

Schoolcraft Reinstates Six Teachers

The air of secrecy and silence surrounding the dismissal of six probationary instructors at Schoolcraft College was shattered Monday with a brief three-paragraph statement from Howard Kahn, assistant to President Dr. Eric Bradner, who also has the duties of public relations director, that the Administration has agreed to offer probationary contracts to the six for the 1968-69 academic year.

The brief announcement ends what threatened an open stage to break into revolt against the Administration's policies of evaluation abilities of members of the faculty.

It also put an end to threats from the Faculty Forum, the group representing the faculty in negotiations and grievances, for a complete investigation of the dismissals and a public hearing before the Board of Trustees.

Although the announcement indicates the agreement was reached in an open assembly by a mutual show of faith by both the Administration and the Faculty, it has all the earmarks of a decisive victory for the Faculty.

THE DISMISSED instructors received notice of the action by registered mail one day after Dr. Bradner had informed the Trustees in the regular second meeting of January that contracts would not be offered for the next academic year to six probationary teachers.

The policies of the Board are that personnel problems are entirely in the hands of the Administration and the announcement was accepted as a decision of the Administration.

The announcement from the desk of Kahn, which contains no signatures either from the Faculty Forum or the Administration, reads:

"With the interests of the College uppermost in mind, the Faculty and the Administration of Schoolcraft College have pledged, by a mutual show of faith expressed in open assembly, to work together at all levels for a speedy and satisfactory resolution of differences.

"Specifically in the instance of six probationary instructors who were notified their contracts would not be renewed, the Faculty has agreed to withdraw all prior demands it has made to the Administration for a remedy and the Administration has agreed to offer probationary contracts to the six instructors for the 1968-69 academic year.

"The Faculty and Administration further have agreed that, to demonstrate a mutual dedication to the principles and purpose of the College, this statement be prepared and issued as a joint expression of faith and respect of one toward the other."

ALTHOUGH the statement specifically states "by a mutual show of faith expressed in open assembly," the meeting between the two groups was held on Thursday, Feb. 22, without a public announcement. No word of the planned meeting or the results were made available to the public or the press.

The matter did not come up for discussion at the regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting last Wednesday although it reportedly was brought to the attention of the Trustees at a study session held one hour in advance of the 8 p.m. meeting.

The study sessions are open to the public but are in the nature of a committee-of-the-whole meeting during which no official actions may be taken. Anthony Rizzo, chairman of the Faculty Forum negotiation committee, was asked specifically after the Board meeting if there had been any steps taken in regard to the dismissals but refused comment other than that there would be a statement forthcoming within a day or so. He did not mention the "open assembly" agreement.

Kahn, who sits at the press table with reporters during the Board meetings, also was questioned about the situation but refused to comment.

The big question "now is whether any or all of the six instructors will accept the probationary contracts following the turmoil that developed after the initial announcement of the dismissals.

Of the six, one was on a third probationary contract, three were in the second year and two serving their first year.

The agreement between the Administration and the Faculty appears to have smoothed over a situation that was a bit ticklish for a few days after the original announcement of the firings.

Representatives of the student body, including members of the Student Council, were asked for permission and were given approval to attend a closed meeting of the Faculty Forum on the day following the announcement.

Apparently aroused by what they heard, they formed a student investigation committee

and pressed The Observer to express their views.

This meeting was held in the Plymouth offices of the Observer Newspapers with Schoolcraft Board Chairman Harold Fischer and Vice Chairman Mrs. James M. Moore attending in the role of listeners

and not in an official capacity.

AT THAT TIME the student group indicated they would ask for a public hearing before the Trustees to air the situation, claiming the student body thought summary dismissals of this type would lower

the quality of education at the college.

The Board was unable to get a quorum for such a meeting and indicated the matter should be taken up at the first regular meeting in February.

In the meantime, the Administrators arranged a meeting with the students and explain-

ed their side of the matter to the satisfaction of the group.

This meeting was preceded by one between department heads and the Administration at which several matters were ironed out. These included among others, according to reports, a definition of eval-

uation of teachers and the part of each department head in the final findings. Something that apparently hadn't been clearly outlined.

The situation was still far from healthy until the release of the joint statement, but now appears to be under control.

OBSERVER

Second Front Page

Nab Girl 13, Boy Friend 20, In Twin Murder

A 13-YEAR-OLD GIRL and her 20-year-old boy friend were seized near LaPorte, Ind., Saturday and charged with the execution-type slaying of two gas station attendants in an all-night service station in Walker, Mich. In custody are Sandra Groache and Charles Martin both of Grand Rapids. They were arrested on the Indiana Toll Road at 4 a.m. about three hours after the two attendants, Gerald McGort, 59, and Jack McCort, 17, were found fatally shot by another motorist who had stopped to get gas.

THE UNITED AUTO WORKERS demanded Saturday a special convention of the AFL-CIO and threatened to pull out of the Federation if the request was refused. The demand—which is a result of the feud between Walter Reuther, UAW president, and George Meany, AFL-CIO president—was sent in a letter to Meany calling for a special convention in December for a showdown on its proposals for revitalizing the American labor movement.

REMOVAL OF A STATE ban on teaching birth control in the public schools and easing of qualifications for those teaching sex education are recommended by a state education department

State And Local

report. The state board of education has delayed action on the recommendations until its March 12-13 meeting. The report urges that state laws be liberalized to permit persons other than physicians, nurses or other trained specialists to teach sex education in the schools.

TWO ARMED BANDITS, their faces masked with ski hoods, broke into a home in Detroit, and forced the owner to give them \$6,000 Monday. Ron Reynolds told police that he and his wife were sitting in the front room when the two men broke in. He said he gave them three \$1,000 bills and about \$3,000 in twenties and hundreds.

DIRECTORS OF THE YPSILANTI Greek Theatre expect to tell soon whether fund raising efforts will continue toward reestablishing such a theatre. Meeting at monthly review of the fund raising campaign, the directors reportedly voted to end the fund drive but released no information on the vote.

THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC Service Commission has approved a five per cent increase in Greyhound Bus Line fares within the state, effective March 1. The increase was made to compensate for rising costs, a spokesman for the MPSC said. The commission also announced approval of a \$125,000 borrowing by Morenci Home Telephone Co. to allow the firm to provide direct dialing and expanded facilities in Morenci.

THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION reported that the number of students in Michigan colleges and universities has increased more than 76 per cent in the past five years. Community college enrollments will grow the fastest, and these institutions in particular need added aid, the board said.

APPOINTMENT OF THE FIRST seven-member state board of marriage counselors was announced last Friday by acting Gov. William Milliken. The board, made up of one person each from the divinity, legal and medical professions and four marriage counselors, will operate within the department of licensing and regulation.

SEVEN CHILDREN in two families died Friday in a fire which destroyed a farm home on M-55 about 10 miles southeast of Lake City, Mich. The mothers and two other children escaped. Killed in the fire were Danny, Susan and Rex Snyder, aged five to seven, and Debra, Tammy and Mike Hall, aged two to six. They were cousins.

Michigan Calendar Lists Festivals

More than 200 spring and summer Michigan community events are previewed in the March-September edition of the Michigan Calendar of Events, just issued by the Michigan Tourist Council.

Sault-St. Marie events are highlighted, as the nation's third oldest city celebrates its 300th anniversary this summer. Although the actual celebration will not be held until August 14-24, several other events will help commemorate the tercentenary.

The re-enactment of Father Marquette's arrival at the Soo will be staged May 19. Other related events include Etienne Brule Day, June 5; Dedication of the new Poe Lock, June 15; International Days, July 1-4; and Dedication of the Shrine of the Missionaries, July 14.

A proposed state law to allow public funds to reimburse parents of children in private parochial schools has met head-on opposition from the Michigan Association of School Boards, which represents virtually all public schools in the state.

If passed, the bill would result in "the end of public education as we know it today in America," said the board's executive director, Julius Barbour in a prepared statement. The bill would grant up to \$150 for children enrolled in non-public schools with the estimated cost on a state level pegged at \$21 million a year.

"We do not want to digress to a dual system like our neighbors in Canada or the home of our forefathers in Europe," the board's administrator said. "We object to the efforts of private school pupils," he continued.

"We further doubt that this small amount of the present day tuition to a private school is even destined by most of the private school patrons.

"Can anyone deny that this would be a diversion, in the face of surety, that each recipient would be obliged to turn the money over to a private school in one form or another?" Barbour asked.

Lindner Heads Schoolcraft Negotiators

Acting on a recommendation of President Dr. Eric Bradner, the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Kenneth Lindner, vice president in charge of business affairs, to head the administration negotiation teams dealing with the faculty, business and custodial employees.

Lindner replaces Executive Vice President John Brinn on the team working with the Faculty Forum. Other members are: Fred Stefanski, director of the night college; and Dean of Students Edward McNally. Brinn and Dr. Bradner will serve as advisory members.

The team negotiating with the business staff is headed by Lindner and includes: Howard Kahn, assistant to the president; and Stefanski.

That dealing with the custodial staff includes: Lindner, as chairman, Stefanski and Dale Bertin, building superintendent who also has charge of maintenance.

College Takes Steps To Halt Campus Thefts

With a total of 94 reported thefts in the 183 days since the start of classes last August, the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees Wednesday gave Kenneth Lindner, vice president in charge of business, permission to hire an additional security officer until the end of the college year.

Lindner told the trustees the thefts were about equally divided between day and night classes, some taking place in the parking lots and some in the college buildings.

The Student Council took action two weeks ago to try to halt the robberies by hiring three student security officers. This did have some effect but since the students do not have police authority, Lindner asked for and received permission for the additional officer.

He pointed out the college had been short one man since mid-January when an officer was dismissed.

"We must have an additional officer on the campus with authority if we hope to check these thefts," he said.

The trustees agreed since they gave him permission to add the officer at a cost of no more than \$3,000 for the balance of the college year.

Aid To Non-Public Schools Opposed By State Boards

The school board association objects to the bill because it also gives public funds to "school systems set up by dissidents."

"Some wish to dissent from the laws under which public

acts dedicated to segregation as to political beliefs."

"We believe it true that if one religious group—or more

for that matter—is to receive public funds to operate their schools, each church not only would have the same right, but by way of self-preservation

would be forced to establish a system of their own. The result would be the end of public education as we know it today in America."



SO WHAT'S NEW? Three members of the Detroit Tigers, who make their homes in Observerland, catch up on what's going on "with the folks back home" as they read the Observer at

the Tigers' training camp at Lakeland, Fla. From the left: Pitchers Joe Spina and Dennis McLain and outfielder Mickey Stanley.

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