

STU SRC Comptroller discusses Aquinian

by KAYE MACPHEE
Brunswickan staff

The Brunswickan recently went to speak to Kathy Wright, St. Thomas University's Student Union comptroller concerning their \$3,000 budget debt.

Q: Could you tell me about the \$3,000.00 'debt' that is continually being referred to in your SRC meetings?

A: The only thing that UNB and Saint Thomas University share is the campus. I do not see why it would be of any interest to you — it's a normal deficit.

Response: As a newswriter, I am interested.

A: I do not think it's any concern to anyone who attends UNB. I've talked to a lot of people at UNB who are unhappy with the spread you're giving The Aquinian.

Q: What are your feelings on the situation with The Aquinian?

A: We are not cutting their budget by anything that they did not need. There is no way

they can only do two or three issues. They've got enough to print 14 issues. We added to the phone, did not cut printing, photography, or typesetting. Anything that was needed for printing was not cut.

Q: You and other councillors have expressed displeasure with the coverage the SRC is getting from The Aquinian?

A: A little criticism of the SRC is not bad, but we've done some positive things as well. The positive things should be reported. The flag-raising ceremony is an example.

Q: Can you give me another example of things that you feel should have been covered that weren't?

A: It's just the most recent thing. We gave money to the Take Back the Night march. They covered it but did not mention that we gave \$100.00. We do things that are not covered. We cannot be expected to take pictures and write articles.

Response: You are aware that not everything can be covered? One only has so many people

on staff and things are prioritized.

A: I was editor of my high school paper. I know the work involved.

Q: What do you think the function of a student newspaper is?

A: The priority of our newspaper should be what their Student Union is doing, that is why it is the Saint Thomas newspaper. It is supposed to keep people informed of what the Saint Thomas Student Union is doing.

Response: The Brunswickan did not cover that particular story either. We just didn't have time or the people to do it.

A: The whole point of the matter is that we know what they were doing and why they could not cover it (the flag raising).

Q: What were they doing?

A: You know as well as I do, Kaye.

Q: I honestly don't remember.

A: They were working on The Akwinyan.

Q: Right. It was that weekend. You feel we shouldn't cover STU stories?

A: You have your separate newspaper and we have our separate newspaper. You cover your events - they cover ours. (pause) I'm not saying that you should not cover some of our events.

Q: Do you think the Aquinian's constitution should be revoked?

A: I would never support a motion that would close down permanently the Aquinian.

MacRUMBLES

by KAYE MacPHEE
Brunswickan staff

The UNB Student Union held another in its series of marathon budget meetings last Monday.

Frustration drove me away at 1:00 a.m. after listening to council for the better part of six hours. Rick Williams, law rep, was one councillor who saw the light. He pointed out that "we cannot give money away we do not have."

Doug Burgess, Vice President Finance, agreed with Williams, and said that "according to my figures, we have approximately a maximum of \$216,000, and before tonight we already gave away about \$228,000. The only way we can give away money now is to make cuts in special projects or go back to the other groups and tell them they cannot have what we said they could. It's pointless to sit here and give out money we don't have."

But sit they did, and with some discomfort evident on the faces of a few members of council, 'gave' money to various groups.

Many groups had representatives to defend their proposals for funding. Some went away obviously disgruntled; a case in point is the History Club.

After going to a committee of the whole, John Bosnitch, student senator, and Tim Lethbridge, chair, began making arbitrary decisions on the Student Union's operating expenses budget. Election expenses were cut by \$1500, activity awards were cut by \$2000, and Burgess cut the \$5000 budgeted for special projects in its entirety. This arbitrary cutting and sorting "gave" council another \$8,500 (that had already been given away) to give away ... again. Easy to follow?

The result of these futile maneuvers on the part of council will obviously be a "run" on Burgess' office by groups demanding their money now, for fear that if they wait they won't get any.

The point is, councillors, "you've blown it." Perhaps the only way to rectify this situation is to begin the whole process again (a chorus of groans, please).

I do not have the solution to this problem but I, like others, can identify the cause of it.

What is needed now is a display of responsible representation from council. Giving away something that, in fact, does not exist is absurd, not to mention a complete waste of everyone's time.

Even student politics require an awareness of reality.

Q: You'd only close it down for a short time?

A: To fix what - they've broken their constitution. We do little things from time to time that break our constitution. They know that when their news editor is not a student that he should not be there. I feel that if we can make better what's inconsistent with their con-

stitution, without having to shut them down but suspending their constitution, which technically is the same thing, that would be even better. If we have to fix them by shutting them down, the students are going to be at a loss of service. I enjoy having the Aquinian to read — every once in a while. By the same token they cannot be running around with holes in their own management and expect to publish a good paper.

We voted against them being members of CUP (Canadian University Press), therefore they should not be publishing anything from CUP. Lauren Grieve should not be news editor, they have to get a new one.

Q: Any final comments?

A: I would never support a motion to close the Aquinian unless it was absolutely, absolutely, absolutely necessary.

Q: What do you mean, necessary?

A: Obviously if they went against what council had passed and they did it anyway, or if they went \$3,000 or \$4,000 over budget.

Thank you for your time.

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