

Students bear brunt

MONTREAL (CUP) — McGill University medical students are expected to bear the brunt of the reduced budget of the Royal Victoria Hospital this year. Facilities at the hospital are used by the university's medical students during their training.

McGill's Dean of Medicine said the hospital would suffer a \$4.2 million budget cut in the upcoming fiscal year. However, he wouldn't speculate on the full effects until a hospital administrative committee report is released later this month.

The dean believes the schools, whose studies are coordinated with the hospital, won't be affected to a great extent, as the

hospitals place a high priority on their academic facilities. He admitted that the Royal Victoria is finding it difficult to leave any part of their already stretched facilities untouched by budget cuts.

"From what I've heard, these cuts may really hurt our schooling this year," said one second year medical student. "Not only are our future job opportunities in jeopardy, but we just may not receive the kind of education we're paying for."

Nursing students are also reportedly upset about the proposed cuts. The hospital refused to release information about the reduced budget until the end of September.

Council meets tonight

Tonight is Council Meeting time.

The SU meets at 7 p.m. to discuss pressing matters of student government. The meeting is open to the public.

On the agenda is the third reading of a motion to adopt an additional article into the elections section of the SU constitution.

The motion, if passed, will essentially wipe out acclamations of office when there is only one candidate for the position. Instead, they will have to be ratified by a majority in votes cast in a general SU election.

This could be an interesting topic, since in the last Council meeting a heated discussion ensued.

Also of interest is a motion to create a platform for Students'

Council's stand on Student Aid.

The platform proposed essentially calls for:

(1) a replacement of the remission component of Student Loans with grant aid;

(2) evaluation of financial need according to the student's actual resources;

(3) the Students Finance Board provide information of the number of students receiving aid, and the remission formula used to determine the remission granted;

(4) regular student input on the nature of the program and the budget outline.

Parking and transit problems, as well as a motion to protest the Board of Governors proposed position on tuition fees (this includes fee indexing and a 30 per cent tuition increase) will be brought up.

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FEES DUE By September 30

The last day for payment of fees is September 30th. If a student is paying by instalments (terms), the amount of the first instalment is the First Term assessment and the last day for payment is September 30th; the amount of the second instalment is the Second Term assessment plus a \$5.00 instalment charge and the last day for payment is January 15th.

A penalty of \$15.00 will be charged on any payment received after these dates. If payment has not been made by October 15 for First Term fees and by February 1 for Second Term fees, registration will be subject to cancellation and the student to exclusion from classes.

If fees are to be paid from some form of student assistance, please refer to Section F of the Registration Procedures booklet or the calendar entitled "University Regulations and Information for Students".

Students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research are reminded that their fees are also to be paid in accordance with the foregoing.

THE SU DEBT—SPECIAL REPORT

Suing for dismissal

by Rich Watts

The Students' Union is currently being sued for unjust dismissal by last year's general manager, Bert Best.

After discovering the deficit of \$317,000, last year's SU executive decided to dismiss Bert Best.

Unfortunately, Bert Best was working under a one-year contract which promised him over \$30,000 per year. Breaking this contract would have meant that the SU would have had to show 'just cause', such as insubordination, incompetence or dishonesty.

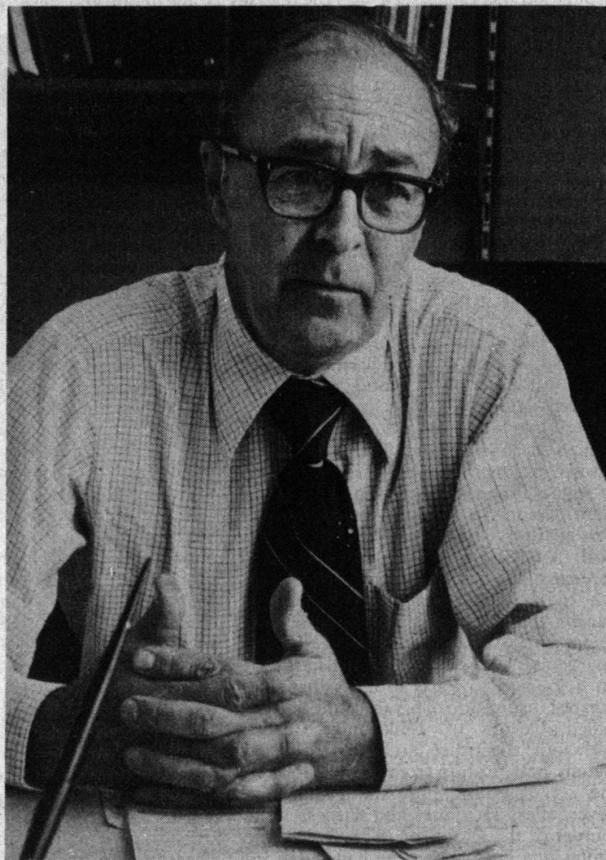
However Best's contract had not been ratified by Council. To avoid firing Best, last year's executive recommended that his contract not be ratified and that his contract be ruled invalid.

The decision was reached after one hour of closed discussions. Last year's SU president Nolan Astley declined all questions because of the legal implications.

Best had worked for over a year under a contract never ratified. He filed suit against the SU for \$82,300. If the court rules that Best's contract was indeed invalid then Best will ask for \$65,500 in general damages.

If the court rules against Best on both counts the SU will owe him only 3 month's severance pay.

"Although the chances seem slim we still hope that Mr. Best's legal council will advise him to settle out of court," says this year's SU president Phil Soper.



Would you buy a used Students' Union from this man? Former SU general manager Bert Best reflecting the burdens of duty during the 1980-81 term

Inquiry remains confidential

MONTREAL (CUP) - Results of an inquiry into McGill University's holdings in companies investing in South Africa, conducted by the Board of Governors Committee on Social Responsibility are going to remain confidential, and McGill's South Africa Committee (SAC), which has been pushing for divestment from such companies, is none too pleased.

Preliminary letters were mailed this summer to companies in which McGill invests, asking

them to share information about their investments.

"The replies have to remain confidential, because if we made them public, other companies would think twice about giving us information," said Liz Norman, McGill Students' Society President and a member of the Committee on Social Responsibility.

But the McGill South Africa Committee has expressed doubts about the validity of the Board of Governors' Committee findings.

"We feel the committee is

completely irrelevant to what we're doing," said Michel Shepard, co-chairperson of SAC. "Our participation is zero. We're not even invited to their meetings."

The committee on Social Responsibility was set up in response to a policy on South Africa passed by the Board of Governors last March. The policy called for an investigation into the extent of corporate holdings in South Africa. The committee is composed of two student representatives and a number of members from the McGill academic community and the Montreal business world.

A sub-committee will review replies from half the companies in question. Companies will be categorized and committee members will dig for more information.

"As yet, we haven't defined our actions beyond this," said Norman. "We would hope that once we've got information, we can come to a consensus."

McGill Students' Society vice president of University Affairs and SAC member Richard Flint called the policy which formed the Committee on Social Responsibility vague and found the lack of a deadline disturbing.

"I believe that the policy of confidentiality in this case is rather reprehensible," said Flint. Flint stressed the importance of the South Africa Committee maintaining students' awareness of the issue.

"The reason why this policy and the Committee on Social Responsibility were formed was because the average student was writing letters and demonstrating," said Flint. "If student pressure does not remain, the Board of Governors could shovel the South Africa issue back under the carpet."

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