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Aquinian staff walks

Staff vows to continue publishing

By MARIE GALLANT

The entire staff of Saint Thomas University's student newspaper, the *Aquinian*, has resigned.

Neil Toner, the editor of the paper said they "decided to take (this) drastic action to ensure freedom of the press."

SRC President Greg Davis had threatened to remove material from the pages of the newspaper prior to printing. Toner said that council has tried to dictate content and subject matter of the paper as well.

One of the main points of contention in the long-standing dispute between the *Aquinian* and the SRC is the paper's status in Canadian University Press. Davis and council refuse to recognize the *Aquinian*'s membership in CUP while the staff said the paper has been a CUP member for two years.

Shortly after Toner announced the staff's resignation Davis ordered a member of the Cam-



Aquinian press conference: Bernice Allison, staff member; Neil Toner, editor; and Scott Arnold, staff member

pus Police to be posted inside the *Aquinian* office. The move is designed to protect the student union's best interests, said Davis.

The telephone was removed

from the *Aquinian* office to prevent staff from making long distance phone calls, said Davis.

Council attempted to have the lock on the *Aquinian*'s

door changed but Kim Norris, SUB Director said Davis did not have the authority to do that, but the following day Norris asked former staffers for their office keys as they were no

longer members of the *Aquinian*.

The *Aquinian* will still be published, however, said Davis, while Toner said at the press conference that the paper will go independent and seek a referendum of support from St. Thomas students.

The staff of the *Aquinian* wishes to stress that they are not by any means divorcing themselves from their fellow students nor do they have any intention of interrupting what they feel is a vital service to the university community," said Toner.

Calum Johnston, Editor of *The Brunswickan* said, "We fully support the *Aquinian* in its struggle for editorial freedom. The basic right to freedom of the press is something we should all support."

Toner said that he is looking to the students and faculty and other groups for support of an editorially, financially, and legally independent student newspaper.

Photo by Alan Brown

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By KAYE MacPHEE
Brunswickan staff

UNB's Student Representative Council is divesting.

In a motion at last Monday's council meeting President John Bosnitch called for council to "break all financial ties with the Bank of Montreal in protest of that bank's policies towards investments with South Africa."

Another, three-part motion by Bosnitch called for the Student Union to establish a policy of divesting all of its holdings in any businesses that have investments in South Africa, and against any future

investments or actions which would encourage the continuation of the current oppressive South African regime.

As well, the motion called for the union to establish mechanisms for the expression of opposition to apartheid by members of the university community and the public at large.

Bosnitch said, "This was a unanimous executive decision to be ratified by council. Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion."

To further the union's plans to protest apartheid Bosnitch said, "(We) plan a series of meetings with all campus

groups in the aim of coordinating a campus-wide body to direct opposition to the current South African regime."

Plans are also underway to have an official representative of the Canadian office of the African National Congress to speak at UNB. "The ANC is a major underground black South African opposition group headed by Nelson Mandela," said Bosnitch.

"The Student Union called on UNB(administration) to implement the same three measures," said Bosnitch.

UNB President James Downey made a motion at last Friday's Board of Governors

meeting to strike a five person committee to address the issue of divestment.

Bosnitch said, "I'm discouraged that action has been so long in coming on this topic...and that neither of our (student) representatives have seen fit to introduce an open motion of condemnation of any investment in businesses supporting the South African regime."

"Nevertheless...I look forward in communicating with the administration's committee within the next few days to discuss this," he said.

UNB student union divests

Urges administration to implement same measures