

Student council locks Ontario paper out

SCARBOROUGH (CUP) — The fate of Scarborough College's student newspaper is still up in the air, after the student council executive charged out of a meeting over the issue on March 8.

The paper's funding had been frozen by the Scarborough College student council (SCSC) executive the previous week. They claimed that potentially libellous material left them vulnerable as student council signing officers.

The Balcony Square staff responded by forming their own newspaper, The Underground, with funding from advertising sales.

The March 8 council meeting started with the executive motion to reopen the paper if six conditions were met by its staff. They included the retraction of controversial comments made about one of the executives in a previous issue and a media board to monitor student election coverage and to consider firing editor Shona Nicholson.

Five of the six conditions were agreed to by the paper, but the staff rejected any suggestion that Nicholson be fired. When council amended the plan to remove the firing clause, executive members broke quorum by bolting from the meeting.

Later, the executive met privately and arrived at their own ultimatum: "Because the council was unable to resolve the Balcony Square (dispute), the executive will close the paper

for the rest of the academic year by freezing funds, and the Balcony Square office will be closed for the remainder of the 1981/82 SCSC term of office.

The executive also revoked the use of Balcony Square office equipment, which had been purchased by the council.

Balcony Square staffers had presented the executive with a petition signed by 1,200 Scarborough students, asking that the paper be kept open, but the signatures were rejected by council finance commissioner Tom Shoniker, who said "they were probably all drunk at the pub."

The Underground appeared on campus immediately after the collapsed council meeting.

Staffers have decided to continue publishing the alternative newspaper for the rest of the year, with a new constitution and an attempt to have the college recognize them as a legitimate campus group.

Although SCSC president Ted Gristead approached the administration asking for locks to be chained on the paper's office, Charlotte Caton, assistant to the college principal, said only a full council motion would bring that about.

Newly elected council president Dave Fulford, who takes office in the summer, has pledged support for the paper's staff and said he would consider increased autonomy for the Balcony Square.

Manitoba universities find more funds

WINNIPEG (CUP) — It's not quite enough to bring broad grins to the faces of hard-pressed administrators, but the Manitoban government's 15.7 per cent increase in operating grants to advanced education is producing a few smiles.

The increase is the largest since a wave of funding cuts to Manitoba universities in the late 1970s, and the 1982/83 grant is larger than the 14 per cent increase projected in total government spending.

Manitoba education minister Maureen Hemphill said the "serious deterioration in the level of university funding over the last four years" justifies the size of the increase.

"It didn't matter which indicator we looked at," said Hemphill. "Universities are clearly disadvantaged."

Hemphill said the current negotiations with the federal

government for continued funding from Ottawa for social services will not affect the province's grants this year. The current program, Established Programs Financing, expires at the end of March, leaving the agreements for major federal funding up in the air. "EPF will not affect the numbers this year. We may not have any changes in funding next year," Hemphill suggested.

Dan Stone, chairperson of the Manitoba Organization of Faculty Associations, said the increase will prevent a worsening of the situation in universities. "We may be able to improve a few things...for instance we may be able to retore the photocopying of exams we cut out this year, but that's about it."

"If we had a few more years of increases like this we'd be back in shape."

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