

**PRESIDENT MIKE GARDNER
AND VICE-PRESIDENT
LAURIE MURCHISON WERE
INTERVIEWED BY THE
GAZETTE ON MARCH 4**

SOMETHING NEW

GAZETTE: What problems do you think will result from the fact that you ran on separate tickets?

LAURIE: It seems that we're going to get along very well, as far as I can see it. We had a little talk about it yesterday. It seems that, despite our slight differences during the campaign, we seem to want the same things now that we're in office. There's nothing more to add, except that we think we are going to work together. In fact, I'm pretty sure that we will work out all right as a team. We saw what happened last year when a ticket got elected. Things didn't seem to work too well. We'll do a little better, hopefully.

GAZETTE: What are your first impressions of the burdens of office?

LAURIE: I've been approached by Joan MacKeigan, Mike Bowser and numerous other people giving me tremendous amounts of advice on what to do and what not to do. From the way it would appear to them, I have so much work to do this year that it's not funny. I imagine I'll be all right, though I know that the workload's going to be pretty heavy, I knew that before I got into the whole thing.

MIKE: My biggest problem has been where to have the patronage line form, on the right or the left.

LAURIE: It's a little early for that kind of question. We haven't had a Council meeting yet. Ask me Tuesday morning.

MIKE: Getting a key to my office was a problem. Nobody seemed to want us in here.

GAZETTE: What are your plans for the immediate future?

MIKE: The very first thing — I don't say we, in fact, I did this. I'm totally responsible for the little unilateral activity in the Council chambers. I found the whole set-up in there rather oppressive, so I just rearranged the furniture. I put the black chairs away moved them up against the wall, moved the table down, and put orange chairs around it.

Every one of us has one vote while we are in the chambers. Ideally, we should have a round table. The set-up there was sort of elitist. It separated the executive from Council. And, while that may be all well and good any other time of day, when there's a meeting it should be as a body that is not officially separated.

Assuming there's supposed to be collective decisions by the representatives, the Council set-up, for starters, was just abominable.

I'd like to jump in with two feet on the way the building is run. There's inconsistency right now with policy, getting the Campus Police reorganized and getting policy established.

LAURIE: The first thing I'm going to do, or try to do is for Tuesday night. I've been talking to the secretary, Bev Meyers and I've gotten copies of the constitution printed up so that everybody on Council will have one. Basically, what we're going to try to do is make Council members aware of their

of view. That's going to have to come before Council and be hashed out.

LAURIE: Incidentally, that's one of the things that came up in our discussion yesterday, and I agree that this thing has to be settled.

MIKE: There's a constitutional change there. Then there's clearing up this business about the Judicial Committee and the Treasury Board.

GAZETTE: Did the two of you come up with any joint plans for solving the GAZETTE that you're going to present or that you think should be followed?

LAURIE: Well, we did discuss the matter and we have

GAZETTE: What do you hope to have accomplished by March 1, 1974?

LAURIE: I think that what we hope to accomplish by 1974 is that this Student Union will be run by the students, of the students and for the students. That's what we both got in here on. It will be more than a building. That's basically what we want to do, get the running of this thing back into the hands of the students, and have it run in an efficient manner so that the students can better utilize the activities that are offered here in the Student Union Building.

MIKE: Basically, inject a bit of imagination into, say, entertainment. That's moving into

some cases, simply because of the type of student administrations we have had in here in the past. They have some very legitimate arguments.

But, if alternatives are presented, and they are not taken advantage of, then I think that those arguments are roughly similar to those brought up by your rich South End lawyer or doctor who is pissed off because he has to pay taxes to support some swimming pool or community center in the North End. It just doesn't make too much sense. It's a very conservative argument and selfish.

GAZETTE: What are your specific plans and ideas? You're speaking in great generalities at the moment.

MIKE: First of all, one of the biggest arguments presented by Law students, Med students and probably grad students, too, for that matter, is that the Union right now is the building, and that there's nothing in the building in the way of entertainment that is just slightly more appealing, facilities that aren't available, when perhaps there could be. There are reasonable arguments for their point of view. But, I think that the Law Society, Med Society, and so on, are just as much at fault for not having stronger associations willing to participate in the basic physical facilities that are available, as far as offices are concerned: the McInnes Room, Grawood Lounge and so on.

As a matter of fact, faculty associations are getting stronger and saying we want this, we want this, we want that. And, it's a matter of these associations going back and getting feedback from their own students, and channelling it here. You know, the building is here. It's here for everybody.

LAURIE: I can't blame the various groups for being disgusted and pissed off with the situation in the SUB because half the time they can't use the facilities that are available to them because someone else is using them.

MIKE: That's a matter of planning.

LAURIE: That can change and hopefully it will change, very quickly.

MIKE: I think it's a matter of laziness, too, as far as most students are concerned. They're not willing to take advantage of what there is, for instance, participating in the newspaper. Most students complain, complain, complain because the newspaper doesn't say what they want it to say, doesn't say what they like to hear.

And, very few are willing to actually submit an article because, "Oh yeah, I couldn't do that." Well Christ, you're arguments are useless if you're not willing to do something about it. I think it's so much idle chatter.



responsibilities immediately.

Another big problem that we have to face is to get the Applications Committee rolling. That will probably be one of the first things we will do. We'll try to do a good job there. It all has to be done by the 15th of the month. The biggest thing is to stir up an interest in Council, get them interested in jobs is the big thing, as it appears right now. Then, from there, we can start to do the work.

MIKE: As far as other than administrative problems, setting up committees, setting up this, calling for applications for Treasurer, SUB Affairs Secretary, Communications, Chairman, all these various positions, there's the matter of constitutional changes that are necessary for the paper. Right now I think that the Gazette issue hasn't been settled. Period. But, then again, that's my own opinion, my own point

a few ideas, but we'd rather not discuss them right now. It's not that they're earth-shaking or anything like that. We think that they're pretty good ideas, basically, that we have, and we want to present them to Council. We're not the decision-makers in this university or student body. We're representatives of the student body and we'll see what they think of us.

MIKE: Those are the things I can see right now that are left over from the previous regime.

LAURIE: There seems to have been quite a bit of constitutional change last year, but the constitution, as it is written, hasn't changed. I think the committee on the constitution last year was pretty inactive.

MIKE: I don't know how inactive they were. They were fairly active, but I don't think too much was acted upon by the Council.

LAURIE: True.

the building, but our whole philosophy during the campaign was to get the Union far more involved with activities outside the building within the university, and also in the community, the larger community. There are all sorts of ways to accomplish this. By 1974 this is what I want to see — a hell of a lot more interest by the community in the university and vice versa.

LAURIE: This university is large, and divided into different bodies. The residences are apart from everything else, Fenwick Towers is apart from everything else, Medicine is apart, Law is apart, everything is separated. What we're trying to do is bring it all together, before it loses whatever identity it still has. Improve personal relations with the important bodies, and there are no unimportant bodies on this campus. The first thing is to bring them all together.

MIKE: I could extend that argument by pointing out that there are movements, like the one in the Law School, to get the Law Society, the law students, out of the Union. Medicine isn't quite as political, I don't think, although they are becoming dissatisfied with the lack of interest in their problems, in

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