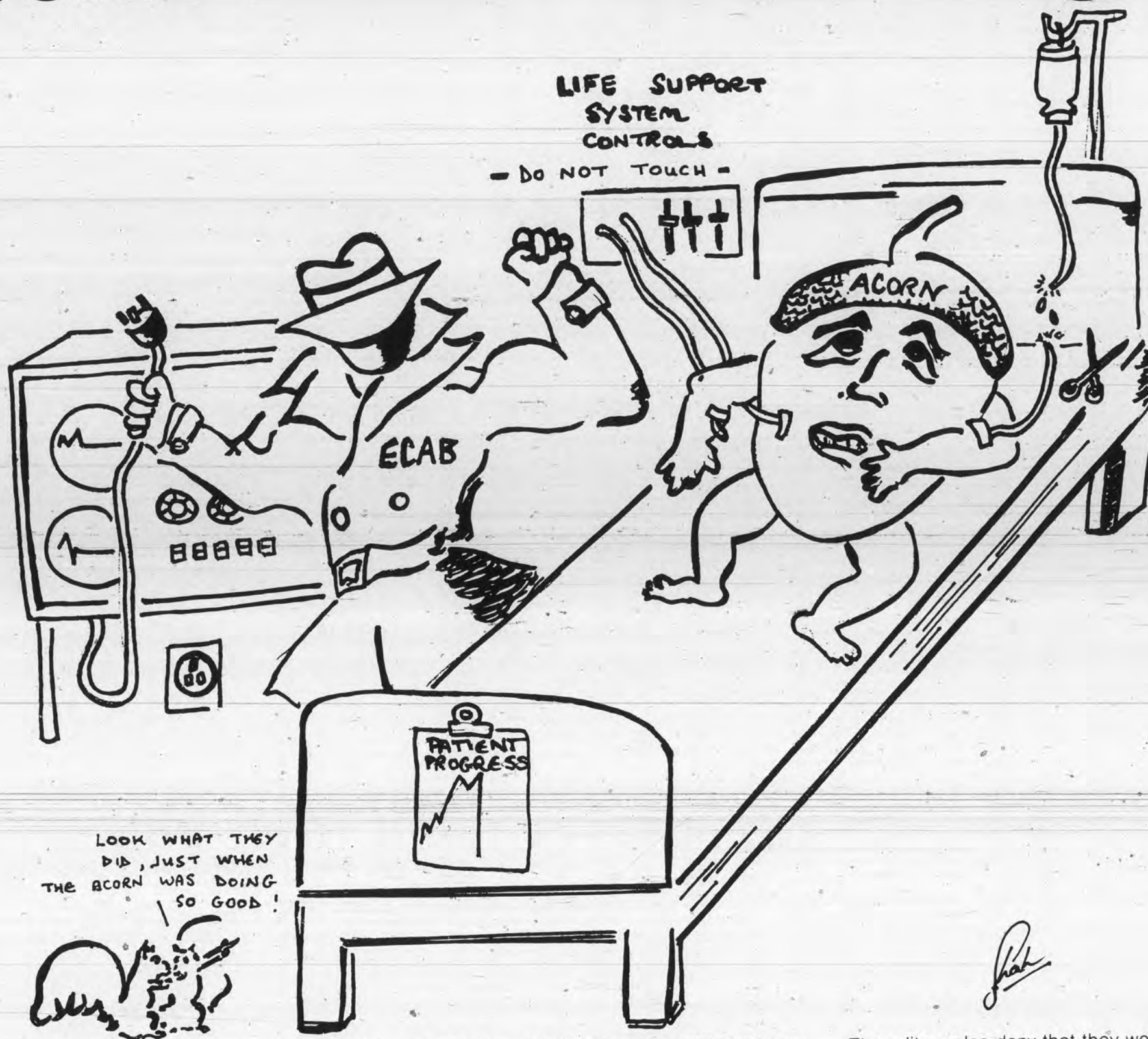


# The Acorn

Drew University  
Volume ~~LIV~~<sup>LVI</sup> No.6

Madison N.J. 07940  
October 29, 1982

## ECAB Freezes Acorn Budget



**T**HE Extra Classroom Activities Board voted Thursday night to freeze the *Acorn* budget for failure to obtain the necessary initials on four checks issued this semester. The loss of funding will severely hamper the publication of the newspaper.

According to ECAB policy adopted last spring, clubs who handed in late budgets would have to have all checks initialed by designated members of the ECAB as a disciplinary action. The *Acorn* submitted their proposed 1982-83 budget one week late, and as a result Communications Board Chair, Alan Ruchlin, must initial all *Acorn* checks. Rugby and Ski clubs must also comply with this rule.

The designated ECAB member has no fiscal say in the club's policies, but the measure was instituted as "just stong enough so that next time they'd be on time," according to ECAB Chair Sheila Ozalis.

Three of the checks in question were handled

by a new *Acorn* staff member who "did not know of last year's decision," but said the policy "was never inforced at Shawn Rozett's office."

Club checks must be signed by a club member, Student Activities Coordinator, Shawn Rozett, and the business office. The checks went through the proper channels, but no resistance was met.

The *Acorn* was subpoenaed to appear before the ECAB at 5pm on Thursday. Their case was heard at 6pm, and the paper was informed of the decision at 6:30pm, during the production of the Friday paper.

According to Co-editor Michael Steinlauf and other *Acorn* staff members, the "penalty was excessive considering the nature of the infraction." The editors feel that freezing the budget was entirely too harsh a measure, especially since the checks were financially sound and justified. The paper was told on Wednesday by the ECAB Oversight Committee that their books were "perfect," according to Steinlauf.

The editors also deny that they were warned that the budget would be frozen if they violated probation, although Ozalis claims "we told the *Acorn* in the spring that this would happen if they did not comply."

Co-editor, Lisa Spitz, who was also co-editor last spring, said she was "not even officially informed that the late budget would place us on probation." Steinlauf also claims that he sent Ozalis a formal request at the start of the semester asking for an appeal of probation, but it was never answered. He also said Ozalis denied receiving the note.

The censuring of the newspaper's university funds will affect the publication of the newspapers until after Thanksgiving, the length of the temporary freeze.

After Thanksgiving, the paper is scheduled to publish one issue.

Hyera also had their budget frozen, for over-expenditure of funds.



# The Acorn

A weekly newspaper presented as a service for the Drew University community by the students of the College of Liberal Arts.

## Acorn Solidarity

**E**VEN the most casual reader of the *Acorn* will no doubt notice the considerable change in the size, coverage, and content of this week's edition. For this we, the Editors of the *Acorn*, offer our sincere apology to the entire university community. The incidents leading to the present situation are fully elaborated on the front page, and there is no reason for reiteration here.

According to present E.C.A.B. regulations concerning "clubs on probation", the *Acorn* did indeed fail to follow proper protocol for the issuing of a student activities check. This infraction was not intentional and resulted from the inexperience of a member of the staff with the procedures necessary for a club on probation to issue a check. It must be stressed that the expenditures made were legitimate, and it was merely a failure to obtain a signature from the Com-Board Chairman, Alan Ruchlin prior to processing these checks that resulted in full censure and temporary removal of funding by the E.C.A.B. Furthermore, it should be noted that following a complete audit of the *Acorn's* ledgers last Wednesday by the Oversight Sub-committee of the E.C.A.B., the board pronounced that the *Acorn's* books were "perfect" (Sheila Ozalis, E.C.A.B. Chairperson).

Although an infraction of E.C.A.B. regulations was made, it is difficult to justify the punishment by the nature of the "crime". One must certainly question whether or not the contribution made by the *Acorn* to the university necessitates consideration of the affect it's prolonged absence will have on the community as a whole. In fact, can a university function without its weekly dose of information, for if there is no student newspaper, where will that information come from?

While violations of the rules should not go unpunished, and no student organization is above censure by the E.C.A.B., the decision to eliminate the *Acorn* from the campus by "freezing" the money which pays for publication seems an excessive measure. Effectively, the recent E.C.A.B. ruling prevents the publication of a newspaper on any basis for the remainder of the semester.

The Executive Board of the *Acorn* has decided that the obligation to provide a service to the university community outweighs the financial obstacles which removal of funding creates. However, the cost of producing the quality of newspaper that has appeared this semester cannot be met without the subsidy provided by student activities funds. The *Acorn* staff will endeavor



to produce a weekly newspaper in some form for the remainder of the semester; however it is impossible to raise the amount of money required to produce the kind of paper the community has become accustomed to reading each week.

Every member of the community has a right to information about his/her university. The only way for the students to get that information is through the campus newspaper. The recent E.C.A.B. ruling prevents the *Acorn* from performing that most necessary role for many weeks. Although we did make a mistake, there was no malice intended, and we hope that the campus will understand that we are students, and are certainly not perfect. We are trying to produce the best paper we possibly can, and it is our sincere wish that we will be able to continue to publish and improve the paper.

**We would like to know how the students, faculty and administrators feel: Should the Acorn continue publishing weekly. . . or should it disappear for this semester?**

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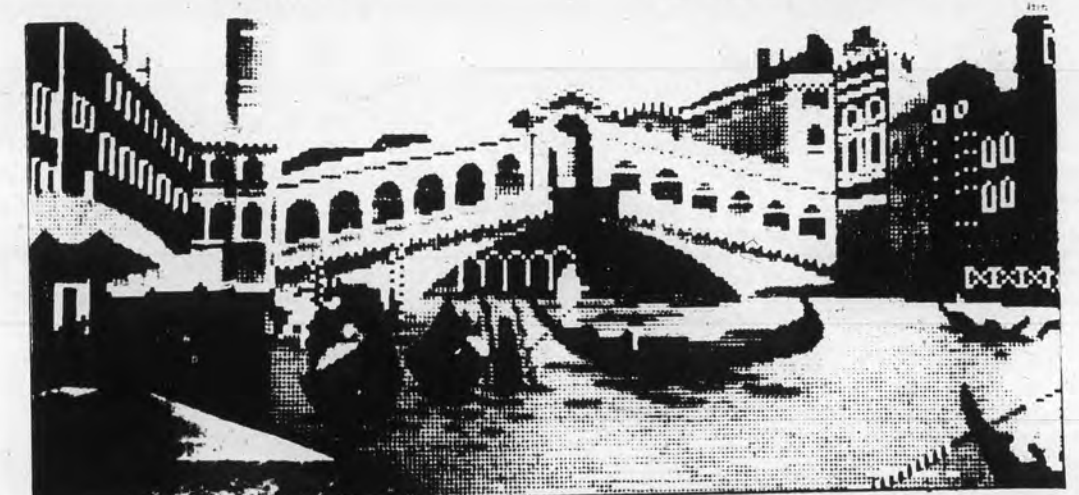
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