

After months of university politics the McGill Daily begins to publish

MONTREAL (CUP) — The McGill Daily finally has an editor.

After more than six months of bitter in-fighting, the student council appointed Mark Starowicz in a five-hour meeting held Wednesday.

But it wasn't even that easy.

The six-month basketball game saw a blue ribbon selection committee nomination, council refused to accept that nomination, a five-month rupture of council quorum, an emergency poll of student opinion, and a final marathon council session to select Starowicz over his opponent George Radwanski.

At issue of course was the future look and policy of the Daily. Starowicz was the continuation candidate, Radwanski the challenger from the "responsible journalism" camp. Radwanski wanted to make the Daily "an instrument of reform and change" rather than a "propaganda organ". He saw it operating as a "newspaper with a viewpoint rather than a viewpoint disguised as a newspaper", a hardly oblique reference to past Dailies.

Starowicz, though seeking to redirect the Daily fairly dramatically, was nevertheless the man supported by the Daily staff and more or less presented by the outgoing Managing Board.

When the selection problem came up in March, council established a committee of three of its members, two Daily staffers and two professional journalists to select the editor. The committee reported for Starowicz but council overturned the selection charging the committee was fixed, the committee was making a political decision council would rather make, and most importantly, council did not want to appoint a "left-wing" editor. As in all such situations, innuendo, slander and double-dealing confused the decisions.

The Starowicz faction on council broke quorum when it became apparent that Radwanski would be appointed then and there.

Quorum remained broken till the middle of September.

Though the council met once or twice in the interim, it was always with the understanding that the Daily issue would not be raised.

Finally, after everyone had schemed and counted their votes for the thousandth time, council decided that it was incapable of selecting an editor and conducted an emergency poll on the question.

The poll was to be an indicator of campus opinion, though council agreed to bind itself to the result.

The issue, contends Starowicz, was simply a matter of survival. He participated "to keep the Daily alive."

Council wasn't any happier with the poll. It did not want to lose its role in selection of the editor and did not feel in any case that candidates for editor should run for general election—creating issues before there were any about.

But it had little choice. The left had broken quorum, the right would do so if Starowicz was directly appointed and the moderates threatened to leave if there was no election.

As the campaign swung into action, it was evident the student body didn't care for it either. The final vote of just over 3,000 ballots (which Starowicz won 1556 to 1517) was low for McGill.

Most people couldn't tell the difference between the two, were confused by Radwanski, non-candidacy, didn't really care to know the issues and were turned off by the thought of electing an editor. Those who voted were activists of both camps, participating in another power struggle and voted out of sheer habit more than anything else.

The campaign was largely a joke to most people.

Council though, in setting the poll, ensured that it was understood as an emergency measure—hopefully never to be needed again. Through the coming year, it will attempt to set down a new procedure of selection that will avoid the electoral process.

If there was one thing learned over the six-month ordeal, it was that editors of newspapers cannot be elected. And since left, right and centre agree, there is little chance of it ever happening again.

More about lunch time

The Editor,

Lunch starvation is a condition we all try to avoid—yet, on campus, facilities seem to be geared against us.

At lunch time we have two alternatives (three actually); first buy lunch, second take lunch and third forget lunch and spend those energies elsewhere. Now—say we try to buy lunch—aside from the machine-produced edibles, we have Tuck, SUB cafeteria and SUB snack bar to choose from.

Let us now assume we have succeeded in getting possession of a tray full of food and after standing the regular gruelling amount of time in line to get it, we are very hungry. Next is to try to find a place to eat it, and with all

probability this will take some doing. After struggling around tables, chairs, fellow students and various other obstacles, a seat will probably be found, and the once delicious smelling items on the tray reduced to a state of irreparable coldness. Such is lunch time on campus.

Even if we are fortunate enough to find time in the morning to pack a lunch, chances are very slim that there will be a place to eat it during the lunch hour. Surely facilities could be improved to at least accommodate the majority of students who eat lunch during these hours—this is the least we ask!

Judy Griffiths
Ed 2

This is page FIVE

Friday is a minor election day on campus. The arts faculty must elect a new representative to students' council and two of the three candidates submitted their platforms to us. They are at the bottom of the page.

Murray Sigler defends his fraternity in another letter. He says the Students Bill of Rights has his full endorsement.

There is a letter about lunches. Judy Griffiths says campus cafeteria conditions are geared to starve the student.

—The Editor

In defence of a fraternity

The Editor,

As reported in Thursday's Gateway, the portion of the proposed "Students' Bill of Rights" dealing with student affairs allegedly purports to have "campus organization . . . open to all students without respect to race, creed or national origin," with the necessary exception being made for religious organizations.

Also, according to The Gateway, at last Monday evening's student council meeting, there are certain brilliantly self-enlightened Dr. Kings who are for one reason or another blessed with seats on council; and that these people have immediately jumped to the fallacious conclusion that such a provision, if enforced, would mean the death sentence for U of A's fraternities.

I doubt that it would be possible for students' council to act over-impulsively and condemn all 11 men's fraternities on campus. Nonetheless, I, as a fraternity member, would like to take this opportunity to express my dissatisfaction with councillor Greg Berry's hurling about of such unfair and unfounded innuendos.

Firstly, as a Canadian citizen, as a university student, and as a fraternity member, I wholeheartedly endorse the provisions of the

proposed "Students' Bill of Rights". What a glorious society this campus will become, and what noble creatures university students shall be when this document's lofty ideals are reached.

The students' union, however, has no monopoly on these ideals; at least vis a vis fraternity members. My fraternity, for one, was founded on exactly the same lofty ideals. Furthermore, there is and never has been, in my fraternity any discrimination on the basis of race, religion, creed, political beliefs, wealth or lack of any of these qualities.

That is, my fraternity is an example of the proposed bill of rights. Accordingly, I defy any student council member or any student of this university to point his finger at my fraternity and say any such discrimination exists. I also invite any male student to rush one of the 11 fraternities and join its activities.

So let students' council adopt liberal statements of civil rights for this campus—U of A's fraternities, at least from my own personal experience of four years' membership in one, will be the first to welcome such policy and endorse it 100 percent.

Murray Sigler
Law 2

Boyd Hall

Boyd Hall completed his BSc at the U of A and then spent a year travelling in North and South America. Returning to the U of A this year Boyd finds that he is no longer impressed by what has been done, but appalled by what has not. Although always an active student, Boyd has this year decided to seek election to the students' council.

I feel that the students council must now decide whether or not it is prepared to meet the needs of the student population. If council defaults, this responsibility may well be assumed by less representative groups. I hesitate to put forward a platform without a few preliminary remarks. The points listed below should not be considered as principles, but rather as manifestations of principles. To consider these as points the issues would therefore be a fallacy.

I submit the following as my platform.

1. Students' union initiative on urgent problems of parking and housing.
2. Commence action allowing students greater latitude in selection of courses. This should include re-assessment of

the desirability of compulsory courses for arts students. Students should have a greater voice in determining courses to be offered.

3. Tighter control of SU spending. For example, the SU is presently footing the bill for Varsity Guest Weekend. This expense would more properly be borne by the university.
4. Structural reform. In addition to seeking elected student representatives to GFC and the Board of Governors, seating on students' council should be fairly weighted allowing the larger faculties greater representation.
5. Expansion and improvement of lounge, coffee, and meal facilities, including a pub in sub.
6. Initiation of a Canada-wide student film festival to be held at U of A.
7. Initiation of an inter-campus circuit of speakers and entertainers. Co-operation with other universities will enable us to obtain better speakers and entertainers at lower cost. This will prevent the re-occurrence of such costly endeavors as the Back Porch Majority fiasco.

—Boyd Hall

Dan Mercer

Dan Mercer, during this year, has headed the Arts Council as its president, is a member of the Reorganization Committee, helped formulate the Executive Handbook and is a member of the Newman Council.

Our main concern as students on campus is firstly academics, and secondly administration (on a university level and among our own organizations). Therefore, students' council should be primarily concerned with leadership in these two areas. The dominant role being: to become informed and to inform, to be properly represented and to properly represent. This is, not with a view to control, but to compliment all facets of university decision-making.

With this in mind, the main points of my policy are:

- the U of A should lead the way in joining moderate universities (those remaining in the structure) to formulate policy and goals with the aim of again attaining a true Union of Canadian Students
- emphasis on the arts council to unite all departments in the faculty so that:

- (a) the arts rep may be more representative
- (b) we may have a more realistic right to proper representation on the Arts Faculty Council
- (c) there is co-ordination of activities among the faculty departments
- (d) there is an immediate accumulation of opinions on matters concerning students

—campus wide seminars and discussions to derive views from all students on the role of the student, faculty and administration

—a public report, NOW, of what the overall plan is and what steps are being taken to solve the parking and housing problems

—a look into the possibilities of having a lunch co-operative run by students

—a tight policy on increased tuition and residence rates with more governmental support

—suggestions and participation by students in course planning

—to do my best to represent you by making myself available, if elected, and informing you directly of student council issues.

— Dan Mercer