

Student paper wins battle

MISSISSAUGA (CUP) -- The student newspaper at Erindale College has won its year-long battle to control its typesetting and editorship.

The college's student union voted unanimously February 23 to rehire Medium II editor Peter Stasierowski -- fired three weeks before -- and to rescind their order forcing the paper to use poor quality typesetting.

Stasierowski was fired by the student union (ECSU) February 3, when a closed council session criticized his "failure to fulfill his obligations as editor and his apparent lack of time and motivation to make himself available on request," according to ECSU vice-president Joe Raftis. Raftis had also threatened to close the paper if it didn't accept the firing.

But the staff of the Medium II rejected ECSU's move, pointing out that the firing was outside council's constitutional jurisdiction.

The February 23 meeting decided that while Stasierowski would remain as editor, he would not be paid for the remaining five issues of the paper. The salary cut will save ECSU \$450.

During the meeting, ECSU president Tim Van Wart said "We didn't use the greatest amount of tact in the world firing Peter."

He said he hopes that with Stasierowski's reappointment as editor, the Medium II constitution will be finalized. A clause in the proposed constitution would prohibit ECSU from firing the Medium II editor.

Following the decision, Stasierowski said, "We can get back to putting out the paper. The firing

was caused by a lack of communication on all sides. Once Van Wart talked, the problem was solved."

The paper staff had been fighting a council decision that forced them to use word processing equipment in their production, instead of the cheaper phototypesetting process that meant better quality in the paper's appearance. ECSU had recently ordered the staff to use word processing by the end of April.

The Medium II staff complained that word processing produces news copy which looks typewritten, and less professional in appearance than typeset copy.

ECSU had bought a \$5,000 share in the college administration's word processor, and is paying \$15 per hour for operating labour.

In January, the Medium II negotiated a deal with the Glendon College student newspaper, Pro Tem, to have typesetting done at \$10 per hour.

Van Wart said that because of Glendon's reasonable price, the word processor could "be used for resumes, essays and other student services", not for the Medium II.

Ed Maringano, an Erindale student council representative, praised the rescinding of the word processing motion. "A good student council realizes its mistakes," he said.

Medium II news editor Barry McCartan was pleased with the decision. "The actions ECSU took tonight were the most encouraging things they have done all year," he said.

Fear controls Korean workers

VANCOUVER (CUP) -- Korea's labour-intensive economy has created heated job competition and sweat-shop working conditions, according to a Canadian human rights monitor.

Joanne Fisher, speaking to a University of British Columbia audience February 12, said Korean workers make 38 cents an hour, are forced to work 12 hours a day, seven days a week, and are prohibited from broad-based trade unions.

If they don't like it, she said, others are willing to take their places in the plants.

"Korean workers are afraid to complain; they know there is always someone waiting in line to replace them," said Fisher. She said supervisors installed by president Chun Doo Hwan's government spy on workers in plants with more than 60 employees.

Fisher said strict government regulations, unemployment, and competition for jobs have kept wages low, and the working conditions are as bad. She said a "double-decking" system used by some textile plants divides work-rooms to a height of about four feet. "You can't walk in these places; you have to crouch to move about."

Workers who refuse to work on Sundays and holidays lose bonuses, she said. Women earn an average of \$78 a month, \$57 less than males, while the cost of living in Seoul is about \$113. Strikes are banned by Chun's government, which preaches "a gospel of national security and anti-communism", according to a videotaped talk show given during the session.

Absence from work is considered subversive and police attacks on protesting workers are common. A Korean worker burned himself to death a few years ago to protest the appalling working conditions, said Fisher.

During the video show, The Faces of Militarism, speaker Inez Flemington said the Korean government created the Foreign Investment Policy in 1966, to reduce the threat of North Korean invasion by bolstering its army with the invited foreign capital. The Korean army is now the fifth largest in the world.

Chun has prevented union expansion from plant to plant, and government security police may attend any meeting.

"The people are controlled by fear," said Flemington.

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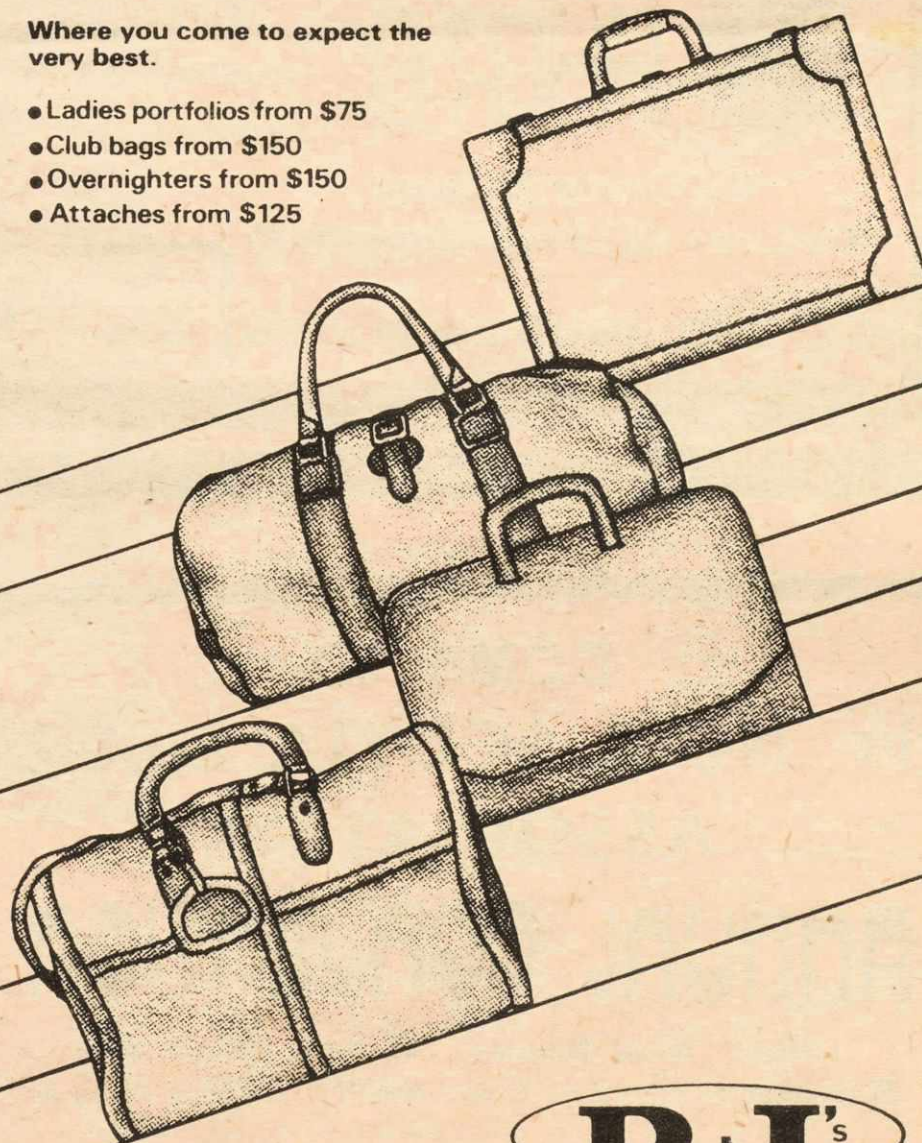
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