

Nishnawbe News Could Shut Down

by Joe Murphy
Staff Writer

The Nishnawbe News, the only full-sized Indian newspaper in the Great Lakes region, may be forced to shut down early next year because of the recent budget cuts announced by President Jamrich.

The paper, with a circulation of about 4,000, had \$2,700 axed from its may be on the way out, as reduce university spending by \$500,000 before June 31, 1981. In addition, more cuts are expected in January, the paper's 10th anniversary, which may "wipe out" the News, according to Director of Indian Affairs Nancie Hatch.

To help offset the fifty percent cut, more advertising revenues, subscriptions, and donations are being sought, and the three member staff is now working voluntarily. Within the past year, a total of \$3,000 in grants has been received from the British-

based Onaway Trust Foundation, but this "may make a difference of only one more issue" said Jeff Dickinson, editor of the quarterly published newspaper.

Also, President Jamrich; who Hatch said "has done more for the Indians here at Northern than anyone in the Midwestern area," is presently looking into the possibility of office space that could be provided rent-free. The \$3,000 yearly rent now being paid for their University Center office is considered their biggest headache.

The paper focuses on Indian news, art, poetry, and short stories, and it benefits the 140 Indian students enrolled at Northern because it allows them a means to identify themselves with the American Indian community, which is the largest minority group in the U.P.

It has proven to be so well known that every Indian official to visit Northern in

the past ten years has been familiar with, and approved of, the paper, according to James Carter, News Bureau Director of NMU.

According to Carter, the loss of the Nishnawbe News would be a "tragedy and a very short-sighted measure for the entire American Indian community."

Carter helped the students plan the paper when it was established in January of 1971 and thought only to be a local publication. It has become a "stable and long-lived" project which is now sent to all the government Indian offices and to many libraries and institutions across the country and in Europe, Carter said.

One reason the paper may be on the way out, as seen by Pattie Dyer, a staff member of the news, is because the large majority of NMU students aren't affected by Indian affairs. "We don't get fair media coverage," she said.

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