Here We Stand: ‘The Paper’ At The Crossroads

An Editorial

A NOTE TO SUBSCRIBERS, READERS, ETC.

Whales, Fleas And Related Subjects

All we want--God help us, ALL--is the right to sell our well-intentioned little newspaper in peace. We do not plan to subvert the System. The System, like Moby dick, will not let us alone, no matter how many little journalistic harpoons dangle ineffectually from its side. We would like to avoid being prmed and, so far as possible, get on with the job. If this were a rational world, the parties concerned in the current fracas would sit down together and discuss the most efficient and practical means to enable “The Paper” to survive. The procedures agreed upon would be immediately implemented, and our newspaper would continue to publish as long as enough people want it to.

Needless to say, this is not a rational world; and the indications are that Michigan State University has more than its share of the world’s irrationality. Michigan State is the perfect microcosm; its students do not have to wait for graduation to find martyrdom has its rewards, to be sure, and we would not be sorry to have some free time for a change. But we would prefer to continue publishing. It must be nice to be in the middle of it. It is hard to see who will gain by our prosecution. Presumably the traffic in classroom buildings, and it is unnecessary.

We will be back on our regular publication schedule at some future time. To all those who thought we would publish a regular issue this week.

The FIRST is the Board of Student Publications. Comprising three students, three faculty members and three administrators and headed by the chairman of the Board of Journalism, this board claims jurisdiction over “most student publications circulating on campus, but not all.” It concerns itself with only those which are financially stable, whose editors, advisors, and editorial viewpoints are acceptable to it. The board is in charge of the State News and the Wolverine, as well as a few other publications. Certain publications authorized by the board have been sold from time to time in classroom buildings, and it is possible (though not guaranteed) that “The Paper” as an authorized publication would be allowed to sell in as many places on campus as are necessary.

The logical thing for us to do, then, would be to seek approval from the board. This we did--twice. On both occasions certain financial data was required in writing which we did not, through a combination of misunderstanding and sheer lack of available information, bring with us. We will not be surprised, in the light of our yearly operating budget; certain board members told us, in almost in so many

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We regret the necessity to publish this emergency bulletin instead of a regular eight-page issue this week. We would have liked to edit a regular one as much as you would have liked to read it. Unfortunately, money is short, the staff is somewhat deficient, and we had to spend more time than we would have liked preparing a defense to present to Student Judiciary (see articles above). We will be back on our regular publication schedule next week (that’s a promise; we’re working on it already). Meanwhile, we will appreciate any help which may be offered in alleviating any of our problems.

THE EDITORS
words, to fake it. If we had faked the information, the board presumably would have voted immediately to accept or reject us. As it was, the issue did not come to a vote.

Some board members feel that we would have been approved so long as we had reason to doubt this, Board members repeatedly told us, for example, that we should not bother with their approval, since their authorization would not really help us with campus circulation. Their assertions were in support of this, since their authorization would have voted immediate approval, to fake it. If we had faked the ads. As a simple practical matter, and its modes of operation led us to believe that approval would be at least a dubious prospect.

In the meantime, we were faced with the task of finding a back door, meeting in basement), for new staff members. Old staff members, even though they think they already know the ropes, should also attend. The Paper benefited from this, and the defense (“The Paper”).

The Student Board of ASMSU, late last term, was in a dispute with the State News, and was also in a liberal phase (which included passage of new, liberalized group registration and literature distribution policies). The Paper benefited from these, and was granted a charter and two fund-raising drives designed to allow sale of “The Paper” through free distribution with simultaneous solicitation of contributions.” Everyone recognized, or ought to have recognized, the bureaucratic idiocy of the whole complex procedure. The idea was that the Board of Student Publications might have been offended at our frustrations with the Publications Board, we had been looking for other, quiaiser ways of selling our paper. That is how we got involved with Student Board.

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