

Paper Loses Authorization

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State News Staff Writer

The Paper is unauthorized. Again.

What this means, nobody seems to know.

The Board of Student Publications withdrew its authorization of the weekly student newspaper late Friday afternoon.

Michael Kindman, editor, received a letter severing The Paper's link with the University Saturday morning. It contained no explanation for the action.

No representative of The Paper was present at the meeting during which the authorization--granted two months and two days previously at an executive session following a stormy public meeting--was withdrawn.

"We have no idea why authorization was withdrawn. We had no chance to present our side of the case. It's an outrage," said Kindman. "This represents a clear violation of our rights of due process and of the board's own procedures."

The board has no formal procedures. "In fact," said Frank B. Senger, board chairman, "the board has no powers of enforcement. All we're saying is that the University's authorization is withdrawn."

The board's action was taken by a voice vote, with no nays

recorded, at the end of an otherwise routine meeting of the administration-faculty-student board. Six of the 10 members were present.

Senger brought the matter up under new business.

He said board members had received phone calls criticizing

The Paper from "various and sundry individuals," including parents, faculty, President Hannah and Starr H. Keesler, assistant University secretary.

Senger, who is also chairman of the School of Journalism, said the board's decision does not deprive The Paper of its right to sell copies on campus.

"Distribution comes under the jurisdiction of the University secretary. When we authorize a publication, we send him a letter saying that we have done so. All action is then up to him," he said.

Did he think that some observers might say that the board's rapid action constituted a violation of The Paper's rights of due process?

"I suppose," he said.

"Members of the board thought that the issue of May 12 contained material that was utterly in bad taste," Senger said.

"The use of certain words on page one was bad enough, but the page three article on nudity contained the kind of material which just doesn't belong in a newspaper authorized by an educational institution.

"I think you could say that it was a combination of the article and of The Paper's shaky financial condition that caused the

board to take the action it did."

Senger said the May meeting is usually the last meeting of the school year, but it would be possible to call a special meeting to reconsider the question.

Kindman said he would reserve comment until after a staff meeting Sunday evening.

Delay of the selection of student members of the board for next year because of a lack of petitioners.

Present when the vote on The Paper was taken were:

John A. Fuzak, vice president of student affairs, and James H. Denison, assistant to the president, representing the administration.

Robert L. Ebel, professor of counseling personnel services, and Robert W. Summitt, professor of metallurgy, mechanics and materials science, representing the faculty.

Arthur C. Tung, Midland sophomore, representing the students.

Absent were: Philip J. May, University treasurer; Anne C. Garrison, associate professor of business, law, insurance and office administration; and Dirck G. Terwilliger, Lansing sophomore.

Beverly L. Hall, Jackson junior, was present when the meeting started at 3 p.m. but left at 5:15, before the matter of The Paper came up.