

THE BRUNSWICKAN NATIONAL NEWS

FROM UNIVERSITY NEWSROOMS ACROSS CANADA

Students caught in the middle of Dal labour dispute

by Jennifer Henderson
Atlantic Bureau Chief,
Atlantic Bureau

Hiring flexibility and the use of part-time instructors may be key issues in the ongoing labour dispute between Halifax's Dalhousie University and the university's faculty association, but both sides take a backseat to the battle for student support currently being waged.

Since the strike began on March 4, both sides have been fighting a war of words in the media. The university claims that accepting the faculty association's latest offer will mean a tuition increase for students. In response, the faculty association has accused the university of fear mongering. The association also claims professors are merely taking a stand for the quality of education at Dalhousie.

It is left up to students to sort through the allegations.

"We've been sending out regular info updates to Dal e-mail accounts. We've set up an info table where students can come up and ask questions and we've set up a toll-free line people can call for the latest information on the issue," said university spokesperson

Stacey Lewis when asked how the administration has communicated developments in dispute to Dalhousie's approximately 14,500 full- and part-time students.

One group of students has already made it clear which side they support. Members of Students for a Democratic Dalhousie have been helping the faculty association staff the picket line, speaking at rallies on their behalf and issuing pro-faculty press releases. According to Jenn Peirce, a member of the group, it's not a matter of choosing between professors and the administration but an attempt by students to ensure academic integrity on the campus is maintained.

"We believe that students need to stand up for not only a quick end to the strike but for the principle of quality education at Dalhousie," she said.

While Peirce admits that sorting through the statistics and accusations bandied about by both sides is confusing for the average student, she believes the university is ultimately responsible for manipulating public opinion.

"The board [of governors] is just waiting for students to get so angry at the profs and for the profs to get weary of strike mode."

Lewis said students are free to form their own judgements about the strike but fears these judgements may be based on inadequate information.

"Students are entitled to their own opinions on which side to support, but it might be possible they don't understand all the issues at hand," Lewis said.

"If they want clarification on our stance we would be happy to provide to

provide that. Perhaps these students feel through their actions the strike will be more quickly resolved. Everyone is going to have a different reaction in a situation like this."

Dalhousie student union president Shawn Tracy also supports the right of individual students to come to their own conclusions about the labour dispute, but says the student union will be maintaining a neutral stance in the

conflict.

"The Dalhousie Student Union is taking a student stance. We don't believe either side really has student interests at heart," he said.

According to Tracy, the majority of students don't have a problem crossing the picket line and are more concerned about losing class time than investigating the politics behind the strike.

"Students are calling into question how the year will end. I don't think it's acceptable to extend the year beyond the beginning of May. Most students already have plans. They need to go home and make money to come back in September," he said.

Peirce takes exception to the student union's neutrality, calling it a "myopic view," although she concedes her group's stance is in the minority among Dalhousie students.

"A lot of students seem to be looking at the strike as a vacation and not looking at what's at stake. I'm pretty frustrated at that," she said.

More than 780 professors, librarians and academic staff walked off the job March 4 after contract negotiations broke down late last month. University administration and the faculty association are set to return to the bargaining table this week.

Which way to the circus?



Heather Hickey/The Brunswickan

As this uni-feller so aptly demonstrates, people have no reason to complain about walking up or down hills between classes.

Jews call for end to occupation at Toronto rally

by Kelly Holloway
The Varsity

Max Silverman, a Toronto Grade 10 student, says classmates call him a "self-hating Jew" and his teachers are fighting to get him to stop wearing an "End the Occupation" button.

But despite the opposition, Silverman was part of a line of men and women pressed against a fence across from the Israeli consulate in Toronto last Thursday, demanding an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

The International Women's Day event, organized by Bat Shalom, an Israeli women's peace organization, was mirrored by similar vigils occurring in Tokyo, Madrid, Stockholm and New York.

"We are saying that the only way that Israel can survive, the only way that Israelis will not continue to be hurt is if there is an end to the occupation," said Amy Gotlieb. "That is the basis upon which there will be security and peace within the region."

Gotlieb has been working with the Jewish Women's Committee Against the Occupation since 1988, in part because the group had found that many Jewish supporters of Israel were claiming all Jews supported the occupation.

In her opinion, charging critics of Israel with being anti-Semitic "is a way of silencing opposition to Israeli policies which are basically just inhumane."

She noted that the United Nations human rights commission, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have all recognized Israel as having

committed human-rights abuses in the occupied territories.

"It's really a shame because nothing is going to change until countries start to pressure Israel, and that's really not going to happen until the Jewish community can really see the faults in Israel," agreed Silverman.

Gotlieb says international organization must protect Palestinian civilians, and until there is a separate Palestinian state there will be no resolution to the situation.

"This occupation has been going on for 35 years, and there is still no resolution. When the Israeli army attacks, when they roll into refugee camps, when they roll into towns, they are attacking Palestinian civilians," said Gotlieb.

Tanya Collins, a student from McMaster University, attended because she wanted to provide a presence to counter what she calls a slant in the media.

"I'm here because I have a lot of hope in a peaceful resolution in Palestine and Israel, and I think there is a lot of disinformation through the media about the occupation."

When asked why the media might be slanted, Collins said: "I think it might have to do with American-Canadian relations with Israel — especially American economic relations and security relations with Israel."

Collins said she gets her information from authors like renowned academic Noam Chomsky and from magazines. Attendants of the vigil handed out leaflets to passers-by with lists of alternative media sources addressing the conflict in the Middle East.

Research

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distribution.

Dr. Gregory Kealy, newly appointed VP of Research, was "delighted" to receive the funding, and looks forward to putting the \$2.5 million to good use. He cited the costs of funding the library, and carrying out screening of research as a few of his key concerns, as well as financial and ethics review boards, and health and safety concerns. His hope is to see UNB improve its research capacities, and thus improve its results when it comes to federal awards competitions. "The better

our results, the more money we will receive in the future," said Kealy.

UNB can look forward to receiving similar funding in the future, as Minister Alan Rock plans on returning to discuss further research funding initiatives for UNB later in the spring. In the meantime the university community can look forward to the small break that this \$2.5 million will give its annual 65 million dollar operating cost. Professors like Dr. Jack Passmore can hopefully look forward to the aid to the extraneous costs of operating his ongoing research.

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ARCUP

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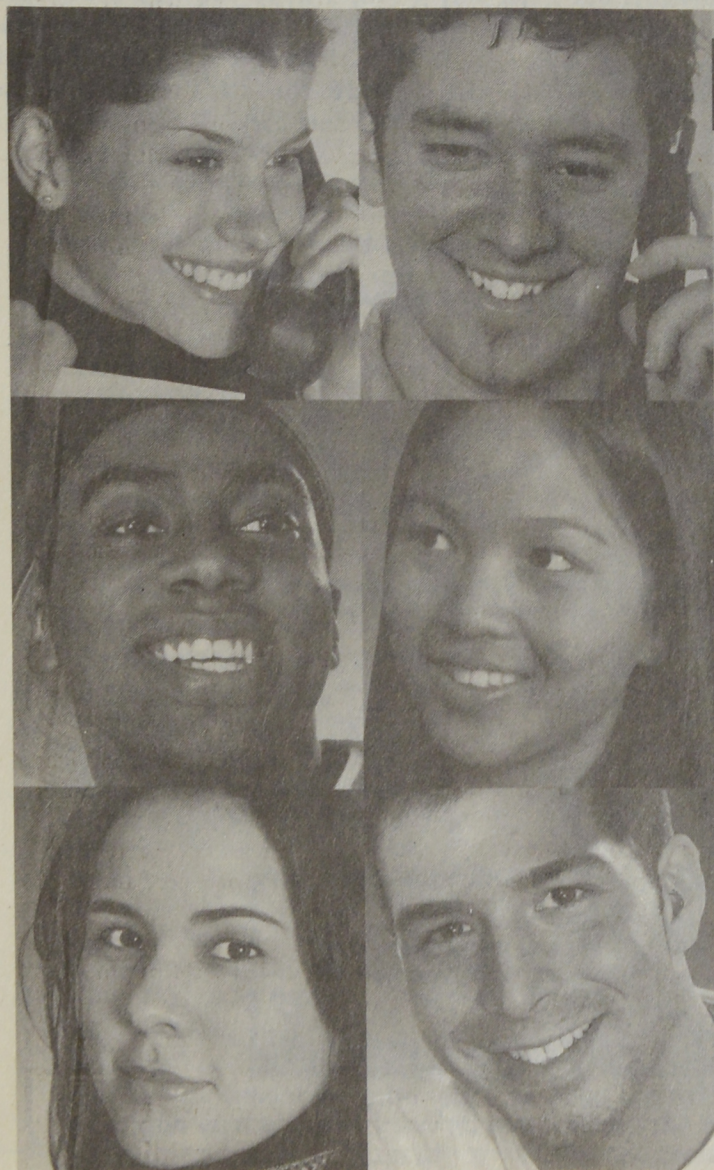
presenting a news workshop, he took part in a panel discussion. The topics of the workshops presented varied from entertainment writing to the administration of a newspaper, and from graphic design and layout to workshops on libel and photography.

Michael Camp of CBC moderated a panel discussion on the role of the student press and long-time journalist, Jackie Webster, was the keynote speaker who encouraged the delegates to broaden the scope of student newspaper coverage. Ms. Webster was kind enough to fill in for Dalton Camp at the eleventh hour and the staffs of *The Aquinian* and *The Brunswickan* sincerely appreciate her consideration and understanding.

The fact all these individual presenters came voluntarily, without remuneration, to share their knowledge and skills with student journalists clearly demonstrates the generosity of those working in the fourth estate in New Brunswick — a stark contrast to the owners of the mainstream press in this province.

Others involved behind the scenes who were so helpful in organizing this conference were Maria Barrett-Morris of the Paper Trail; Norman Boudreau of the Prospect Inn; Joyce Cameron of UNB Development and PR; Laura Chase of City Tourism; Carolyn Croft of Chartwells; Diann Estey of the UNB Bookstore; Steve Hampsey of the UNB Physical Plant; Troy Hill of Wacky Wheatleys; Dave Hutchison of The Chestnut; Lynn MacPherson, NB Tel Channel Manager; Leah Murchison of The Cellar; and Bill Parker of UNB Audio Visual. Thanks also go out to the Atlantic Superstore on Smythe Street and Sobeys on Prospect Street.

Again, the staffs of *The Aquinian* and *The Brunswickan* extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make this ARCUP a success.



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