and the DFA

ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT angry members of the Dalhousie Faculty Association and representatives of the administration held press conferences in separate rooms announcing the breakoff in talks of the second round of negotiations.

Less than 24 hours later the membership of the DFA voted to call off planned strike action and return to work out the new collective agreement on terms agreed to by the administration. The vote took place with just over half of the DFA's membership present.

Within a few days everything has changed. Dalhousie's 728 unionized faculty members are not on strike. Tired professors are holding chalk and pointers in the place of picket signs. Students who thought they'd be losing out on a year of university are sitting in classes taking notes.

Yet in a way very little has changed. Problems have been put aside in favour of a non-confrontational solution that in

the end helps no one. In the last few days of negotiations the DFA gained some concessions from the administration but the fundamental causes of the strike were not addressed.

Issues like decision making in the university and board secrecy are still around. The vote not to strike was a vote passing on this year's problems to the next negotiation team in the next set of contract talks.

Students will be hurt because professors who can attain higher salaries elsewhere may leave. Faculty will be hurt by their lack of power in determining Dalhousie's future. In the end the board too will be hurt as angry, disaffected faculty members grow more antagonistic.

If a union announces plans to strike and then backs down, the next threat of strike action may not get the same reaction from the administration.

The DFA should consider reading the fable of Peter and the Wolf to its members.

university to the crude functions of a strike but rather to educate.

It is those profs who hold this as their principle that deserve our sympathy and support, not the "wage-earners". The labour-management rhetoric does not suit any university setting, for when education is reduced merely to the size of one's paycheque then the professor has truly become just another labourer, and we the mere consumers. Surely a university is meant to be more than that.

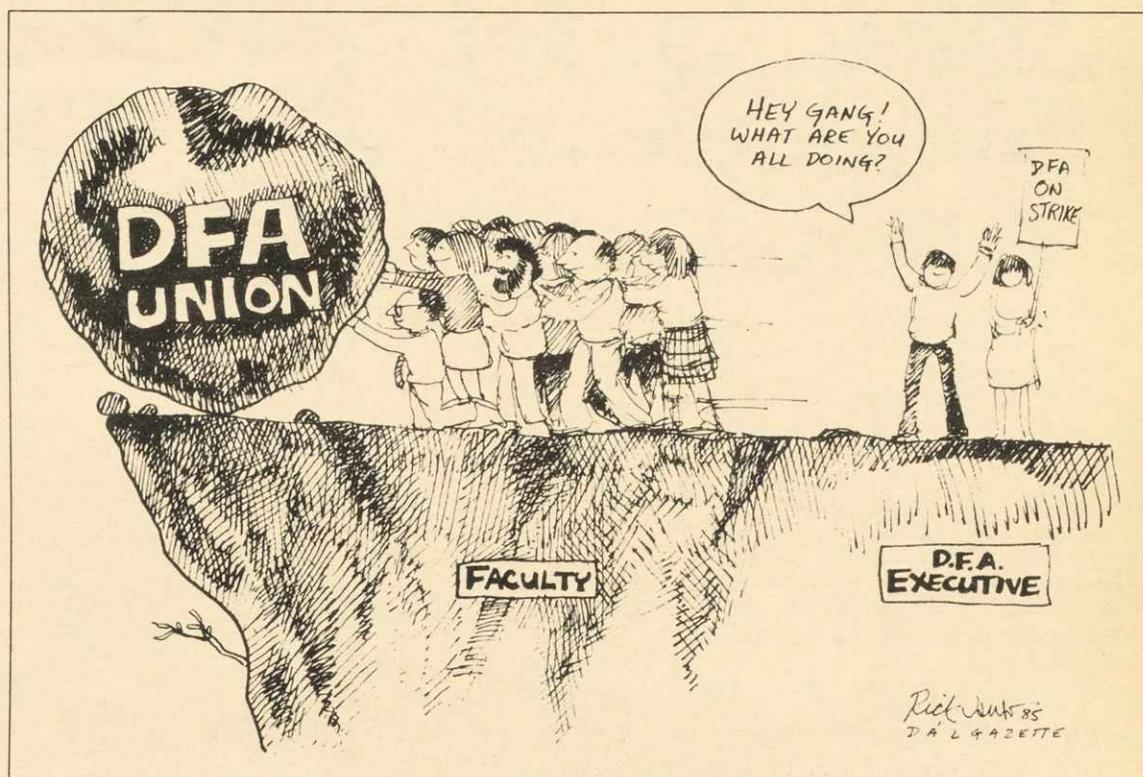
Marcus Snowden

Angry student and faculty wife upset with DFA decision

To the editors,

To those members of the D.F.A. who voted against a strike on Jan. 24, and those of you who failed to attend the meeting, I sincerely hope you are proud of yourselves. A number of your colleagues invested a lot of time and energy into a cause they (you??) believed in. Your decision or lack of it, has made the issues that D.F.A. fought for seem puerile. Maybe everyone could have been saved a lot of distress, and the issue settled last April. However, because of your lack of nerve the union is now seriously weakened, (and perhaps that's what you wanted; if so, why did you join the union is the first place?) and the power of the administration more entrenched.

I read recently that professional, educated people should have more "sense" than to strike!!!



Does that mean that less educated people don't have any sense? I believe it's an even bigger indictment on the system when 'educated' people chose to strike, and let's face it this confrontation involved more than salary or pensions — it was a power struggle.

Nor can I accept the argument that your decision indicates your concern for students (the students were behind the DFA), because to me your decision smacks of self interest. Certainly your families would have suffered, but I don't suppose any of you would be on the bread line, and I suspect that the government would have intervened in a strike very quickly, possibly in DFA's favour.

As a student and a 'faculty wife' I stood to lose a lot more than any of you, but I was willing to support a strike, mainly because I saw it as a means of redistributing power within the university, and it would have been for the good of the university as a whole, students as well as faculty.

Well, you have made your bed and now you must lie in it, but don't expect your colleagues to be easy bed-mates, or that your students will show you much respect. I'm sure there will still be money in the pension fund when you and the current administrators retire, but there won't be much left when my husband retires.

I hope you squirm when you read this, because you damn well should.

An angry student and 'faculty wife'

Dalplex has been justified

To the editors,

I read with interest the article entitled "Dalplex Deficit Surprises Budget Office" in the Nov. 1, 1984 edition of the *Gazette*. I feel a reaction is necessary.

In particular, I wish to address the comments attributed to Dr. Sinclair-Faulkner—he questioned the rationale for building Dalplex when the university knew there would be ongoing costs and the

library was already underfunded. This seems to typify the attitude across campus—that is, that Dalplex serves only the recreational needs of the campus and surrounding community.

This understanding is completely wrong. In the first instance Dalplex was built to provide an academic facility for the School of Recreation, Physical and Health Education. As such it provides research facilities, classroom space, activity instructional space and office space necessary for the conduct of its three undergraduate degree programs and its M.Sc. program.

It is unfortunate that the university community continues to view Dalplex as a facility for recreation only and one that should be generating the total funds necessary for its operation. As a facility which supports the academic activities of our School, that facility should not be expected to generate any more income than any other academic facility on this campus. It is, in fact, encouraging to think that the administrators of Dalplex generate as much income as they do.

The School of Recreation, Physical and Health Education existed for years in facilities which were inadequate. The opening of Dalplex finally provided adequate research space for faculty. It is not coincidental that since then we have made significant progress in the area of research and have enhanced the programs of instruction we offer to graduate and undergraduate students. In that sense the building of Dalplex has been justified. It is a bonus to think this facility can also provide significant recreational opportunities to the university and external communities.

Sincerely yours,
T.L. Maloney, Ph. D.

Director
School of Recreation, Physical and Health Education

Pen-pals wanted in Korea

To the editors,

It is my great pleasure to write to you. I expect you will be pleased to accept my appeal

regarding overseas pen pals for our students.

I am a director of Clover Friendship Society and have great assistance from all Korea high schools. We have many students and teachers. I am eagerly seeking foreign students who would like to correspond with our students. Now we have the international letter writing movement among the students of each school including foreign students. So we have chosen beautiful country Canada. There are many Korean students who want to exchange letters and friendship with Canadian students and, they want to know and learn diligent and kind peoples, beautiful customs and mysterious history. As a friendly nation Korea has many close historical relationships with Canada. Above all, many teachers of students frequently request to me to let their students have a chance to study Canada since I have been to your country in the year 1979.

Throughout my foreign language teaching career in my old teacher's days, I've noticed this would help not only their foreign language and emotional life, but also expand their knowledge of foreign lands. This would also promote world-wide friendship and mutual relationship as well as serving as a true foundation of world peace.

I feel it is necessary to publish this simple wish among the boys and girls of the world. Therefore, I courteously request you to run this letter in a corner of your valuable paper.

The only information I need of a student is his or her name, address, sex, age, hobbies and picture if possible. I expect to receive many letters from your readers wishing to correspond with our students. Welcome group or class request!

I will appreciate it very much if you let me have the chance to do this for my students. This would be a warm and thoughtful favor. Awaiting good news, I remain,

Sincerely yours,
Miss Choi Suk-sun
Clover Friendship Society,
P.O. Box 3315
Central, Seoul 100,
Korea

Janson has really outdone himself this time says reader...

To the editors,

Rick Janson has really outdone himself this time. Last week (Jan. 17) he told us that our student union was not taking a strong stand in favour of the D.F.A. and that we were therefore done a disservice. Putting the relative merits or demerits of blaming the provincial government for our troubles aside, the student march and demonstration strikes me as an accurate reflection of what most students at Dal and King's feel — that we were and are caught in the middle. Janson assumes that we all consider university professors to be members of the working class, an assumption which labour leaders themselves don't even make.

This week (Jan. 24), dear Rick's ABC's include F for Faculty. Said group is defined as those discovering that their "wages" are "becoming less and less competitive" — and here he really begins to make sense — "with the private sector." When did university profs start earning "wages" rather than salaries? And wouldn't it make more sense to refer to a comparable scale such as salaries at other post-secondary institutions instead of the rather ambiguous "private sector"? Janson might like to know that professors have never earned good money compared with other professionals. As Professor Eays and others have said, faculty's task is not to submit the