

McGill's own Watergate

MONTREAL (CUP) — "McGill's own Watergate" as one professor described the recent industrial centre controversy at McGill, appears to be entering the "cover-up" phase.

Ever since the McGill Daily disclosed last month that funds for a proposed "Centre for the Study of Regulated Industry" had been accepted illegally by the McGill Development Program, McGill administrators have made every attempt to withhold information about the centre.

The Daily found that at a private meeting with principal Robert Bell, early last year, Jean de Grandpre, president of Bell Telephone and a member of McGill's Board of Governors, offered to gather \$700,000 from various corporations if it was used "exclusively" for the establishment of the proposed centre.

Bell apparently accepted the offer later explaining "if someone offers you money like that you should accept it on the spot."

Subsequently, a \$750,000 pledge was made by three multinational corporations, Bell Telephone, Northern Electric, and Canadian Pacific, "on the understanding" that it would be earmarked for the centre, even though the project has not been approved by the McGill Senate or the required academic faculties.

Administrators have admitted that the first installment of \$250,000 has already been cashed "but not accepted" in the words of Walter Hirschfeld, dean of Graduate Studies and Research.

These dealings between the administration and

corporations caused an uproar among many academics. One called it "an illegal scheme initiated by administration and corporate heads" and another said it was a "sordid affair which may put the kiss of death on the concept of an open university."

The Faculty of Arts passed a resolution last January which called for a review of "the circumstances surrounding the funding and academic preparation of the proposed centre." However, Senate deferred the resolution four times at its fortnightly meetings.

At its latest meeting, (March 12) Bell said "this is the most misrepresented matter I've ever seen." He added that he "does not believe it to be an urgent matter," but assured that it would have high priority at the next meeting, which comes one day before the Daily ends publication.

Meanwhile, vice-principal of planning, Dale

Thompson, refused to release a copy of a proposal of the centre drawn up by a member of the management faculty, even though he admits the document is "in the public domain." The proposal outlines some of the areas of research the centre would study if it is approved by Senate.

The proposal's author, professor Walter Balke, has said that the purpose of the centre would be to study how to "establish a rational mode of relationship between government and industry" and insists the centre would be "an independent body equipped with all the safeguards against interference from industry."

Opponents of the whole concept of the university carrying out research for industry, say the institute's function will probably be "to provide information salient to maintaining profit margins, tax exemptions, and ensuring the survival of those industries as private

corporations under pressure for greater government control."

Balke's proposal is presently being considered by a special sub-committee made up of faculty members and the administration. No results have yet come out of those meetings.

McGill administrators have consistently attempted to down play the questionable circumstances surrounding the proposed centre, while at the same time they have made it almost impossible to obtain documents about the matter.

Thompson has admitted the funds should not have been accepted in the manner they were, but attributes this to the fact that C.F. Harrington, chairman of the McGill Development Program, "stepped ahead of himself" in accepting the money. Harrington has refused to speak to the Daily since the first disclosures were made.

Representatives from the three corporations involved have also remained mute on the question, preferring to let the administration sort it out. A representative from Northern Electric, however, said he saw "nothing wrong" with the administration accepting the money.

"Every university accepts contributions for projects that have not previously been approved by Senate," he said.

The corporations have indicated that if the centre is not approved by Senate, "the administration will have to come back and renegotiate the whole thing." Bell has said that if it is not approved, "we'll send the contributions back to them."

The whole issue of the centre is not yet on a Senate agenda, but Thompson is expected to present the administration's case at the next Senate meeting, when the arts faculty resolution will finally be considered.

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pulled out their goalie, Gwen Cromwell, to give them an added man advantage on offense, but could not catch the UNB powerhouse, ending the game in a 5-6 decision for UNB.

Dal - M. Richardson 2, L. Ness 1, C.Powell 1. A. Quinn 1 - 5.

The Tigerettes have a major tournament slated for April 19th and have a possible match against Boston College in the next two weeks. This varsity team has been working very hard under coach Bob Towner, so come out and give these athletes some support!

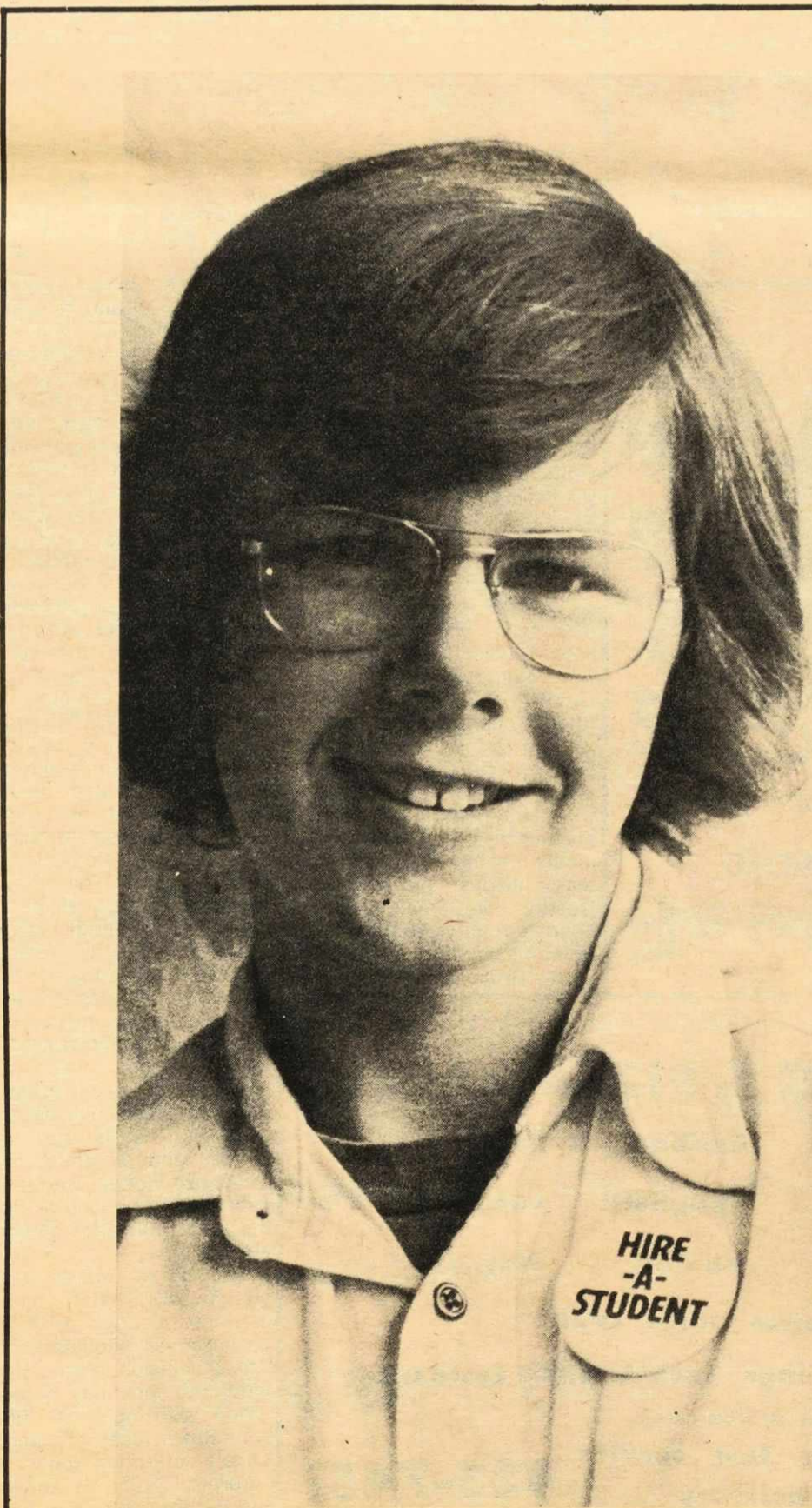
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Bruce Hard, Doug Stout, Jim Murphy, Bob Morrison, Lenord Finney, Ken Finney, David Paton and all the others, even though I was not a part of the decision. The shock of this thoughtless act by all involved will remain with me for along time.

I am only thankful the entry was small.

Thank you for airing my feelings.

**In motorsport ..
Brian Miller**



MAKE SOMETHING THIS SUMMER.

Make a pyramid of cans in a supermarket. Make something grow. Make a meatball sandwich. Make your mark on the business world. Make a pair of blue jeans. Make a long lawn short. Make a dirty dish clean. Make a big satisfying hole in a road. Make the road smooth again. Make a massive machine go. Make some files neat. Make a building.

Make a fool of yourself asking questions and learning things. Make your boss happy. Make money.

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