

Was the Aquinian doing an Adequate Job?

There has been much controversy over the Aquinian situation. What it seems to come down to is two issues: first, was the SRC valid in taking such actions against the paper, and second, was the Aquinian doing an adequate job as a student newspaper? These are the questions being dealt with in this letter.

First, I don't think the SRC was totally in place by taking the aforementioned actions. I would hope that SRC President Barry Power and his council reviewed all possible alternatives before choosing to rescind the constitution and fire the editorial board. Since I have not sat at SRC meetings, I can only go with what I see.

What I see every two weeks is a supposed publication of Saint Thomas University being turned into a farce. What really made me upset (and what I shall use as my example) was an article by a Mr. P.M. (for Perfectly Moronic) Valardo which commented that there were no sports teams at Saint Thomas that deserved coverage and what they had received, they deserved. All I can say is crawl out from under that rock which you seemingly inhabit! Rumor (ugly one at that) is that you are a U.N.B. student. Hey, that's okay - I used to be one myself. However, I have a few things to say about what you thought was true.

First, I do not want as a focal point of the Aquinian's Sports section your daunted heroes, the Fredericton Express. Remember the really major paper in town called the Daily Gleaner? Well, I bet if you turn to their sports section, you will find all the necessary information about them. I would tend to believe that they being a larger newspaper, they could cover that oh-so-much better than you could.

Secondly, let us think back upon the phrase 'a publication of St. Thomas University'. I would like to think that being such a publication, it is not only your DUTY to the paper but your RESPONSIBILITY to students to cover the teams at this university. Not wor-

thy, you say? Let's take a look.

First, let's look at the team that's at the butt/end of everybody's jokes, the hockey team. This 'unit', at times 'hurting' greatly, won't claim to being the creme de la creme of the A.U.A.A.. However, if you had just watched the scores as the season progressed, you would have noticed the scores weren't quite the atrocious ones that the team experienced at the beginning. If it's of any great concern to you, you are not going to see too many of the same faces back next year (rumor says between 6-8 players returning). Don't you ever cheer for an underdog, Valardo? As you might possibly know, the Express in their first year didn't set the league on fire. I bet you get stomach cramps when New Jersey beats the New York Islanders. Remember this - it is very easy to cheer for and jump onto a winners' bandwagon; it's a true sports fan who supports the loser. These people have CHARACTER - look the word up, because I really don't think you understand it.

Then you have the basketball teams. This probably would not have slipped by if you weren't being an Aitken Centre Rat, so I'll have to tell you. Both the men's and women's teams made it to the finals of the New Brunswick Collegiate Conference. The girls lost a truly heart-breaking game to UNBSJ. The talent that exists on the men's team is in greater proportion than the women's. However the women's team works harder to make up for that lack of all-around talent and always put forth their best effort to win. Since nobody else has, I'd like to congratulate coach Bob Aucoin and his team on a good season.

On the other side of the coin, the men's team won their fourth consecutive N.B.C.C. title. The same team beat King's College of Halifax, who went to the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (the college version of the CIAU) championships in Toronto. They lost to the University of

Maine, Presque Isle (UMPI) by 5 points. UMPI just happened to beat UNB by 10 points. Naw...this team isn't worth covering, only win about 70 to 80 per cent of their games. As they are losing only 2 players from this year's squad (Mr. BSW and the Judge) and are fairly certain of going to the nationals next year, take note. Perhaps you could scamper from the Aitken Centre to the South Gym at Marshall D'Avray Hall and see some good basketball. And by the way, since no one else has, congratulations to Coach Ivan Rideout and the guys on another great season.

Then there is the girl's rugby team, who have a tour to Richmond, Virginia. I have never seen girls put in so much to raising money. They would thank you for your support but you haven't given any. The guy's soccer team was worse than the hockey

team, but they played anyway. Rumor had it that some of them truly enjoyed themselves.

What's the point? It is that you damn well have an obligation to cover Saint Thomas sports being a writer for the Aquinian. So,

crawleth back under the rock again and ponder. By the way, in writing this criticism, I apply for the position of sports editor of the Aquinian for next year. After all, I covered more teams in this letter than you did all year.

This tends to lead one to premise that if Mr.

Valardo's coverage is inept, what of the others? Conflict between the student newspaper and the SRC is inherent at any university. Speaking for myself, I am tired of seeing article after article about things not relating to Saint Thomas (African elephants?) Let's

face it - there isn't a whole lot to write about up here on

top of the hill. If it means sticking in these meaningless articles, perhaps the SRC should consider taking 4 or 5 pages in the Brunswickan and put all news and sports happenings there. I know, St. Thomas should have a separate identity. However, unless there is something to write about that can sustain a

REAL student newspaper, this alternative should be considered. The issue of March 28th wasn't bad, but one wonders if the paper wasn't embroiled in such controversy, would it be quite so goo. If turning out a campus newspaper means having to write about African elephants, who's kidding who?

Sincerely,
Stephen Craig Kingston

Editor fights back

Dear Editor,

A letter appears in this week's *Brunswickan* that capsulizes a certain ignorance regarding the *Aquinian*/SRC controversy and the actions of each organization. The author of that letter, Mr. Stephen Kingston, also has a great deal to say about the *Aquinian*'s sports coverage and

is more than liberal with his vitriol.

Although Mr. Kingston has some valid criticisms, they too readily become entangled in pointless namecalling and misguided attacks. The *Aquinian* welcomes criticism, but let's keep it on a constructive and impersonal basis.

I admit our coverage over the past year, of men's and women's basketball, has

certainly not reached its potential and that the fine efforts of those teams should receive more coverage in future. But we have, whenever physically possible, covered both teams as adequately as we

could. From the first issue on we have, with few exceptions, covered basketball in both story and photo. The same goes for other underfunded sports such as rugby and soccer, let alone the Tommies hockey team, who aren't hurting for media coverage.

I cannot comprehend Mr. Kingston's venomous attacks on Mr. Valardo. He has been our most consistent sports writer at a time

when the *Aquinian* had a dearth of willing and dependable contributors in that department. I do not doubt Mr. Kingston has areas that he feels he could cover well, I only wish he had appeared earlier in the year when his input would have been

more constructive than destructive.

As for the *Aquinian*'s news coverage, the African elephants he is so fond of were in fact Indian

elephants. They appeared as a feature article from a

foreign student in the March 9 issue of 1983. I take it as a compliment that he hasn't found fault with anything since then. Over the past year the *Aquinian* has carried almost 200 articles dealing specifically with STU

students and issues. This figure speaks for itself, but we attempt to balance this kind of coverage with national and worldwide issues that should be the concern of every university student; from worker's rights to educational cutbacks.

This year I have had the pleasure of working with decent hardworking and dedicated people. If the length of Mr. Kingston's letter is any indication, his energies will complement an already active staff. I suggest that his application for Sport Editor is most welcome and much needed, but that in the meantime he join us in lobbying council to maintain a free and accessible student press so he will have a place to work.

Yours, Peter R. Boisseau