

Thomas' return still in doubt

By Thacker
Print

ough the Board of Educa-
passed an earlier decision
te the employment of
Thomas, there is still
doubt as to whether he will
the College next year.

ween January, when I was
being terminated, and
ch, when I received a
structing me to disregard
mination notice, I was
employment elsewhere,"
Thomas, chairperson of law
rent, fire science and gra-
"I received a couple of
and haven't made a deci-
them yet."

Thomas' termination was re-
ged due to pressure from
w enforcement agencies
students enrolled in his
according to several board

Thomas had lots of support
the public and students,"
Groener, board membe-
the sheriff's department
ice chiefs in the area
if he'd gone, they would
withdrawn their support
the program which means
ould have been no police
program."

original reason for Tho-
mination was decline in
ent in the police science
ent of approximately 50
of that in 1976-77.

ording to Lyle Reese, di-
chairman of business edu-
and public service and
ed immediate supervisor,
did not seem to be a need
instructors in the police
science departments and,
Thomas did not have se-
over Earl Zinck, the oth-
ructor, Thomas' employ-
was terminated.

major changes recently
ed to the board and admi-
have made it possible
Thomas to remain in his pre-
servation if he wishes to.

first is a promise by lo-
w enforcement agencies to
necessary enrollment
by requiring their people
workshops designed for
working in the law en-
ment field.

have received requests
local police chiefs to pro-
more services that they
such as three-day workshops
officer training,"
Kaiser, dean of in-
at the College.

workshops would be
stead of ongoing classes
currently scheduled, ac-
to board member Anne
"Durwood would have to
are that these classes are
those already employed,"

other change is a transfer
to another area of in-
ck will probably go into
ive Work Experience,"

said Reese. "He's had experience
in that field in the past and it is
understaffed now."

Zinck had mentioned his de-
sire to transfer in the past but no
action was taken until he sent in
a written request, Reese said.

The written request was re-
ceived and approved by Reese,
Kaiser and John Hakanson, col-
lege president, on the day the
board met (March 8), according
to Reese, and created a vacancy
in the police and fire science de-
partment.

This development left the
board open to rescind its earlier
decision and returned Thomas to
his original contract status.

Now the only question that
remains is whether or not Thom-
as will accept a new contract
and return next year.

"We assume he will be stay-
ing," Reese said. "There are no
reasons that I know of for him
not to. However, it is his decision
and as far as this institution is
concerned, we can't force any-
one to stay."

"If he does decide to go on,
the position will be opened to ap-
licants and if the local law en-
forcement agencies withdraw their
support, I suppose the program
will suffer."

"One thing for certain, though,
if he does go, Zinck will not be
transferred back into that area.
His transfer is permanent."

Although the question of lo-
cal support of the law enforce-
ment program will have an effect
on Thomas' decision, according
to him, the ultimate decisions
have to be his career and family.

"I feel pleased with the rein-
statement and wish to thank the
law enforcement and fire commu-
nity who were concerned and
made their feelings known and
also the concerned students. I
feel this concern and feeling must
be earned by both words and
actions."



Loose tiles illustrate rotting floor conditions in outmoded science buildings. Passage of budget levy on April 4 will provide funds for new

badly needed facilities. For more information about past, present and future building conditions see the special section on pages 5 to 8.

Photo by Lorraine Stratton

Football finished; board refuses to reconsider

Community members who
hoped that the College's foot-
ball program would be reinstated
were disappointed at the Board
of Education's March decision
not to reconsider its earlier de-
cision to abolish the program.

Last December in response to
community feeling against the
high number of out-of-district
players on the team and the high
incidence of football players not
finishing the academic year once
the football season was over,
the board voted to abolish the
program.

At that time there was also

speculation that the move was
purely political and that football
had been abolished because vot-
ers who were against the pro-
gram were active in defeating
budget elections.

"The decision was partly a
political move," said Gary Cor-
nelius, a board member. "We
felt that people were voting
against the College because they
didn't like football so we got rid
of football."

This opinion seemed confirm-
ed by the board's decision not
to reconsider its December de-
cision.

After listening to a proposal
by Chuck Hudson, athletic dir-
ector, and Len Monroe, dean of
student services, that would have
called for more in-district recruit-
ment and keeping a closer watch
on athletes' academic progress,
the board voted four to three
not to reconsider.

"There was no overwhelming
evidence by the community that
they needed football," said board
member Anne Nickel, "and since
we'd already addressed it once,
I didn't feel that we needed to
address it again."

According to Cornelius, the

board felt that the question had
been studied enough and they
needed to stick by their previous
decision.

There was some speculation
that a reconsideration of this
issue would be damaging to the
credibility of the board and that
pressure groups would feel that
any decision of the board's was
open for reconsideration.

Not all the board members
were happy with either the origi-
nal decision or the decision not
to look into the matter again.

"I did dislike the way the

(continued on page 2)

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