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Special Edition

MONTCLARION II

Montclair State College, Upper Montclair, N.J. 07043

Thurs., November 30, 1978

PREZ STOPS PRESSES

By Lisa Burkhart

The voice of the students was silenced this week.

Or at least the voice of the MONTCLARION was.

At yesterday's meeting of the SGA, SGA President Charles Sahner and Keith Ansbacher, Treasurer of the SGA, froze the funds of the MONTCLARION. During the course of the meeting, the Legislature made several attempts to override the Executive Board's decision. On statutory limitations, all attempts were futile.

Since the funds of the MONTCLARION have been frozen for at least six days, the newspaper is coming out in a modified version this week with money pooled from the pockets of staff members. With funds frozen, all normal operations of the paper must be suspended.

After an audit of the MONTCLARION was conducted over the past summer, which showed a shortfall of \$13,300 over the past two years, the business department of the newspaper initiated changes in its bookkeeping methods. This freeze was implemented because the SGA Executive Board wants to do an investigation into this new bookkeeping system. The SGA Legislature made several attempts to override the Executive Board's decision.

An audit of the MONTCLARION was conducted over the past summer under the direction of the SGA. The results of this audit by Price Waterhouse proved that the bookkeeping system of the newspaper was not up to good accounting standards. The MONTCLARION Business Dept. initiated bookkeeping changes that conformed almost identically with the suggestions made by a Price Waterhouse report.

The audit found that \$13,300 was unaccounted for from September 1976 to May 31, 1978.

"No, they're not illegally spending funds...and no, they're not disregarding policy," Ansbacher said during the meeting. Ansbacher felt that charges of criminal activity were merely allegations, but he stated that the audit

was the only way to clear the question. He felt the investigation of past bookkeeping, in addition to the present system, was protecting both his and Sahner's integrity, as well as that of the SGA.

The MONTCLARION approved the idea of a fraud audit in September of this year in order to clear its name. No motion by the SGA was made to have a fraud audit done until Sahner brought the idea to the Legislature yesterday.

The Legislature, after an hour of debate in an Executive Session, approved a fraud audit at a cost of anywhere from \$2000 to a ceiling of \$10,000. This audit will be done with SGA funds.

However, the Executive Board was not sure that the present system was completely foolproof, according to Sahner and Ansbacher. They told the Legislature that they had no recourse but to freeze the funds while the present

system was being investigated.

The Legislature had ideas of its own. Indignant Legislators made several moves to change the action of the Executive Board. Although phrases such as there shouldn't be a "public spanking" of the MONTCLARION, and "irresponsibility of the Executive Board," were being volleyed by the Legislators at the Executive Board, Sahner and Ansbacher did not back down. They neglected to tell the Legislature that they had already phoned the printer that afternoon to advise them not to accept the MONTCLARION for publication.

The Executive Board had already made the decision at 9:30 the night before, according to Sahner.

The paper was already three-quarters into production by the time of the meeting. Peter J. Baligian, Editor-in-Chief, became aware of Sahner's call

only after he phoned the printer himself to look into other avenues of putting the paper out.

The Legislators voiced countless arguments against the freeze on grounds that the students would ultimately suffer; not only would the students be without a newspaper to read, but they would also be uninformed of upcoming student activities.

Several Class One Organizations will not be able to advertise their events, and other on-campus organizations will not receive publicity in the Datebook section. This does not even count the possible harm to the paper's integrity to outside advertisers.

The students who work on the MONTCLARION for a salary will not be paid.

All of these points were repeatedly brought to the Board's attention by frustrated Legislators.

The Legislators' feelings culminated in emergency legislation drafted on the floor by Nader Tavakoli, President Pro Tempore of the Legislature. The move was completed only after the Legislature was forced to override Vice President Frank Cosolito's denial to accept the emergency bill into the agenda. The bill to override the Chair won by a 32 to 12 vote.

"Sahner refused to bend on his decision to freeze the MONTCLARION budget," Tavakoli said in a phone interview several hours after the decision. "Emergency legislation was the only viable way for the Legislature to override his decision.

"It seemed clear that the actions of the President and Treasurer to freeze the budget were against the best interests of both the SGA, including its Class One Organizations, and the students whom we are here to serve," he emphasized.

But the emergency legislation was not successful. Although action by the Legislature was taken to override the Executive Board's decision, the bill requires a signature from the SGA President. The President could take up to 10 days to sign the bill.

When Sahner was asked if he would sign the bill, he replied, "I don't know. I haven't decided, yet."

Editor's note:

In the light of the fact that the individuals who published this newspaper (at their own expense) are reputable student leaders, not wanting to start a war, the name MONTCLARION II has been used so as not to upset those who wished the MONTCLARION to be silenced.

We extend our never-ending thanks to the two-thirds of the SGA Legislature who tried to protect the MONTCLARION from being trampled by the Executive Board of the SGA.

We also would like to salute the more than 20 staffers who toiled through the night without sleep to see this edition hit the stands for all students to read.

Our special thanks to Cindy Long for her spontaneous offer of assistance.

Finally, unless something happens, we would like to bid the MSC campus a fond farewell.

Questions concerning our plight can be answered by calling the SGA Office at 893-4202.

P.S.- Ironic as it may sound, Charles Sahner froze the MONTCLARION budget on Nov. 28, exactly 50 years to the day that the first student newspaper hit the stands at MSC.

Happy Birthday, Chaz.

MONTCLARION

Vol. 57 No. 12

Thurs., Nov. 30, 1978

Editor-in-Chief

Peter J. Baligian

Managing Editor

Jeryl Ann Franco

Editorial Page Editor

Matthew H. Wilson



The following is a reprint of the letter sent to Peter Baligian, Editor-in-Chief of the MONTCLARION, from SGA President Charles Sahner concerning the "freezing" of the MONTCLARION budget.

November 29, 1978

Mr. Peter Baligian
Editor-in-Chief
MONTCLARION

Dear Peter:

Please be advised that as of 7:56 PM of above date, the budget of the MONTCLARION has been frozen. No direct expenditures or incurrences of future expense will be paid by the Student Government Association, Inc. of Montclair State College. Said freeze is in accordance with Art. VI of the Statutes and will remain in effect until further notice.

This letter was signed by Charles Sahner, President, and Keith Ansbacher, Treasurer, of the SGA.

Editor's Note:

Article VI of the Statutes

If in the opinion of the SGA President and Treasurer, an organization is illegally spending funds or disregarding policies, all funds of that organization will be frozen until action is taken by the Legislature at the next meeting. Only approved contractual agreements will be honored.

We Interrupt this Week

By Marion Clarke

The agenda of the SGA weekly meeting was brief yesterday and legislators looked forward to a short night. The President's report, however, held an explosive issue, the MONTCLARION budget freeze. This move created a four hour heated debate between the Legislators and the Executive Board.

The report began with the issue of a fraud audit on the MONTCLARION, something the Legislature and the MONTCLARION were fully in favor of. It ended with the surprise of a budget freeze, something almost all Legislators and the MONTCLARION were opposed to.

The climax of the meeting was a Bill drafted on the floor by Nadar Tavakoli, President Pro-Tempore of the Legislature. This Bill was to override the Executive Board's decision on the freeze, which would begin with today's issue.

This Bill was the third time the Legislature overrode the Chair (Frank Cosolito, SGA Vice-President) during the meeting, a rare occurrence to happen once every few meetings. To override the Chair is a major step. It means the Legislature strongly disagrees with the Executive Board and will take open opposition.

At the Bill's passage joy exuded from the room, which now included the entire MONTCLARION staff. It was followed by immediate dismay when Tavakoli asked whether it would have to be signed by Sahner.

Larry Blackburn, SGA Attorney General, stated, "It must be signed by the President." Most of the room immediately fell back into despair when Sahner stated, "I haven't decided if I will sign it yet."

Sahner's decision on whether he would sign the Bill later proved to be pointless. Peter



Charles Sahner: SGA President

Baligian, Editor-in-Chief of the MONTCLARION, called the printer, North Jersey Press, only to discover Sahner had called before the SGA meeting telling them not to accept the paper for printing; the invoice

He Could Have Done

By Matt Wilson

Two months ago in a temper tantrum in the privacy of the SGA Presidential Office, I watched Charles Sahner tear a copy of the MONTCLARION in half.

"We're going to hang you; no, you're going to hang yourselves," he shrieked.

Last night Sahner hanged the MONTCLARION. Sahner, with the complicity of Treasurer Keith Ansbacher, froze the paper's funds. The MONTCLARION was shut down.

It was an event Sahner has anticipated for a long time. In the Spring of 1978, Sahner failed to win the newspaper's endorsement.

He vowed that he would never forget that. And he never did.

What Sahner did was wait for the first politically acceptable moment for revenge. In early November, Sahner thought he had it.



Keith Ansbacher: SGA Treasurer

During the late Summer and early Fall, the MONTCLARION was audited by Price Waterhouse & Co. Sahner received the results of the audit.

The audit showed the MONTCLARION had two years, \$13,300 unaccounted for, which was a major problem.

Instead, he hinted widely of fraud with the MONTCLARION. And waited.

For reasons known only to him, Sahner waited. In his President's report to the Legislature, he mentioned the results of the Price Waterhouse investigation.

The Legislature promptly suggested a fraud audit. Sahner was not sated with a mere fraud audit--he wanted more.

The Executive Board of the SGA, in effect, silencing the MONTCLARION, reminded the Legislature--as he has so often--that he could have done more.

Presidential power allows Sahner to silence the entire Editorial Policy Board. Sahner's actions have silenced the MONTCLARION's Class One Chairmen. But these steps, Sahner decided, were not enough.

Yet freezing funds and silencing a newspaper is not reasonable. What they demonstrate is a contempt for freedom of the press and a disregard for the MONTCLARION, featured so strongly in his campaign.

The Legislature recognized this. They drafted legislation to re-institute the MONTCLARION, without Sahner's signature, no legislation would be passed. Sahner told the Legislature he did not know whether to sign the legislation. A signature would have provided the Legislature an opportunity to kill both of these options by taking action.

Sahner ignored the students' will and the Legislature's representatives.

Charles Sahner may well have hanged the MONTCLARION last night. But he did so at student expense. His actions demonstrate that, in his mind, he is not a representative of the information the students should and should not have.

Perhaps he should be less quick to p

Week...



Sahner: SGA President

would not be honored.

Tavakoli and the majority of other legislators were back where they started, opposed to the freeze and no effective means to stop it.

One More

and early Fall, The MONTCLARION
rhose & Co., a reputable accounting
results of the audit early in November.

MONTCLARION to have, over a period
counted for. But Sahner did not make

of fraud within the organization of the

to him, Sahner went public last night.
to the Legislature, Sahner revealed the
house investigation.

y suggested a fraud audit. But Sahner
fraud audit--this was his big chance, his

the SGA said it was cutting off the
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as he has so often gleefully reminded
ne more.

ys Sahner the right to throw out the
ard. Sahner could also revoke the
One Charter, and with that, its
Sahner decided, were too extreme.


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campaign.

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<p>Senior Proof Returns Dec. 4, 5, 6 10AM-4:30PM SC Lobby (Dec. 5 10AM-7PM)</p> <p>Additional Senior Portraits will be taken in the spring</p> <p>Feb. 5-9 Sign-ups will be one March 5-9 week before each sitting</p>	<p>CINA movies presents: HAWAII FREE Sat., Dec. 2, 1978 7:30PM SC Meeting rooms</p>	<p>CINA presents Barry Commoner Mon., Dec. 4 12-2PM Ballroom B SC</p>
<p>SILC presents Budweiser College Super Sports Thurs., Dec. 14, 1978 8PM Panzer Gym</p> <p>Contact SILC Win a trip to Florida and more!!</p> 	<p>Friday, Dec. 8 12 Noon-2PM Important Meeting For all students going to JAMAICA Ballroom B-SC</p>	<p>Staff Meeting: Fri., Dec. 1 3PM Quarterly Office Submissions are now being accepted for a humor-satire issue to appear early next semester</p>
<p>LASO presents SALSA Jose Fajardo y sus estrellas and Ray Rodrigues y su orquesta With disco music by Eddie Ocasio Fri., Dec. 1 8PM Life Hall Cafe. Admission \$4 in advance \$5 at the door</p>	<p>JSU sponsors Sat., Dec. 9 8PM SC Ballroom C Israeli Coffeehouse Admission \$2.50</p> <p>JSU presents Chanuka Semi-Formal Sat., Dec. 23 Town and Campus West Orange, NJ 7:30PM-\$15 per person</p> <p>Giant Xmas Sale by Health Professions Association Nov. 30 9AM-3PM SC Ballroom B</p> <p>CINA UNICEF Christmas cards and calenders Mon., Dec. 4-Fri., Dec. 8 10AM-2PM SC Lobby</p>	<p>JSU sponsors Sat., Dec. 9 8PM SC Ballroom C Israeli Coffeehouse Admission \$2.50</p> <p>JSU presents Chanuka Semi-Formal Sat., Dec. 23 Town and Campus West Orange, NJ 7:30PM-\$15 per person</p> <p>Giant Xmas Sale by Health Professions Association Nov. 30 9AM-3PM SC Ballroom B</p> <p>CINA UNICEF Christmas cards and calenders Mon., Dec. 4-Fri., Dec. 8 10AM-2PM SC Lobby</p>

In spite of the emergency, we are complying with our duty as a student service and are printing the following on-campus organization advertisements... free of charge.

datebook

<p>TODAY, THURS., NOV. 30 GIANT CHRISTMAS SALE: Sponsored by Health Professions Association, Student Center, Ballroom B, 9 AM-3 PM. Buy Christmas gifts early! WEEKLY MEETING: Sponsored by Reflections Magazine, Purple Conference Room, Fourth Floor Student Center, 9 AM. All welcome to attend.</p> <p>FRI., DEC. 1 COFFEE HOUSE: Sponsored by Newman Club, Newman House, 8:30 PM to midnight, Donation \$1. Live entertainment, free munchies.</p> <p>SAT., DEC. 2 MUSICAL PLAY: Sponsored by the Music Dept., Calcia Aud., Fine Arts Building, 8 PM, Incidentally Alice in Wonderland.</p> <p>MON., DEC. 4 LECTURE: Sponsored by SSBS, SMS, CINA, Student Center Ballrooms A and B, Noon to 2 PM, Barry Commoner, "The Energy Crisis: Where it Stands."</p> <p>TUES., DEC. 5 LECTURE: Sponsored by Psychology Club, Student Center Meeting Rooms 3 and 4, 5 PM, Dr. Runden will speak on Human Sexuality.</p> <p>WEEKLY MEETING: Sponsored by Women Helping Women, Peer Counseling, Women's Center, 7 to 9 PM, "Let's Talk</p>	<p>School." Sessions dealing with academic problems for mature students. Free. Everyone invited to attend. Phone 893-4382 for information, K. Goldstein, M.A. Coordinator.</p> <p>MASS: Sponsored by Newman House, 12:15 PM.</p> <p>PANEL ON ASPECTS OF WRITING AND PUBLISHING: Sponsored by the English Dept., Carole Stone, Dorothy Riede, co-ordinators, Student Center Ballrooms. Speakers: Eliot Figlian, Harriet Rosenbaury, Rochelle Dubois, and Bill Higginson. Admission free.</p> <p>ISRAELI DANCING: Sponsored by the Jewish Student Union (JSU), Life Hall Cafeteria, 8 PM, \$.50 students, \$.75 non-students.</p> <p>WED., DEC. 6 BLOOD PRESSURE READINGS: Sponsored by Student Health Center, Student Center Lobby, 11 AM to 1 PM, first Wednesday of each month. Free.</p> <p>DISCUSSION: Sponsored by Women's Center, Life Hall 205, Women's Center, Noon, "Sexism in Comics: The Last Laugh on Women." Beverly Ruszel, student.</p> <p>MEETING: Sponsored by Psychology Club, Cafeteria C, Student Center, 4 PM, important meeting, elections being held.</p> <p>SEMINAR: Sponsored by Marketing Club/Career Services, Student Center, 2 PM, the speaker is Michael Moylan, a representative from the US Small Business Administration. Topic: New Business Formation.</p>
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editorial

The Day The MONTCLARION Stood Still

What you are reading now has been paid for by the staff and supporters of the MONTCLARION some of whom have graduated and are long gone from this campus, and most of whom did not go to sleep last night.

They were busy putting together the most important issue of the MONTCLARION in MSC's history.

Charles Sahner, SGA President, decided last night to freeze the newspaper's budget, thus making it impossible for the MONTCLARION staff to put out an issue.

But they would not have it. With their own money, giving up a night of sleep during the most hectic time of the semester, the MONTCLARION did in fact put out a newspaper.

However, the dedication and cooperation that emerged Wednesday night is not the most outstanding point of this special issue.

The question of student leadership is.

Sahner was elected by the students to serve and protect the interests of his constituency. We believe he has failed in his sworn obligations to the students of this institution.

Is it leadership when a president invests \$5,000 of student money to send the Legislature away for a weekend so that they could better understand the meaning of student government, only to silence them with bureaucratic doubletalk and "Presidential Privilege" when a situation arises that pits his decision against that of two thirds of the Legislature?

Is it leadership to halt the operation of an entire newspaper because the executives that rule wish to see if the present bookkeeping system is adequate, knowing an unofficial OK to buy and use that system from the SGATreasurer, Keith Ansbacher?

Is it leadership to deny students the right to read about the tuition increase and how it will affect them?

Is it leadership to deny the Class One organizations advertising in the paper, where they will actually lose money?

Is it leadership to cripple the newspaper's credibility with advertisers, something that is not common among college newspapers, but extremely prevalent in the MONTCLARION... until now?

Is it leadership to deny the college the privilege of boasting that the MONTCLARION's reputation, proven to be of All-American calibre in the Associated Collegiate Press rating, is for all intents and purposes now lost?

Is it leadership to use ambiguous passages in the SGA Constitution to freeze the funds of the only vehicle, aside from WMSC-FM, that gives the students the insight into their college campus?

Is it leadership to let the MONTCLARION staff lay out and paste up over 80% of the paper, do all the research for the articles, only to have an impersonal memo sent three hours before the paper is put to bed stating that the funds have been frozen?

Is it leadership to deny the All-American rating to the MONTCLARION, which, for all intents and purposes, has already been done?

But most of all, is it leadership to feel above all law, to violate some of the most sacred rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the US, that is Freedom of Speech, and Freedom of the Press?

We think not.

The mere existence of this special issue demonstrates our real concern for the future of this newspaper, and the future of student government at MSC itself.

We believe that Charles Sahner has not acted in the best interests of the students. Moreover, we believe that he has actually done injustice and harm to the students of this campus.

We believe this so strongly, that we put our own time and money into this publication.

We can only hope that someone will hear us.

SGA Antics

CHARLIE,
other people have opinions too!



and besides...
you can't have it
your way
all
the time!



If
You don't
play
MYWAY
I'll
take my
money
and
go
HOME
!



Stavella...