

Saskatoon

Sheaf continues to maintain editorial autonomy

SASKATOON (CUP) - The student newspaper at the University of Saskatchewan has all but squashed a student council proposal to take over "the affairs of the Sheaf".

Recent policy proposals by the U of S Students' Union posed what Sheaf editor, Don Thompson, called a serious threat to the editorial autonomy of the student newspaper.

Talks between the newspaper and the student union began shortly after the release of a "working document" prepared by student union internal vice-president Doug Pearce, which outlined a proposal for placing editorial control of the Sheaf in the hands of a Students' Union "media board".

The media board as outlined by Pearce would be "charged with the supervision of the affairs of the Sheaf". This excluded financial affairs which are already controlled by the students union.

The board would have two major functions. It would control appointments to the editorial positions of the paper, and direct its editorial policy, the proposal stated.

The board would be comprised of the Sheaf editor and two elected members of the Sheaf collective, the USSU vice-presidents (finance and internal), one student selected at large, one faculty member, one representative of the local print media, and one representative from the Saskatoon community.

Hamilton

Tuition fees necessary

HAMILTON (CUP) - Tuition fees for students are part of the "Tory philosophy", Ontario Colleges and Universities Minister Harry Parrott said January 19 at MacMaster University.

As long as he is Minister, Parrott said, he would not accept any financing scheme for post-secondary education which had no student fee component in it. If education were made free, then "It's back to Woodstock and orthodontics for Harry Parrott" the former Woodstock dentist promised.

He said the Ontario minority conservative government believes there has to be a trade-off between "quality and quantity" of post-secondary education, assuming that no increased resources are to be allocated to universities and colleges.

For his part, he favours the maxim "better scholars per dollar" rather than "more scholars per dollar" which his predecessor had advocated, suggesting that accessibility will be curtailed under the guise of improving the quality of education.

As for the Henderson Report, which recommended a 65 percent increase in tuition fees and setting up an all-loan no-grant student aid system; Parrott said some of the points made in that report were "outright wrong".

He said the tuition fee increase "has not got a snowball's chance" and that he would not support it. He likened the report to being hit over the head and having someone say he only wanted to get your attention.

All the Henderson commission was really saying, according to Parrott, was that "we have

The USSU President would also like to sit on the board.

The Sheaf collective immediately responded by condemning the proposal as "fascist" and called a special emergency meeting of the editorial collective which unanimously decided to oppose the formation of the media board.

According to editor Thomson, the proposal would place editorial control of the Sheaf in the hands of the people who know nothing about newspapers, with the exception of a member of the "establishment" press.

Vancouver

Aid cut back predicted

VANCOUVER (CUP) - Provincial education ministers are seriously considering revisions to student aid programs which would force students to go deeper in debt to continue post-secondary education.

The ministers are considering cutting back on student grants while increasing the amount of student loans.

Bennett Campbell, chairperson of the Council of Ministers of Education (CME) of Canada, said January 14 that the provincial ministers will decide about revising student loan and bursary plans at their next meeting in September.

"The proposed membership of the board", said Thomson, "represents the various vested financial and political interests within the university, towards which the Sheaf has always acted in a critical or "adversary" role. To place the editorial control of the newspaper in the hands of these people is, in effect, to eliminate the "freedom of the press" at the University of Saskatchewan.

The presence of a member of the local professional print media on the board signified to Thomson that the USSU desired to imple-

ment a "straight media mentality" with the Sheaf. This the collective felt ran contrary to their interests as progressive journalists.

Thomson stated "it would seem they (the USSU) are telling us we cannot effectively criticize or investigate corporate groups, electoral candidates and elected officials within the University community. This reduces the Sheaf to a simple house organ of the student union, rather than a newspaper," Thomson said.

After what Thomson called "an informal confrontation" with Pearce, the Sheaf gained a number of major concessions from the USSU.

As the proposal now stands, the Media Board is to act in an advisory role to the Sheaf. Controls over membership in the collective

and appointments to the managerial positions have been completely cut out. In addition, the Sheaf has gained veto power. Final editorial content is to be determined by the collective.

But Thomson says he is still unsatisfied, but feels the altered proposal was definitely an improvement over the first draft.

"If the Sheaf had to work under a media board, this is close to what I would expect," he said.

"However, I seriously question the need for a media board at all. I think Pearce and the USSU executive are suffering from a serious lack of communication with the Sheaf. Instead of working within the system as it now exists they want to change the system to promote their own self interest," he said.

He said the ministers are considering three alternatives, but would not provide specific details about any of them.

However, in an interview Campbell said he has a "concern that the level of indebtedness of students be held at a reasonable level."

British Columbia's education ministers said in a press release the Council ratified the mandate of its task force on student assistance "to make detailed recommendations to the council regarding the most feasible student assistance plan."

The task force is an outgrowth of a federal provincial working group on student assistance which met last year to consider revisions to the Canada Student Loan Plan.

The task force met secretly until documents were leaked showing working group members were thinking about large increases in ceilings for student loans, while reducing non-repayable provincial grants.

The National Union of Students (NUS) has claimed that students have been denied access to the working group and task force.

Campbell said students can make representations to their provincial governments.

He also said he would not release details about the three financial aid alternatives being considered by the council because they are in "internal working documents."

The proposed revisions to the aid programs include the production of assistance for part time students, according to Campbell.

California

Pet rocks market millions

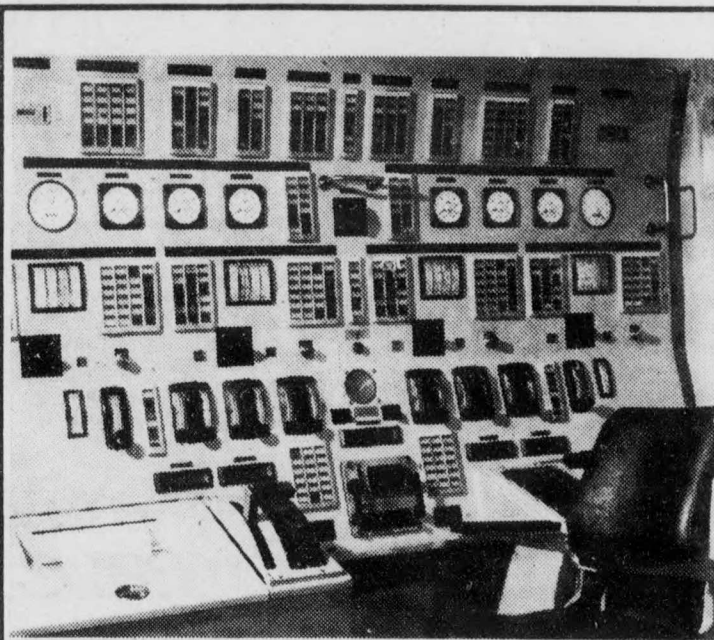
CALIFORNIA (ENS-CUP) - The "pet rock" fad is reaching ridiculous proportions. The Santa Clara, California, firm that initially marketed the idea says that more than a million pet rocks were sold in the three months prior to Christmas.

The rocks - ordinary rocks - are packaged in a box with a booklet of instructions on the proper care and feeding of pet rock. They sell for \$4 apiece.

Rock Bottom Productions now says they'll take pet rocks to

Canada, Europe and the Far East. They're also bringing out pet rock tee-shirts, pet rock posters, pet rock food - called "rocksalt" - and pet rock shampoo.

The Wall Street Journal says that the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries is now offering to prepare a complete genealogical chart of anyone's pet rock for one dollar, plus postage, and to top it all off, Michigan's Lake Superior State College will sponsor a National Pet Rock Show later this month.



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