

Dal faculty put picket signs back in closet

HALIFAX (CUP) — More than 700 Dalhousie University faculty members are holding chalk and pointers instead of picket signs in the wake of a Jan. 24 faculty association vote not to walk the line.

Only 446 out of the 728 member association showed up at a general meeting where 246 members voted not to strike Jan. 28 and 200 voted in favor. The association later accepted the administration's latest offer.

Faculty will receive a three per cent increase in salaries this year and 3.7 per cent next year. And the Dalhousie pension fund, long a source of controversy, will no longer be integrated with the Canada Pension Plan fund.

The move, which is valued at \$1.8 million, replaces the association's proposal that the administration replenish the actual surplus taken during its holiday from paying into the pension fund. The administration stopped making payments in the spring.

But not all members of the university community are happy with the settlement.

Association president Sandy Young says the strike

should have gone ahead. "We should have got a better contract if we had gone on an all-out strike," he says, adding the administration would have settled in a few days to relieve the pressure.

And student council president Alex Gigeroff says the financial problems facing the university and bitterness

among faculty remain.

"I feel a lot of problems this crisis brought out are still here. We've avoided a strike this time but the internal problems faced by the university haven't changed and neither has the external funding problem."

Though he was pleased the strike did not go ahead be-

cause students would have lost academic time, he says "I still feel a little disappointed for the faculty," which he thinks took a gamble and lost.

One member of the strike support committee, however, says the decision not to strike was not a defeat for the union. "We made progress

on pensions," says arts professor Tom Sinclair-Faulkner.

Sinclair-Faulkner says he no longer supports escalating job actions such as informational pickets because they do not have enough effect on the board of governors.

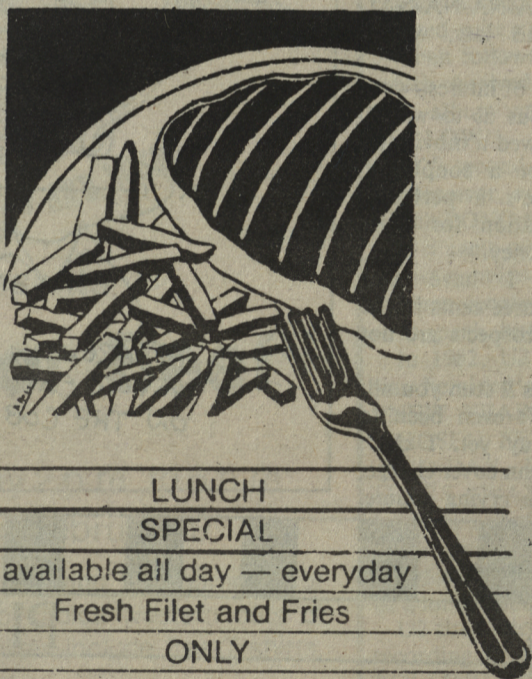
The strike would have been the faculty's first. Faculty launched a one-day work

stoppage Jan. 16 and held informational sessions to alert students to the possibility of a strike and its effects.

Dalhousie faces a \$25 million accumulated deficit and monetary penalties from the provincial government if it does not reduce the deficit to below a certain percentage of its operating grant.



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"It was her farm too — or was it?"

Anne Chislette, winner of this year's Governor-General's award for drama, has written a sometimes moving, sometimes comic story of contemporary farm life and relationships.

Deborah Allen plays the farm wife whose world is abruptly shattered by a decision in which she has had no part. Her secure world of home and marriage is suddenly altered when she challenges the decisions of her strong-willed husband, played by Cliff Wymark.

Also caught in the unexpected turmoil are her son Joe (William McFadden), his wife Alice (Cathy Grant) and Alice's sister — and activist lawyer — Lisa (Sharlene MacLean).

ICT is proud to bring this play to Island audiences. Don't miss it!

This production is directed by Ron Irving.

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