

NEWS

Paper, Students' Society at head over Union Building premises

McGill's Daily newspaper faces loss of premises

by Clem King

McGill Tribune

The McGill Daily will be kicked out of the Union Building basement if it does not agree to new terms of rent proposed by Student's Society at McGill University.

Under the present letter of agreement, the Student's Society must give the Daily Publication Society (DPS) written notice of eviction by tomorrow, if the paper rejects SSMU's new terms, or if the two groups cannot agree on an acceptable compromise. The Daily will then have until the end of May to relocate its offices.

SSMU is offering to lease the Daily 1,400 square feet of office space next year at the rate of \$10 per square foot.

The new terms represent a substantial change from the current arrangement between the paper and SSMU.

For the last five years, the Daily has paid SSMU \$1 per year for office space totalling 1,800 square feet.

Daily Editor-in-chief, Heather MacKay, considers SSMU's offer unacceptable.

"The administration provides this building for student use," MacKay said. "Student groups by their nature shouldn't have to pay market rates for their space."

But the Daily is being forced to pay rent because it's not part of Student's Society. Instead it receives \$6.70 per year from every student at McGill. By providing the newspaper with virtually free office space, Stu-

dent's Society has been subsidizing it.

MacKay is most concerned about the prospect of losing 22 per cent of the paper's current office space. This issue of space has been the main stumbling point in the negotiations process.

The proposed space reduction would force the Daily business office and one typesetting office to move into one main office.

MacKay believes that the overcrowding that would result would have serious consequences for the newspaper's quality.

"The quality of the paper will go down absolutely," MacKay said. "Both the quality of the paper and the quality of the lives of the people who work here."

But Student's Society VP Internal, Joanna Wedge, says space constraint is a fact of life in the Union Building.

"Like any other organization in our building," Wedge said, "they (the Daily) have to face the fact of space constraints."

She cites the fact that Student's Society has recognized 13 new student groups over the past year and many of these groups are vying for Union Building office space. Her primary concern is that these new groups are given a chance to operate their organizations from the Union building.

To compensate for the increase in expenses caused by next year's rent, the Daily has considered increasing the fee paid by students each year.

But MacKay believes such an increase would be an "unpopular option" considering attempts by the Engineering Undergraduate Society and other student societies to withdraw funding for the paper.

MacKay warns that paying rent would have a negative effect on student advertising.

"The Daily may also be forced to end its policy of providing student groups with a 44 per cent discount on advertising if they must start paying rent," MacKay said.

She hopes this possibility will generate a negative reaction from student groups and subsequently prompt SSMU to offer more favourable terms.

But Wedge, who is negotiating the terms with the DPS, believes the discount is "the Daily's business deal." Wedge says the Daily has been able to generate a substantial profit with the discount intact and it "could generate an even larger profit without it."

"It's purely a financial marketing strategy on their behalf. What they are doing we haven't asked for."

MacKay also questions whether SSMU has the legal authority to force the Daily to pay rent because the building is officially owned by McGill administration, not SSMU.

Secretary of the Board of Governors and Senate, Sheila Sheldon-Colyer, affirmed "any changes to the present Letter of Agreement will need the administration's agreement."

But Wedge says VP Physical

Resources, Sam Kingdom, has already given SSMU permission "to do what we want with our building,"

and therefore getting administration's approval is unlikely to pose a problem for Student's Society.



SECURITY beat

Wednesday March 20

Theft (Personal) — Scott Library

At 3:45 p.m. Tuesday March 19, a student reported that when sleeping at a study desk on the third floor someone stole his leather jacket which was on the floor next to his feet. A pair of house keys was also stolen. Estimated loss \$650.00

Friday March 22

Theft (Personal) — Ross Building

A staff member reported that she had left her wallet unattended in her third floor office desk at various times on the March 19, and towards the end of the working day noticed that it had been stolen. The wallet contained credit and bank cards and \$5 in cash. The identification was later used to make a fraudulent purchase.

Assault (Common) — Outside Bethune College.

A non-community member reported that he had been a victim of an unprovoked attack. The victim was assaulted on a path leading from Bethune College. The victim suffered minor injuries to his mid-section and left arm and hand. The two attackers were described as 1: Male, white, 5'7" to 5'8" 160 lbs, medium build, below the neck straight brown hair, wore a short jean jacket with fur collar and jeans. 2: White 5'8" to 5'9", 160 lbs, medium build, short straight dirty blonde hair. Wore a York jacket and jeans.

Break and Enter — Winter College

At 3:14 a.m. Sunday March 24, a security patrol observed that the double door to room C002 had its lock mechanism pried off. A wooden post found in the immediate area seemed to have been the instrument used to apply the force.

Advantage seen for students in search for summer employment

cont'd from cover

for students, and many of these are unadvertised — the student has to undergo a certain process to find a satisfying job," said Roderick Johnson, a graduate student career assistant at the CPC.

He also emphasized that even if students are planning to return to school in the fall, their choice of summer employment should be consistent with their future career plans.

Another path students can follow is through the services offered by the government. As well as the regular year-round employment centres, the government will open up a number of centres in Metro designed specifically

to meet the needs of students searching for summer jobs.

In addition to offering job listings, the centres will conduct counselling on resume writing and interview techniques. Although the locations for these centres have not yet been determined, they will be operating by the end of April, and students can find out where they will be by contacting their local Canada Employment Centre.

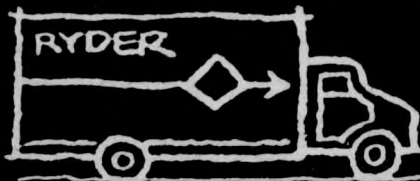
Job listings for students will be posted at the main Canada Employment Centres until the centres for students open. Listings for students will then be transferred to the temporary student employment centres.

For entrepreneurs, the Ontario Government is offering loans of up to \$7,500 loans as part of its Youth Venture Program.

There are also a number of exchange programs that will allow students to travel while working abroad. More information can be obtained through the CPC.

There are four Canada Employment Centres in the Metro area presently posting summer employment opportunities. They are located at 1111 Finch Ave. West (736-4104), at 200 Town Centre Court, in Scarborough (973-4400), at 165 Dundas St. West, in Mississauga (566-6466), and in downtown Toronto at 2221 Yonge St. (973-7666).

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