

## Staff determined to fight

# SRC cuts paper's funding

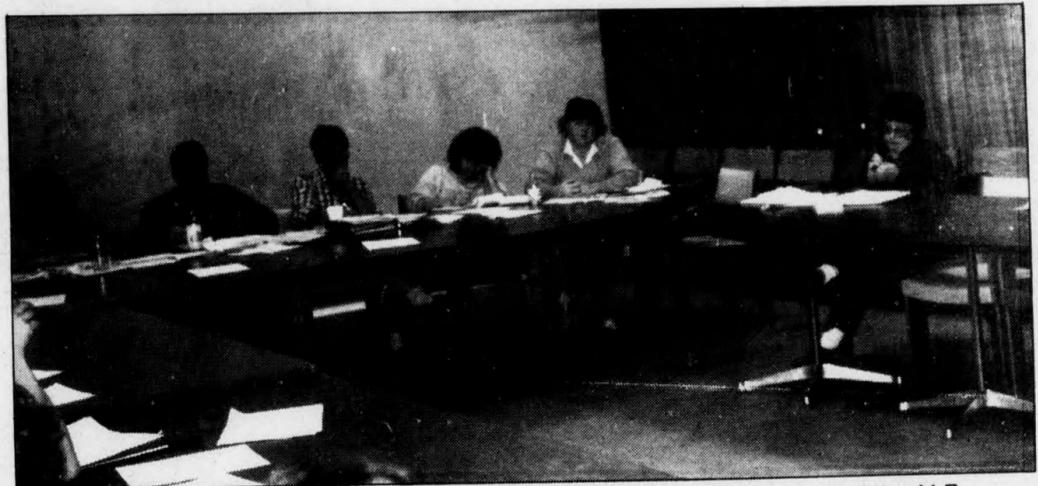
By LAUREN GRIEVE

The budget cut of \$5715 from the St. Thomas SRC's grant to the Aquinian will only be able to print two or three more issues for the 1985-86 school year.

The decision was announced at Tuesday's council meeting. The SRC grant represents only part of the Aquinian's operating budget of \$27,815.

The Aquinian asked SRC to contribute \$12,115 towards production costs. By passing the budget, SRC not only cut \$2715 from that figure, but denied the paper \$3000 in advertising revenue.

'It is obvious that the SRC does not understand what is involved in the running of a newspaper to cut back on the budget to this extreme,' says Neil Toner,



Discussing the budget at Tuesday night's SRC meeting. Seated l. to right: V.P. External Mary Laslo; Chair Dave Demirkan; Secretary Mary Doherty; Comptroller Kathy Wright; and Director of Student Affairs Jane Buckley. Photo by Bernice Allison

editor of the Aquinian.

Toner says the Aquinian was the only SRC-funded group to submit a detailed budget proposal with a line-by-line breakdown. SRC comptroller Kathy Wright concurs.

'Basically,' says Wright, 'I think the other (SRC-funded groups) don't really need to submit a budget.'

Of the 14 voting members at Tuesday's council meeting, 9 voted in favor of accepting the budget, 4 voted against, and John Tingley, SRC

public relations officer, abstained.

'I abstained because I felt I did not understand certain points in the budget. And you can't serve the students in a yes/no vote if you don't know the facts,' says Tingley.

It's not only the Aquinian budget that Toner has a problem with.

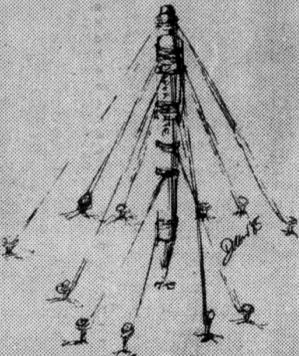
'During the meeting, the comptroller was constantly having to revise the budget, figures were constantly having to be recalculated,' he says.

'What we really want is an entire budget review because we don't feel that councillors had enough information to make an informed decision,' says Toner.

Changes that occurred during the meeting include a further revision to the salary of the director of student affairs Jane Buckley. In the original budget proposal, Buckley was to get \$18,228, a 6 percent increase over her salary for last year, as well as 6

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# Student reaction mixed

By SCOTT ARNOLD and ANNE GILBERT

Tuesday night St. Thomas Student Representative council meeting has provoked varied responses from STU students and the University of New Brunswick.

Chris Mitton, a first year STU social work student says she is concerned about her Student Union fee. 'I don't think the student council is looking at all the aspects of the situation. Shouldn't the students have something to say about where our forty-five dollars goes?'

Ron Caissie a fifth year STU arts student, thought the budget was 'totally ridiculous. The paper can't be managed on 7700 dollars. Do they know what's going on? Student council is mad, totally mad,' he said.

But some students disagree.

Monique Savoie, a first year STU social work student, thinks the Aquinian has to work for the money.

'The Aquinian needs more STU content; in general, a bet-

ter quality newspaper,' said Savoie.

Brenda Paul, a fifth year UNB arts student, and co-editor of the Brunswickan, said the council is setting a bad example with the Aquinian budget cut.

'It's an alarming precedent for any student union to set when a group of uninformed individuals are in a position to implement such policies,' said Paul.

'It's absolutely absurd for any newspaper to be expected to rely on advertisements to publish,' says Ken, a first year computer science student at UNB. 'It's a shame when it comes down to a few people who made a decision that affects everyone who reads the Aquinian, not just students.'

Like Ken, Kathleen Shaw, a STU education student, is concerned about the future effects of the paper's budget cut. 'I think there should be some way to get money after the 7700 dollars runs out. I think that the Aquinian is a very important part of St. Thomas University.'

## "It's not just...writing and interviewing"

# Faculty hope issue resolved

By ANDREW H. QUINN

St. Thomas faculty have reacted swiftly to news that The Aquinian will have a drastically shortened publishing year due to underfunding from the St. Thomas SRC.

Professor Russell Hunt who teaches English and writing at St. Thomas feels the paper is an important part of the university.

'People are learning stuff on the Aquinian that can't be taught otherwise,' says Hunt. 'Having an Aquinian around that's coherently edited and written is more important to the community at St. Thomas than to the writers themselves.'

Another member of the English faculty at St. Thomas,

Professor James Reither, says the Aquinian provides a unique educational opportunity.

'Those people who serve on the newspaper contribute profoundly to what St. Thomas is,' says Reither. 'It's not just skills of writing and interviewing. It's learning to belong to a group, learning to function in a larger community of journalists. To cut the Aquinian off from CUP is to cut St. Thomas students and student body off from that larger community of students. St. Thomas shouldn't try to function as an isolated community.'

Another professor, in the History faculty at St. Thomas, Tony Rhineland, says, 'It would be a shame if the newspaper did fold. I have

always been a strong supporter of the Aquinian. I suppose it's a test, to find out if the students really like the paper. If the SRC really represents the students, then maybe the students don't want the paper. But I think this medium in particular has a lot of support.'

Professor Howard Cody, SRC faculty advisor and political science professor, agrees that underfunding of the paper is a serious matter.

'I think the Aquinian could sit down with the SRC and discuss this,' says Cody. 'The Aquinian is important to STU. I consider this matter not to be closed. I hope that there can be some kind of meeting of the minds.'

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