

LETTERS

Board in bad faith

To the Editor

As students of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD), we are distressed by the article that appeared in the *Chronicle Herald* November 3. We feel it is an inaccurate and one-sided account of the Sunday, November 2 negotiations breakdown. We would like to clarify the situation between the Board of Governors of NSCAD and the Faculty Union of NSCAD (FUNSCAD).

The article in the *Chronicle Herald* contains a number of misleading points. Specifically, Mr. Durnford, chief negotiator for the Board, said "... we have either solved (all issues) or believe all issues are solvable except the compensation."

In fact the issues of financial exigency and layoffs are still to be negotiated. In reference to the salary issue Mr. Durnford stated that the union is seeking a compensation increase of thirty per cent.

However, we suggest that at present, two-thirds of the faculty are underpaid according to the Board's own salary scale. The Union is in effect merely asking for salary equity within the College. In some extreme cases this may well result in an increase of up to thirty per cent.

We would also like to clarify the point made in the article as to why the negotiations broke down. We had been led to believe that the Board's negotiating team would deliver their proposal on salaries on Saturday, November the first. Instead they delivered the proposal in the form of an ultimatum, at 5:30PM on Sunday, November 2.

At this time the Board indicated that if the proposal was not agreed upon by FUNSCAD by eight o'clock that evening the Board would withdraw all previously resolved proposals.

The public has been led to believe that the Board has been bargaining in good faith with FUNSCAD. We suggest that this is not true.

For example, the Board had the opportunity to negotiate with FUNSCAD during the summer but the Board refused. Had the Board negotiated during the summer, the collective agreement may have been settled and the college community would not have been disrupted. Even after the Union voted in favour of strike action, the Board did not return to the bargaining table for three weeks.

As students, we feel that we too, have not been dealt with in good

faith by the Board. Through our tuition, we contracted to be taught by specific professors. Instead, we are now told that "the Board will be announcing details of a plan to allow refunds to the students who do not wish to complete the semester on a self-study honor system basis." We feel that this violates our contract with the College. In spite of the Board's promise to present specific details in reference to tuition reimbursement and granting of credits on Wednesday, October 29, we're still waiting for this plan to materialize.

We suggest that the Board's actions with regard to keeping the students informed and bargaining in good faith with FUNSCAD have led to public misinformation. This situation has created financial loss not only to the students but the tax-paying public. The College attracts a large number of national and international students who generate substantial revenue to the local economy.

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Sexist Standings

To the Editor

As a member of the Women's Soccer Team, I find it disturbing that the A.U.A.A. Women's Soccer League standings have not been printed once this year by the *Dalhousie Gazette*.

Throughout the men's soccer and women's field hockey teams season, their league standings were printed weekly.

In last week's issue of the *Gazette* (October 30, 1986), the men's hockey and football standings were printed weekly.

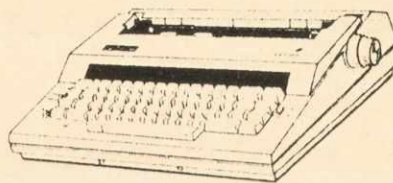
In last week's issue of the *Gazette* (October 30, 1986), the men's hockey and football standings were printed, yet Dalhousie does not even have a football team. However, the Dalhousie Women's Soccer Team does compete in an official A.U.A.A. league, and the *Gazette* has failed to publish any A.U.A.A. league standings throughout the course of our season. Our assistant coach does prepare a write-up each week for the *Gazette* so there will be some coverage of our results, but I feel that at the very least your newspaper could print the league standings, as you do for all the other Dalhousie athletic teams.

Sincerely,
Sally Thomas
of the Women's Soccer Team



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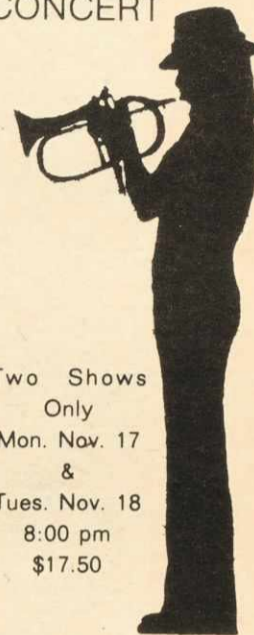
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