

Editorial

Support the ideal

Money talks and money controls, but what really makes the world go around is people.

We often forget this.

The Aquinian is a volunteer organization of St. Thomas people dedicated to an ideal: the right, in a free society, to print the truth in as much as any individual or group can find it.

But we know we make mistakes. We miss deadlines, we lay headlines down crooked, we lose story paragraphs, and our tempers. We try, though, and a student paper is the result of a very human effort.

The ideal we pursue is our motivation, and when we went to the SRC, we were asking for a tangible vote of support for that ideal.

This year's council, however, refused the support. Despite an increased amount of revenue available to them because of increased enrolment, the SRC offered the Aquinian \$2100 less than last year, without allowing staff a chance to explain why the budget figure was essential for bi-weekly production.

We were forced to make a direct appeal to SRC members in a letter. (see below) The request we made is a legitimate expense, and in exchange St. Thomas is served with a student newspaper.

The staff of the Aquinian serves the students with hours of free time to ensure the major part of service is maintained.

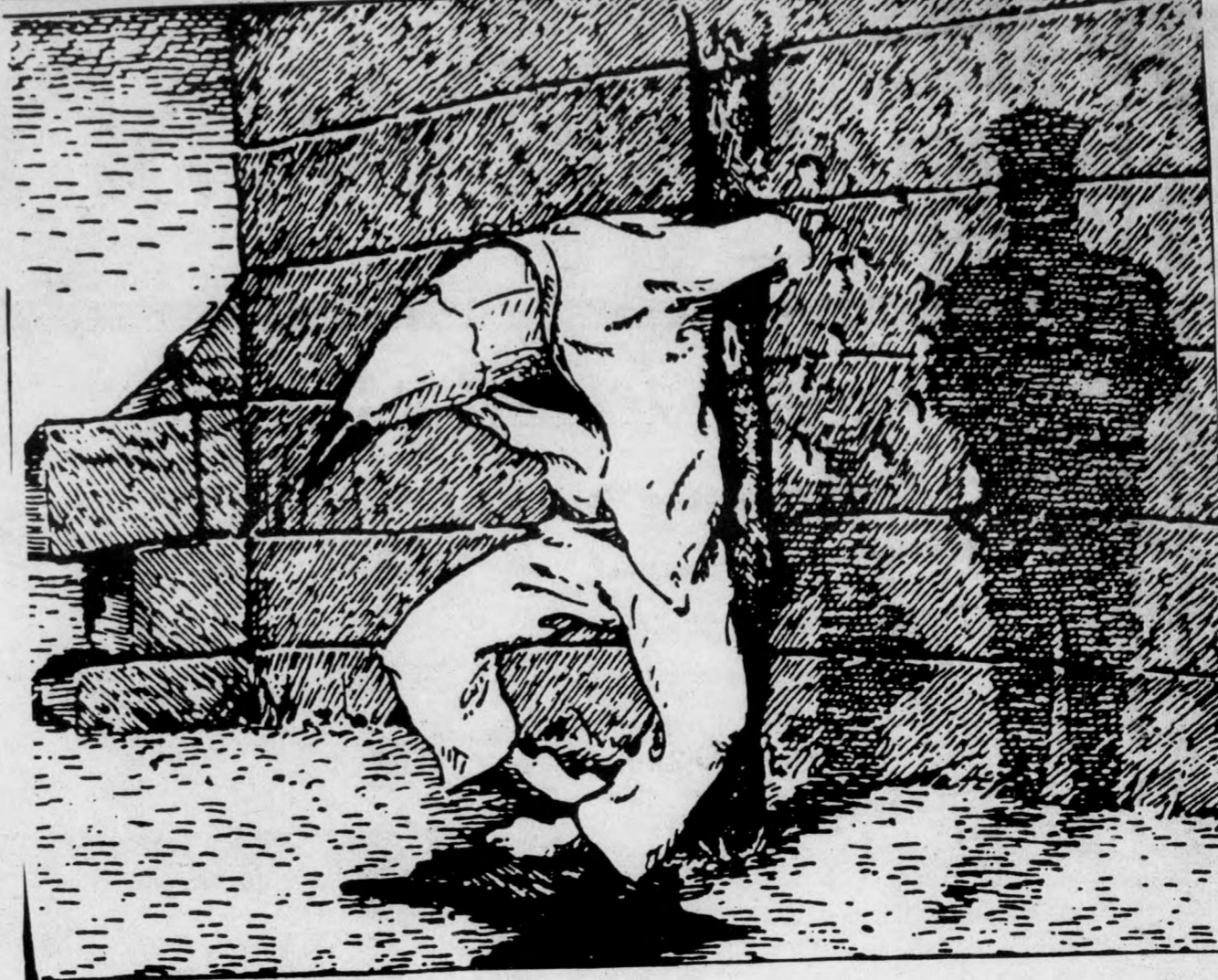
As students, ask yourselves why the staff would do this. Not for money.

Only the Ad people and typesetters receive any financial reward and they do many hours of volunteer work on other parts of the paper.

We do it for that ideal of free press which challenges the injustice of oppression, and for the celebration of St. Thomas events that students and faculty share.

Now only this community, especially the students, can preserve that ideal.

We ask you to help us. If you don't the alternative is clear. No Aquinian.



Graphic/Peak

The AKWINYAN

The Akwinyan is a publication of a collection of people who support the Aquinian, and care about the future of student press at St. Thomas University. It is financed by students, faculty and friends of the Aquinian through their contributions to the "Save the Aquinian" fund. These people are: Neil Toner, Lois Corbett, Lauren Grieve, Monica Corbett, Corinne Boone, Scott Arnold, Bernice Allison, Drew Brown, Steven Harding, Paula Whalen, Barb McBrine, Jim Haley, Dolores Allison, Thom Parkhill, Andrew Quinn, Anne Gilbert, Viola Shyu, B.J. Rye.

We would like to thank the Brunswickan for their support.

Open Request to reconsider proposed budget

October 17, 1985

Dear Student Council Representative:

As you are no doubt aware the recently proposed tentative budget suggests that \$3000 be slashed from the Aquinian budget.

We maintain that this would be disastrous for both the Aquinian and the Council.

The Aquinian staff submitted a budget to council which itemized each cost and where each dollar was going.

As you can see from the enclosed copy there isn't any place to make major cuts. We submitted a bare-bones budget.

That means that any cut in funding would mean a cut in production. That would mean a loss of newspaper service to the student, and a loss of advertising revenue from the issues not printed.

We on the staff are not unreasonable when it comes to budgets. We know the money is

sometimes not there to give, but when the SRC budget proposes to raise the salary of the Director of Student Affairs, a non-student position, by \$2800 and at the same time cut the proposed Aquinian budget by about the same amount it would make staff wonder about the council's commitment to serve the students.

The Aquinian has a regular staff of over 20 St. Thomas students who put in long hours of hard work for no pay. The paper serves the St. Thomas community in many ways: announcements, classifieds, sports coverage, local news about important issues and events on campus, local and world features, and stories of national interest from all across Canada.

The paper is also a valuable way to introduce our campus and its events to other campuses across the country. We mail to over 70 Canadian univer-

sities.

We, as staff, feel our time and effort warrants the financial support of the \$12115 requested.

A budget is only an estimate of costs and if costs are lower and revenue higher the money saved goes back to council, but we need this money to ensure our advertisers that we can publish fourteen issues.

Because the SRC budget is in the form of a motion to accept it, there are only two ways to ensure that the Aquinian will publish fourteen issues this year.

The first is an amendment to the motion requesting our budget be accepted as proposed by staff.

This is good for the Aquinian but the budget is so inadequate in other ways that we urge you to use the second way for the good of the Council and the Student Union as a whole.

Defeat the proposed

tentative budget and demand a revision which would include a breakdown for each budget item similar to the one submitted by the Aquinian.

This would do three things:

1) It would give you as a representative an idea of where the money is going so you can explain it to your constituents.

2) It would give the new Comptroller an opportunity to decide if she agrees with the proposed tentative budget.

3) It would give council much more understanding and therefore much more effective ways of spending the Student Union's funds.

We, at the Aquinian, know that budgets are always something one would like to get over with but how you as a councillor vote on the budget will be one of the most important decisions you will make this year and if you don't have a

good budget, the budget will come back to haunt you in every student activity you try to finance.

We urge you, as a student representative to:

- 1) Vote no on the motion to accept the proposed tentative budget
- 2) Reconsider our request for funding.

Thank you for your consideration,
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