

~~Acting editor~~ and two staff quit Express

THE acting chief editor of Hong Kong's eight-month-old English-language newspaper, the *Eastern Express*, and at least two of his senior editorial staff have quit, their colleagues say.

The trio reportedly resigned after the sacking of another senior staffer and rumours were rife of more resignations.

Jon Marsh, who had taken charge after the departure last month of fellow Briton Stephen Vines, left with news editor Mark McSherry and *Weekend* magazine editor Steve Proctor, an *Eastern Express* journalist said.

Their departure followed the dismissal of production editor Ewen Campbell, who had been acting as Mr Marsh's de facto deputy. "Ewen was fired," a staff member said. "The others quit in protest."

Political editor Chip Tsao, who was badly injured in a car crash in which an *Eastern Express* sub-editor died, had been asked to stand in for Mr Marsh.

Mr Vines, hired to launch the paper, said earlier he would sue the publishers, the Oriental Press Group Ltd (OPG), for breach of contract.

OPG has denied Mr Vines was dismissed. It said one of its subsidiaries had terminated a management agreement with a company that provided Mr Vines's services, although a spokesperson admitted the effect was the same.

OPG also publishes the *Oriental Daily*. — Reuter