

EDITORIAL

Student Representatives-a question of accountability

University newspapers are an entrenched institution on most campuses although more often than not they survive on a week to week basis.

We at the Brunswickan understand the time and dedication in producing a newspaper and we are horrified at the action the St. Thomas S.R.C. has taken against the Aquinian.

Tuesday night, the STU SRC tabled a motion to revoke the constitution of the Aquinian. Furthermore, council accepted a budget proposal cutting Aquinian funding which effectively forces the Aquinian to cease publication after 2 or 3 more issues.

At the same time, STU council passed a \$3,000. salary increase to their 'Director of Student Affairs' to a sum total of approximately \$18,000. per annum.

Unquestionably, the St. Thomas SRC is not the independent self-governing body that it should be. At present internal conflicts, petty competition, and general disorganization are the direct responsibility of the 'Director of Student Affairs' to 'alleviate.' What becomes very clear in this disastrous 'representative government' is that the present 'director' is running the show. How else can council justify increasing the salary of a non-student while cutting the funding of another student group?

It's a powerful position. According to the STU SRC constitution, the director is responsible for 'overseeing the general activities of the union.' Not only does he or she attend all council meetings and sit on most committees (including services and awards), the responsibilities also extend to signing authority on the SRC bank account.

I cannot fathom a Student Union so antiquated that they should have such a powerful non-student position which in turn costs the Student Union almost 30 per cent of their entire operating budget.

Twenty years ago students fought arduously for the privilege of having representation on University Administrative boards and they established unions offering services the administration could not provide. The executives of the various student unions were elected democratically and entrusted with various rights and responsibilities.

It should be an idyllic, self-governing system, then, shouldn't it?

Ultimately I am appalled because I believe that St. Thomas students are not receiving the rights and privileges that should be afforded any university with a student union.

The St. Thomas council believes a non-student's raise in salary is more important than a student newspaper run by and for the students. Similarly, the 'Director of Student Affairs', because of the former comptroller's resignation, was instrumental in drawing up the budget itself.

One of the councillors Tuesday night accused the editorial staff of the Aquinian of 'misleading the students'

If anyone is misleading the students, it is St. Thomas council for playing the charade that they are really 'in control' of their destiny. Obviously, they're not.

By BRENDA PAUL

MUGWUMP JOURNAL

BOO!
BOO!
BOOO!
BOO!

by Calum Johnston
MANAGING EDITOR



It's wump-mugging time again!

First I'd like to go over last Monday's SU Council meeting. I don't know about you, but I had a great time there. Sitting in a hot, stuffy room with about 12 of 13 councillors passing motions, tabling agenda items, introducing points of order and points of personal privilege to the Chair. It's damn exciting watching all these people talking to a chair, it really is. The major topic of discussion was, of course, the budget. Jeff Whipple spoke to the council on the cut of \$11,000 from CHSR's proposed budget. Whipple felt that this was totally unacceptable and that CHSR needed the additional funds to operate fully and to serve the students properly.

This was a point of contention with Doug Burgess, the VP Finance of the Student Union. Burgess said that he went through a few residences on campus and found that very few students were listening to CHSR. Burgess felt that since so few students listen to CHSR, CHSR doesn't need as much money. Very scientific. Well, suffice to say that his statement was not well taken by Whipple as well as a few council members.

After a lot of talk on both sides, council finally found time to try to pass a motion or two so they could, heaven forbid, go on to another subject. Bill Daisley suggested that CHSR's budget be increased by 59% of what they were cut, approximately \$5,500, and request that the radio station take over the lending out of the SU sound system, seeing as how CHSR members have the expertise to set it up properly and fix whatever may break. Sound reasonable? You decide.

Although this is almost the middle of Mugwump, it is 5:30 Halloween night and Cal is compelled to 'trick or treat'.

I am an unknown Brunswickn staffer who thinks typesetting is really fun and who offered to fill in and learn how to spell.

Personally, although I'm not a 'Brunsie' I really think it's neat how they're always in room 35 of the SUB working or talking about really heavy intellectual 'stuff'.

More than anything else worthwhile at UNB, I want to be a real 'Brunsie'

It's been said that people achieve immortality through print. Maybe Brunxies just never die.

Speaking of immortality. In May, Susan Manzer Morrell a former Brunswickan Editor-in-Chief and Sarah Ingersoll (yes, you guessed it, another one) are organizing a Brunswickan reunion in conjunction with Encaenia. Nine-hundred former Brunxies are invited. Can you imagine the noise?

Should be absolutely fantastic!

