

# Dangling Sword of Dal-ocles

Anyone who signed up for Poli Sci this term is going to get a real live lesson in labour relations. As you read on the cover, talks between the Dalhousie administration and 1400 faculty and support staff members have been stalled since mid-August, when all sides called for help from a government-appointed conciliator. The Dalhousie Faculty Association heads back to the table next Wednesday intent on winning pay increases for its members. No conciliator has yet been appointed for the DSA, whose demands include a detailed job evaluation procedure to be implemented as part of a proposed pay equity plan for Dalhousie. The DFA and DSA say their motives for talking strike are based primarily on concern for students and the quality of education. Cutbacks are forcing professors to spend time lined up at photocopiers instead of preparing for class or being in their offices helping students. Of course, they also mention that cutbacks interfere with research and lab time.

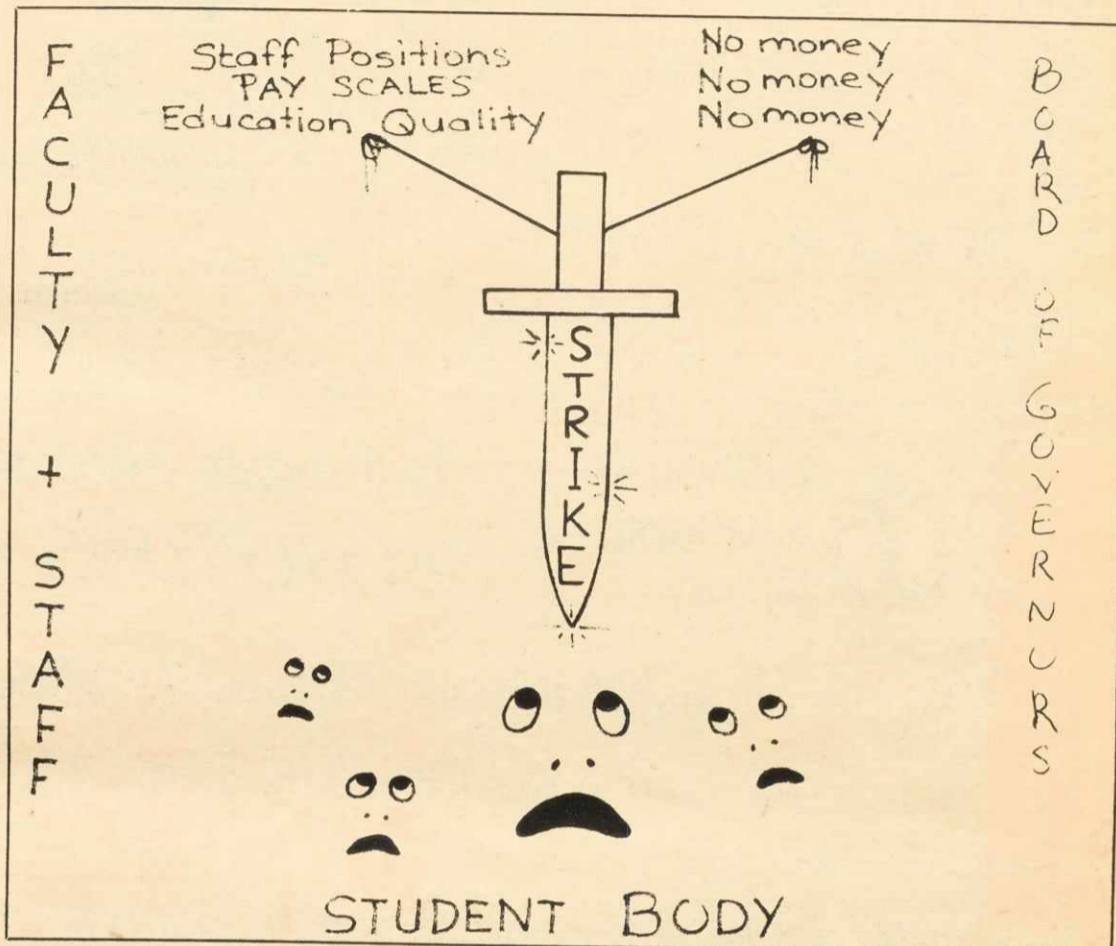
President Howard Clark has outlined the administration's position in his Dal News column.

Although Clark says the Board of Governors is willing to explore biases which result in pay inequality and disproportionate numbers of women in some professions, according to Clark this will be put off until the office of Institutional Analysis and Planning can study the issue further in the context of the "yet to be announced provincial legislation".

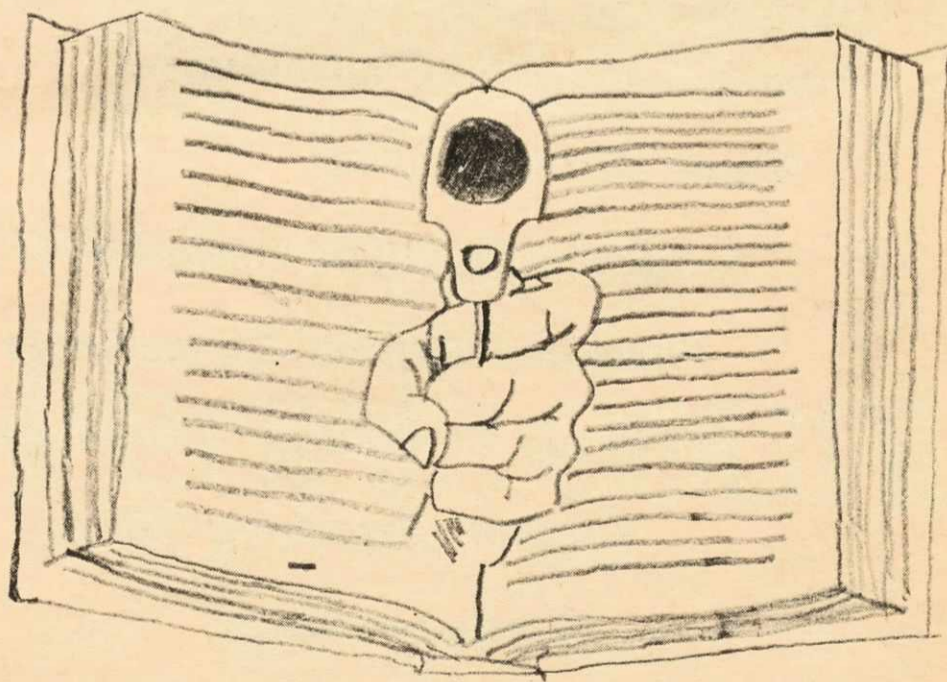
The Board of Governors is fighting the Association's attempts to win retroactive pay adjustments for old inequities. It's good to hear that the DSU is keeping on top of the situation. They're being careful not to rock the boat. Through their student reps in the Senate and on the Board of Governors, the DSU is in contact with the administrative process, but as a union and as students they can sympathize with the faculty and staff.

While students in general are outsiders in the situation, some students are more outsiders than others. September will be the make-or-break month when conciliation attempts will pay off or prove fruitless.

So students will start off this year unable to do anything but wait and see.



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