

## Action against Freedom

TORONTO (CUP) — The student council at Seneca College has shut down the student newspaper after confiscating 5000 copies of a spoof issue it calls "malicious and libelous and in no way

humorous."

The Feb. 27 issue of OBT, dubbed OBTease, contained among other things a photo of a decaying cat, an ad for an "open-

ended sex slave, M or Fe, 4-13 years," and an article alleging sexual activity by the student president in the council office.

The council, the paper's official publisher, was not amused. President Emily Thomson said OBT was shut down so that its "policies and procedures" could be reviewed by a committee of newspaper staff and council members — with the staff "probably" forming a majority. The paper will re-open, but may be not this year, she added.

In a bulletin posted on campus, the council defended removing about one-half the 10,000 copies of OBTs (the rest were distributed to Seneca's other four campuses).

"We do not feel this is an issue of censorship or freedom of the

press but rather of an organization acting in a responsible manner," the notice said.

Thomson denied actually firing editor Clark Davey, though Davey said she told him he had been dismissed.

Davey, who said he apologized for any harm done, had mixed feelings about the closure.

"I'm happy about the shut-down in one way because in a way they stopped it from becoming a massive issue, but it's also a hassle for the students because they don't have a paper," he said. Davey said he had been told to expect legal action and perhaps being blacklisted by employers that deal with the college.

However, the editor said OBT's policy and procedures could have

been changed without the council closing the paper down.

"I think what they're trying to do is run the paper themselves," he said.

Thomson said she received negative comments about the paper, while Davey said reaction has been mainly positive and "a lot of people are coming into the office for copies."

Whatever the students' thoughts they may lose money on the whole affair. The paper will forego about \$3000 in printing costs and lose advertising revenues for the issue. If it fails to publish again this year, it may lose local ad sales and \$2200-to-\$2500 in national ad revenue.

The paper is about \$5000 in debt.

## Canadian University students revolt

OTTAWA (CUP) — Students are joining in a nation-wide revolt against the Conservative government's Bill C-96, which will amend the Established Programmes Financing Act to cut a total of \$6 billion in funding for health care and post-secondary education over the next five years.

Two thousand students from the capital region are expected at a March 13 rally on Parliament Hill. And Beth Brown, a second-year arts student at Carleton who is organizing the buses to the Hill, said more and more students are finishing enrolled classes and poor course selection to federal policies.

At Memorial University in St. John's, Nfld., the student council has already collected 2000 signatures on a petition they plan to send to Finance Minister Michael Wilson. On March 19, Memorial students will join College of Trades and Technology and Marine Institute students at a rally to discuss federal cutbacks.

The Ontario Federation of Students has declared this week (March 10-14) a "week of action" to protest funding cuts. And Dr. Douglas Wright, president of the University of Waterloo, has

agreed to shut down the university for three hours March 12. He is asking professors who join the demonstration to donate a day's salary to the university's fundraising campaign.


At McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont., the student council is distributing petitions soliciting signatures from everyone in the McMaster community to oppose the under-funding of Ontario universities.

Student councils from Manitoba's three universities have joined a provincial government-sponsored coalition of groups to oppose the cuts.

The Manitoba Coalition on Health and Higher Education is trying to sway public opinion in favour of more federal support for health care and universities.

"Whether or not you think you can turn it around in the short term is not a reason for rolling over and playing dead," said Tim Sale, a senior Policy analyst in Manitoba's minister of finance. "Provincial opposition won't change their (the federal government's) minds, but public opinion will," Sale said.

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