

STU SRC prez gets boot

-comptroller ousted as well

By TIMOTHY LETHBRIDGE
Brunswickan Staff

The Saint Thomas Student Council has undergone a major upheaval with the removal from office of their president and comptroller.

The trouble started when Senior Class Rep John MacLaughlin served a notice of motion for their dismissal January 19. At a meeting Tuesday the SRC voted 10-3 and 8-4 respectively to ask for the resignations of President Stewart Beckingham and Comptroller, Asied Debly.

The charges against Beckingham included neglect of duties, failure to consult council on certain issues, and failure to discipline members of the executive for improper behaviour.

Beckingham countered three charges, stating a summer job had prevented him from holding summer meetings and returning for the beginning of orientation.

After the vote however, Beckingham claimed "the whole process is illegal," citing the Company Act and claiming council had violated the rules for removal of officers.

The charges against Debly were similar. He was accused of neglecting his duties, misrepresenting the council and interfering in the activities of other unions.

Debly has repeatedly claimed it was a clique on council formed mainly of members from Vanier House that forced the two out. He said nine out of the 14 councillors come from that residence, and he and Beckingham do not associate with these people.

Debly furthered his attack on the "incestuous clique," by stating that they had prevented him from running in upcoming elections for the position of president. He said he had submitted his nomination form Wednesday, and after two minutes it was rejected by the very same people who voted for his resignation. The reason given was that it was unconstitutional for an ousted member to

run again. Nevertheless, Debly said, the councillors were in a conflict of interest. He also said he had widespread support from the student populace.

Any attempt to fight back, he said, is now futile, due to the attitudes and "childish behaviour" of certain people.

The whole council is to be replaced in elections set for February 17. Debly said plans now are to seat the newly-elected executive earlier than usual, giving them a term longer than one year. He could not determine the exact constitutionality of this; he also admitted that it would be possible for the new council members to reaffirm the removed executive to finish their regular terms.

Presently, the job of SRC president at STU is being filled by the Vice-President Internal Sharon Daley, who brought forward the motion for Beckingham's impeachment. Debly's job is being performed by Gail Wright, vice-president internal.

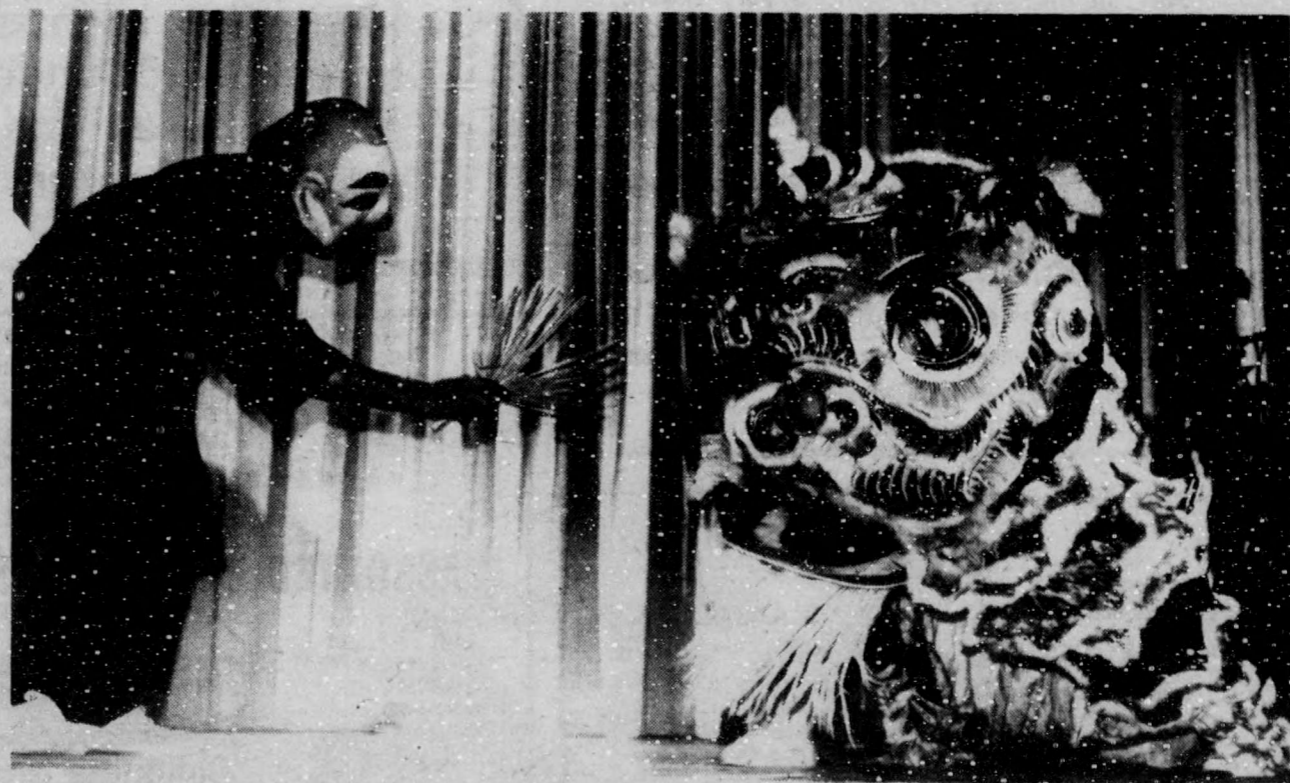


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CHRISTOPHER CHAN Photo

The Overseas Chinese Students celebrated their New Year (the year of the Dog) last Sunday in the SUB cafeteria. Over 250 students and Canadian friends attended.