

Chief negotiator resigns

By DAVID OLIE

DR. MARCIA OZIER RE—signed as chief negotiator for the Dalhousie Faculty Association after a Jan. 24 vote by membership to call off planned strike action.

Ozier says she could not continue in her role as negotiator after the Thursday vote.

"That vote was a matter of confidence in the bargaining team," she says. "When a bargaining team recommends unanimously in favour of an action and the membership rejects that action the credibility of that bargaining team is undermined. The membership at that meeting may not have understood that, but they understand it now."

Ozier, a professor of

psychology at Dalhousie, has been involved in the bargaining process since April. She has also counselled negotiating teams at three other universities in Nova Scotia.

The DFA bargaining team proposed that the crucial vote be taken.

"We interpreted very strong signals (from administration) that without a renewal of the mandate to strike...that the Board (of Governors) would not be convinced without us actually going on strike," says Ozier. "In a sense that vote was meant to save us all from actually striking."

In spite of her disappointment at the outcome of the recent dispute, Ozier has considerable hope for the future.

"If one were to ask me did we commit ritual hara-kiri on

Thursday night, my preference would be to say the DFA on Friday morning was born again," says Ozier.

"This morning I'm thinking about today being the first day of the next round of collective bargaining. We're going to the future from there."

Although Ozier feels it impossible to continue as head of the bargaining team, she still looks forward to working in the DFA. She will also continue as co-ordinator of collective bargaining for the Nova Scotia Conference of Faculty Associations.

Members of 'adoption triangle' discuss situation

"GIVING UP A CHILD FOR adoption is never easy — it may leave wounds that never heal, or scars that remain for the rest of one's life," said Theresa Kilbride. Kilbride was a participant in a panel discussion "The Adoption Triangle" hosted by the sociology and social anthropology student society Jan. 11.

The panel included representatives from the Parents Finders Association of Nova Scotia, the Next Step programme — a support system for birth parents, social workers and parents who chose to give their child up for adoption and also adopted children.

Robert Whitman is a father who says often the biological or birth father is a forgotten part of the situation.

"For myself as a birth father, I share the same grief, guilt and worry about that child which I fathered," said Whitman. He told the group he hoped the children who choose to search for their

past also think of the father.

Ann White is one adopted child who did choose to search for her birth mother. Now she's president of Parent Finders, a group that assists people in finding their birth parents.

The problem faced by those like Whitman and White have led to the revival of a concept called "open adoption." The degree of openness is determined by the birth parents and adopting parents.

Closed adoption records were kept by social workers beginning in the early 1900's in order to make adoption more appealing, says Leslie Wade, a social worker from Kentville.

"It was an attempt to give the child a new identity by removing the past, both for the sake of the adopters and the child," she says. "These reasons for secrecy have since been found to be harmful." If you would like to take the Next Step programme or would like to have more information, phone 453-4320 or write the Next Step, 3115 Veith Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 3G9.

For information on Parent Finders Association of Nova Scotia, phone 434-9465.

Sexual harassment unreported

VICTORIA (CUP)—University of Victoria women students are not reporting incidents of sexual harassment and as a result suffer academically, according to a report by the B.C. Public Interest Research Group.

The report's conclusions are based on a survey of 480 UVic students last summer. Seventy-two of the 148 completed surveys say a total of 147 incidents of sexual harassment, 93 of them in an educational setting, occurred. None were officially reported.

In five cases, professors lowered or threatened to lower the woman's grades. Eleven women were threatened with sexual assault and four were assaulted. None of these incidents were reported to university authorities or the police.

More than 25 per cent of the women surveyed say they avoided certain professors on campus and classes at night for fear of sexual assault or harassment.

The report defines sexual harassment as "the manipulation of power in an attempt to control or alter a person's social, physical, economic or academic status. This form of abuse consists of any subtle or overt behaviour with sexual implications."

The survey's replies show that though women are the victims of this behaviour, they did not consider it sexual harassment or report incidents.

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Commentary should not exceed 700 words, letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request.

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