

Binding arbitration last hope to avert strike

Thanks to every student who filled out a DSU post card. Suddenly, just one day after a photo of President Clark was plastered on the front page of the Daily News, there is a new development in labour negotiations.

Tuesday's Board of Governor's meeting gave the administration negotiators the go-ahead to "discuss the idea" of going to binding arbitration.

(Binding arbitration requires that both sides agree on a neutral third party who is authorised to impose an agreement. Unlike conciliation, the Department of Labour does not necessarily supply the arbitrator.)

Dalhousie Student Union president, Juanita Montalvo, and DSU residence rep, Tanya Graham, showed up at the meeting to indicate the level of their concern. Graham and Montalvo got a chance to pose questions and the Board promised to respond in a letter.

Montalvo, staying neutral, said the DSU would favour arbitration.

The Dalhousie Faculty Association says it's as open as ever to discussing arbitration - but only after government conciliator,

Gordon Keeler, files his report with the Department of Labour.

A DFA general meeting on September 21 passed motion that binding arbitration would be proposed should conciliation fail. As of press time, the report still had not been filed and Williams says he has no idea when that will happen. Unconfirmed sources say that the unions are leaning on the Department of Labour on order to get Keeler's report submitted ASAP.

That done, labour and management would be under the gun to come up with a settlement before the two-week waiting period ran out. Without such a deadline, says Williams, "the danger is that we're talking about something that may or may not happen. It could take us to November." By then, he adds, a strike would interrupt exams causing the worst possible damage to students.

Hopefully, Clark has realised what we have here is a political problem, not just a labour one. Administration spokespersons say they can't have Clark shouting on the steps of the legislature for better funding. So far, their more diplomatic efforts don't seem to have paid off.

Look at the feature on page 9 of this issue, to see how federal transfer payments for post-secondary education have declined.

At an August meeting of faculty association reps from across the province, John D'Orsay, president of the Nova Scotia Confederation of Faculty Associations, said that the province had stopped contributing to the post-secondary education fund, but instead passed on the federal money as if that were all they had to do.

Even when this money specially earmarked for universities and colleges gets down here, how much of it actually gets passed on? There are always those rumours of money siphoned off to pave roads and buy hospital beds.

The administration has fond hopes for a review of the formula which parcels out the yearly provincial government funding increase among NS universities. But how is a bigger slice of the pie going to help when the pie is too small to begin with?

Of course the students can always chip in with our ever-spiralling tuition fees. We get our annual hike of about 4 per cent per

year. The administration would have no qualms about upping tuition by 15 to 20 per cent just like they discussed doing in the early '80s. Before the DSU administration agreement which set ceilings on tuition in return for a donation to the capital fund, tuitions rose from \$899 for the 1979/80 year to \$1400 for the 1983/84 year. And now, \$1789, for a year of quality education, up-to-date facilities, and a well-stocked and accessible library.(?)

I have a hard time believing that this weekend's Dalhousie Days has been in the works for a year. It seems like such good timing to raise public goodwill and funnel in the local populace for magic shows and balloons just when those nasty labour unions are destroying the peace and tranquility of the campus.

But then again, after this semester, the university administration needs to put on its most smiling and welcome face to repair its image as far as students concerned.

Heather Hueston

Have a beer!

by Dave Saxon

Something inside my head snapped when the doctor turned to me and said, "You know, many people think that drinking beer can be more harmful to you than smoking cigarettes."

As I walked out of his office that afternoon I pondered the position that modern man has placed himself in.

Saccharine and various other forms of artificial sugar have produced cancer in mice. I don't know which mice or how many mice, but, apparently, at least sev-

eral mice. That covers diet drinks as well, although I read somewhere that the mice would have to consume nine hundred litres of diet beverage a day to be affected - a problem obviously that sends up a warning to very thirsty mice.

Don't live in the centre of a big city, they tell you. The air pollution will get you.

And be careful of your drinking water; it may be polluted by some toxic waste from a chemical waste dumper.

And don't live anywhere within miles of a dump site. I

TYPE IT!

We received a letter from Yves Jubinville and a letter

think they are checking to see if pipe tobacco is okay.

Recently they have warned, I hope by now most everybody knows, that AIDS is contagious. "Don't have sex," they say, "unless you know for sure that your partner is free of any sexually transmittable diseases." Obviously, what you have to do is keep a staff in your bedroom at all times to submit any would-be sex partner to various blood and other necessary tests.

Obviously no one wants to fool around with over the counter drugs in capsule form any more.

from Desiree Boutlier this week but we could not print them because they WERE NOT TYPED! If you want

Too many cranks.

However, there was this wise man that I met last year in the early days of May. We used to sit in his living room and drink beer. I told him what the doctor had said, about the mice and cancer, air pollution, toxic waste, AIDS and other sexually transmittable diseases and the drugs. He sat there listening intently and drinking his beer and when I had finished he said, "Don't worry about what they say might kill you; just live your life and remember, don't shit where you eat."

your letters published PLEASE TYPE because we don't have the time to do it. There are typewriters available in the Gazette office.

— The editors

And make 'em double spaced or I won't touch 'em.

— The typesetter

Bilingualism refutes Chauvinism

To the editors:

Tom Chauvin Jr. claimed that he "must speak out against the madness of bilingualism and multiculturalism" in his letter of last week (Canada united?). While I am no advocate of censorship, and believe that Mr. Chauvin should have the freedom to express his views, I find his letter, in many instances, in violation of the Gazette's own self-imposed restrictions against letters deemed to be in bad taste. I wouldn't normally waste my time responding to a letter as tactless and inane as Mr. Chauvin's but I found his views so offensive that I felt compelled to respond to the "madness" of his letter.

I would agree with Mr. Chauvin that "multiculturalism divides people into ethnic groups, thus ensuring that their backgrounds, customs, and thinking remain different." Great! Certainly Canada isn't a perfect place, but one of things I'm most proud of is that I live in a country

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Brainwashing of a hero

by Kirsten Nichols

In the land of no great heroes, it is difficult to convince yourself that being a 'hero' is a good idea. Heroes, you see, don't last long here. In fact, they don't last long anywhere, maybe that's part of being a hero. If that's so, it's an over-rated profession. Doesn't pay well either but, hey, it's excitement. It's getting worse though, for these days anyone who dares to be themselves is considered a hero. Strange, that used to be called being unique, different but for the most part it was 'normal'. But that was before. . . Before we somehow gave all

our control away. IT WASN'T TAKEN: WE GAVE IT AWAY. It seems we do a lot of that in this country. Back in 1988 we gave away our financial future. Somehow, by spreading green manure across the country, the conservatives got reelected. Once they were in control no one really noticed the politics of this country; who notices a shadow. Things got worse, or from their point of view, better.

Since they had manipulated the financial merger, it didn't take too much longer for them to organize the political/national

merger. Finally AMER*CA did span the continent.

How I wish this was the science fiction it sounds like. Too bad it's history.

The country we once called "strong and free" was, for the first time in its existence, neither. Not that the AMER*CA*NS REALLY tried to oppress us, they didn't have to. For years before the final giving away of our country we had readily accepted their brainwashing.

The AMER*CA*NS, who had been brainwashing their own was better than the contras at spreading "the AMER*CAN way

people for decades, made the wonderous discovery that cable of life". It came out later that they would have used it in Nicaragua but for the reason that most of the population couldn't afford TV's. Strange, maybe that was the reason they leaned towards the left; poor and oppressed people usually do it seems.

Reading this you might think it strange that a country could be dissolved so easily, but it's amazing what can happen with an apathetic population. A population where being yourself can make you a hero.