

Newspaper survives shutdown

by Andy Riga

MONTREAL (CUP) — Two weeks after firing the editor of the campus newspaper and locking out the staff, the student council at Bishop's University decided Jan. 31 that it supports a free press.

The council impeached the editor of *The Campus*, Elliott Soifer, Jan. 18, alleging he was financially irresponsible and that the paper was not being run democratically.

The Campus's staff — which resigned en masse after the impeachment — maintains the council fired Soifer to muzzle the paper, which had been critical of the council's spending habits.

Students will be asked on Feb. 12 and 13 whether they want an editorially and financially independent paper, responsible to a publishing board made up of students and paper staff members.

Soifer is confident students will support a paper with no ties to the council.

"A free paper is what the students of Bishop's want," he said. "And the council has seen that in the overwhelming support we've gotten on campus."

The feud between the paper and the student council began

last November when *The Campus* published an opinion piece critical of the council. According to the council, the article contained libelous comments and, by publishing the article, Soifer was being financially irresponsible.

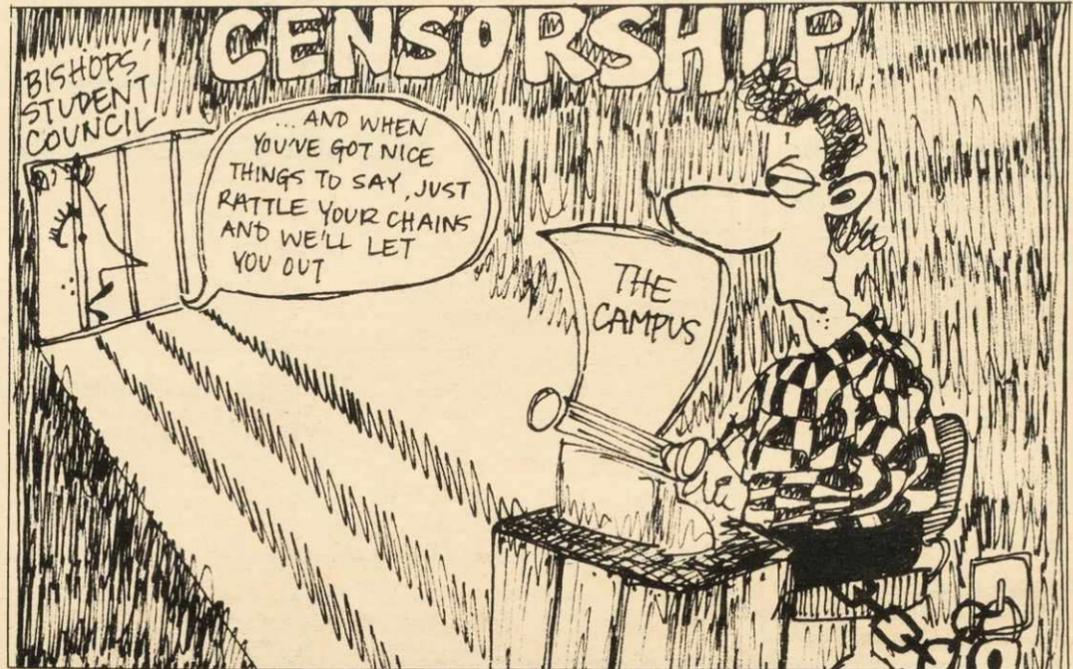
The council is now backtracking on the issue, Soifer said, because they had no grounds to impeach him in the first place.

"There was no basis for their allegations," Soifer said. "Nothing in the article was libelous — we had it checked by a lawyer. And the paper was being run democratically. Otherwise, would the whole staff be supporting me?"

The Campus staff published an underground paper Jan. 25 under the name *The Independent* and is planning another issue Feb. 8.

Dean French, president of the student council, said the council is "not backing down" and stands by its decision to impeach Soifer. He maintains he has always been in favour of autonomy for *The Campus*.

"I've always said that I believe it is the ultimate goal of any student newspaper to be financially and editorially autonomous," French said. "I never had any qualms about it and neither did anyone else on the council."



He said the council may support the 'yes' side in the referendum, but the decision will only be made after the constitution of the proposed paper is made public.

The Independent has received donations from campus groups to help offset costs. The teachers' union gave \$250 and drama club offered \$200.

Soifer said the council is backing down because of pressure

from students and faculty — and because of the media attention attracted by the impeachment.

The staff is planning a rally Feb. 10, at which it expects vanloads of student journalists from Quebec and Ontario, as well as supporters from the university.

If the referendum is successful, the new paper would be given office space on campus, said French, who also pledged that the

council would not interfere in the activities of a new paper.

"We're trying to be as responsible as possible and, as far as I can see, so are the people who want an autonomous newspaper," French said.

"Who becomes editor-in-chief of the new independent newspaper is up to the staff to decide," French said.

Student arrested Beating racially motivated?

by Padraic Brake

HALIFAX (CUP) — The beating of the only black male student in Stellarton's community college last week was a conspiracy in the eyes of his parents, said Winston Ruck of the Black United Front.

Cosmetology student Jeremy Paris said he has been the brunt of insults and name calling since he

enrolled in the Nova Scotia Community College in Pictou County last September.

With about 100 other students watching, Paris said he "was held by one or two people, while at least one punched me and some kicked me." Paris required stitches to his head, and had bruises over his body after the incident.

Ruck said, "You can draw your own conclusions (as to why no one tried to stop the fight), but one might be that they relish the idea of this black person being beaten up."

The principal of the school, John Keating, said, "I don't think there is a racial problem in our school, but there may be one or two who have racial problems."

"That's foolishness," Paris said. "There's quite a bit of racism in the school, but there's a

lot of pretty good students too. But there's too many that are not."

Keating said, "Some people don't have a clue what racist is." He said that there were "racial overtones" to what he described as "a one on less than one fight."

Paris said he didn't know how many people actually beat him because he was being beaten at the time. "No one tried to break it up, though. Even the two bus drivers that were there to pick up the kids after school did not go for help, or try to break it up."

When Keating was asked if the school was planning to do something about racism in the school, he said that they have been so busy with media calls he has not had any time to sit down with the faculty.

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photo: Rochelle Owen

Residence goes coed

by Alistair Croll

A proposal to convert Bronson House and Eliza Ritchie Hall to co-educational residences in the 1990-91 semester is under consideration by the Board of Governors. The change would make 164 coed rooms available next September.

The proposal, which was passed unanimously by the Board of Governors' Committee of Student Relations and Residences, would make the two houses open to both male and female students next year.

Patrick Donahoe, Dalhousie's dean of men, said "if the surveys [by the Board of Governors] are any indication, there'll be great interest." He explained that there will be no physical changes to the houses, but that there will be both men and women on the house's staff.

Donahoe explained that the rooms would be arranged in an alternating fashion, so that each resident would have a member of the opposite sex on either side of them.

Howe Hall, which is currently in the midst of an election battle

for presidency, will elect the male staff members to Bronson House, and the female staff will be chosen next September. Similarly, Eliza Ritchie will elect its female staff and wait until next year to choose the men, said Donahoe.

Eric Mckee, the vice-president of Student Services, explained that the proposal still has to be accepted by the Board of Governors. Mckee encouraged anyone who would like to speak on the matter to attend the monthly

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