



GADFLY

VOL.1 ISSUE 8 THE ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER 27 FEB 1980

Presidential Candidates Speak Out

Interviews by Scott C. Boyd

Martin Miller

The Gadfly has solicited interviews from the three announced candidates for Polity President. The incumbent, President James DeMartini, refused to be interviewed. However, we present interviews with the two challengers.

First, junior Martin Miller, who is leaving his post of Polity Treasurer to run for the presidency.

Gadfly: Why are you running?

Miller: Because the presidency and Delegate Council are a mess. As Treasurer I've been able to see all the mistakes they made.

Gadfly: How do you think President DeMartini has done?

Miller: Nobody takes him seriously, although he takes the Delegate Council seriously. He's not very forceful. He hasn't molded the Delegate Council--he's a caretaker. His parliamentary procedure is really bothersome. Sara Matson had a point. He doesn't sense when an issue is over and goes on asking everyone what they think. He lacks the sense to see how much time to spend on each issue.

G: How would you run the D.C. differently?

M: The real problem isn't running the D.C., it's just treating people as if they were mature and then getting a feel for what they think. I would put a one-hour time limit on D.C. meetings, since after one hour people get bored and start thinking of all the homework they have to do. I would dispense with DeMartini's parliamentary procedure, and at the outset of the meeting ask to find out all the issues needing discussion and then discuss them.

G: What are the important issues on campus now?

M: The Polity has a stereo that doesn't work. We must solve this problem before Reality Weekend.

Matt Hartzell

Next, junior Matt Hartzell, who has left his post of Polity Court Chief Justice to run for the presidency.

Gadfly: Why are you running?

Hartzell: I think I've seen what goes on in the Delegate Council and the general reaction of people to it. The main goal of the President is to run the D.C. meetings. That's not being done now. What's going on is a joke. I get a feeling people don't know what they're doing on the D.C., or why they're there.

Gadfly: What qualifies you to run for president?

Hartzell: A lot of work, a lot of ground-work. I've worked in every other capacity except president. As a freshman I was a dorm delegate, and in the second semester of my freshman year I became a Justice on the Polity Court, a position I've held since then.

G: It sounds like you don't like the way President DeMartini runs the Delegate Council. How would you change it?

H: I would start with the abolition of any parliamentary procedure--it's ridiculous. Things can be done like a seminar. I don't think anything is needed beyond a seminar spirit with one person running it and making sure that everyone is heard.

G: What new things will you bring as president?

H: Output from the D.C. There will be efficiency and smoothness. This year the D.C. was going to buy new refrigerators when several usable ones were already available on campus. I won't let things like that happen.

G: Will this "efficiency and smoothness" you speak of be a new thing for the D.C.?

H: Yes, I think it will be new, unfortunately.

G: What are your major goals as president?

CONTINUED ON PAGE

2 Editorials and Commentaries

WHY A REPORTER?

by Scott Boyd

In such a small community like this where news travels so fast by word of mouth, some may wonder why a news reporter is necessary.

THE GADFLY needs a reporter to keep the student body informed about what's going on in the Polity's government. So far, information of this sort has come from Polity government press releases (such as the DC Minutes) or that old stand-by, word of mouth.

Polity government press releases, like all press releases, are just what someone else writes to tell you what they want you to hear about themselves. A reporter can give a more objective, independent account of what's going on.

Word of mouth as a source of news has two problems: first, word of mouth partakes of rumor and all its inherent ongoing distortions of the facts; second, word of mouth misses many important things going on in the Polity.

A reporter solves the first difficulty by being an independent observer, who can hopefully give objective, accurate accounts of things. Furthermore, a reporter gets his facts by interviewing the participants; and through several sources piecing together his story.

The second difficulty is solved by simply reporting those important things going on that few are aware of. Some students think that nothing important at all goes on in the Polity government, as the widespread apathy on this campus attests to. That doesn't mean that important things don't go on.

Most student organizations are sanctioned and funded by the Polity government. (THE GADFLY is independent, and necessarily so.) All big campus parties are funded by the Polity government. The sleep/study rule is the duty of the Polity government to enforce. Are none of these important?

One way or another, the Polity government is involved in every student's life. It does matter.

We reported the difficulties at the recent Randall party because students acting in their official capacities seemed to be involved in questionable actions. Also, the Polity Attorney being thrown out of the party he was trying to close, while responding to a noise complaint, has serious ramifications for the sleep/study rule.

There's something going on now that few people seem to be aware of: Campbell Hall is unrepresented in the DC. It has two regular delegates. One left the college, and the other doesn't attend DC meetings anymore and wants to resign. No one represents Campbell in the DC to complain about the horrible condition of its kitchen, or to ask why only the 2nd floor lacks a refrigerator. However, no new elections have been held! The residents all seem to have better things to do than to hold elections so they can be represented in the DC.

A new Polity Constitution is in the works. The word is that it's a considerable overhaul of the old one, promising less red tape and more effectiveness. It is supposed to be unveiled soon to the DC, who will decide whether or not to submit it to the Polity for a vote on its adoption. This will affect us all.

On March 4, elections will be held for a new President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Justices.

To keep you informed about your government so you can make better decisions is the reason that THE GADFLY has a reporter.

NARKOTIC HAZE

by HH Hammel

The Dilemmas of the Draft

1. In one sense, the discussion of the draft issue going on in the student papers and in private seems inappropriate for St John's (think of Socrates trying to wean young men away from politics toward philosophy) but in another sense (making free men out of children) it is very important (St John's as the "intellectual arsenal of Western Democracy.") With the exception of Tom Dwyer, however, I believe few people realize the depths of these sort of problems.

2. The only letter in answer to Mr Campbell in last week's issue that I had any respect for was Chris Baker's. She makes a personal statement. One can criticize history and toss rhetorical darts all one wants, but what matters for our education is our preparation for making personal decisions concerning what we as individuals owe our country, and how we fit in the future of our country, as free individuals.

3. Like Miss Baker, a dilemma is present to me between the rationale for wars and the ultimate injustice of war...original sin vs what men ought to be like. But there actually is war in the world, and this country seems hell-bent on reacting to some small provocation. Thus I conclude that the unjustifiability of killing is a moot point - it doesn't help me make my decisions.

"My kingdom is not of this world:
If my kingdom were of this world,
then my servants would fight,
that I should not be delivered to
the Jews."

John 18:38

If Miss Baker believes that she awakes every morning and then goes on to live her life in the Kingdom of Heaven, I admire her truth. But it is all-too-present to my mind that I live in the USA.

4. "When Homer said that he wished all war would cease" says Herakleitos about some passage in Homer I can't recall, "He called to recognize that without strife, the world would not exist." But let us look to our own education for some answers to these questions. When Achilles mourns over the death of Patroklos...this strikes me. One of my friends died serving in the Marines, some of my drinking buddies from this college may meet similar fates. Political history offers no solace - Homer, the Stoics, and Plato seem to help.

5. Won't any Middle tell you that he is our guardian, making our intellectual freedom possible? Is there anything like St John's in Russia?

6. Some of us will join the military, for whatever reasons. None of them will be telling themselves that war itself is justice. (I hope.) How will the folks deal with the violence done to them, first in training, then in the horror that the training is there to help you face? I take inspiration from the story of a POW captain who withstood communist terror by adopting the Stoicism of Marcus Aurelius (that's what his manual was written for - not "we scholars.") Whether you read about it in Canada, or witness it personally, people you love will die senseless, brutal deaths. What will war game scenarios or pacifist dogma mean to you then?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

To the Editor: ■ What is to be Done? ■

To the Editor: About the Language Tutorial ■

On Dec. 18, 1979 Radio Moscow ridiculed the reaction of the West over the Soviet troops in Afghanistan. It quoted the former Afghanistnian Premier Hafizullah Amin who had dismissed the fuss as "noisy propaganda" about the "imaginary" troops.

On Dec. 28, 1979, Premier Hafizullah Amin, the "legitimate" head of state, was executed by a Soviet firing squad, and was replaced by Babrak Karmal. Mr. Amin's regime had executed more than 3,000 political "dissidents" during his stay in power. Moscow defended its intrusion into Afghanistan's affairs by claiming that the Marxist government of Islamic Afghanistan was threatened by U.S. backed "counter-revolutionary gangs".

Current diplomatic sources estimate that more than 100,000 Soviet troops are in Afghanistan and that most of the Afghanistnian troops have defected to the extent that its army no longer exists.

In a recent issue of THE GADFLY an editorial appeared which essentially claimed that the Soviets were invited into Afghanistan at the request of the "newly established" and "legitimate" government of Mr. Amin in order to become a force of stability against the pretestations of Afghanistnian "terrorists" and "political dissidents".

The author of this editorial claimed that he was "more liberal" than the "rightest, conservative, reactionary" editors of THE GADFLY, and seemed to belittle the seriousness of the situation, and the struggle of people who do not desire to live under a Marxist form of government which might in fact repeat the abject social experiment of Cambodia.

His definition of "liberal" seemed to be someone who is ignorant of current international affairs, and sympathetic towards the establishment of governments which deliberately violate the basic rights to life, liberty, and choice.

His definition of "rightest, conservative reactionary" seemed to be someone who is aware of current international affairs and concerned about the basic rights of man.

Such a position stands exposed in all its decrepitude, and amounts to no more than inane self-righteousness and platitudin objurgation. In summation, the author has said that "liberals" are good because they are what they are, and that "conservatives" are bad because they have a reaction to Soviet coup d'etats, and Marxist governments in general. We have heard this trite apology before.

A word of warning to any would-be "liberal": The problems of Marxism will not vanish because you wish them away; they will remain in the world as long as they are tolerated by people who think that they can reason with people who refuse to be reasonable. President Castro is training young Africaners in revolutionary techniques. These people will become a force in the world as soon as they come of age.

The Chinese will become a force as soon as they find their fangs. And don't you think that the people of Cambodia attempted to reason with the forces of Pol Pot while buried in the dirt up to their heads just before the fatal blows from the hammers of the Kmer Rouge? And does anyone really think that the world will find peace after all the nations have become one of those extraordinary, socialistic governments deified by Marxist-reactionaries who only tolerate adherence to the monolithic party line, and liquidate all foes, and even sympathizers? You can disbelieve, and correct any of the so called misunderstandings and misapprehensions in my statements. You can even give a more prefeable account of the situation such as: "Come let us say that the Soviet Union was invited into this government and that government to assist in the establishment of socialism, and modernism here and there; and especially in the maintenance of internal security (has anyone ever studied the operations of comintern?) and pacification of whichever nation, due to the problems of terrorists and reactionaries in some of

I think Mrs. Maschler had some really good things to say about the language tutorial, and so I would like to add my voice to hers. The distinction between "mastery" and "a modest competence" is a very important one, which most students do not make. They assume that learning to read Greek is only worthwhile if one becomes a master, and therefore don't even try to gain a modest competence in the language. By "modest competence" I mean the ability to sight-read Greek, if rather slowly, once given the vocabulary. Practically everybody is quite capable of this, they just think they aren't. Here I depart from Mrs. Maschler, whose goals are somewhat lower for the St. John's Greek student.

But I wouldn't lay it all on the doorstep of the student. The manner in which Greek is taught at St. John's makes it just about impossible to gain a modest competence without outside help. The student is forced to spend so much time leafing through the lexicon that she or he has no chance to acquire facility with the grammar. A better method would be for the tutor to supply the vocabulary as the class goes along, so that the students could concentrate on acquiring facility. They would, of course, have a lexicon at their side to resolve any of their own questions about a particular word, but on the whole they would need to trust the tutor to suggest to them appropriate groups of English words for each Greek word in the text. This kind of trust in someone more experienced than oneself is usually necessary to acquire modest competence in any skill. After all, even now we must trust and depend upon the people who wrote the lexicons.

A big problem with St. John's in general, I think, is that we don't do enough practice, and when we do practice we do it most inefficiently. Now this letter is based on personal experience; I'm not asking anyone to do anything I haven't tested myself. Two and a half years ago, for a full semester I was lucky enough to recieve outside help, help which should have been given me in class but wasn't. This help came in the form of a semester-long class, run by a senior (some of you may remember Don Edwards), in which he supplied the vocabulary and let us work from there. (Actually, he asked us first to try to analyze the grammar without the vocabulary, and then gave us the vocabulary.) This class was extremely helpful to me, since soon afterwards I dropped out, forgot about Greek for two years, and then came back in the middle of the sophomore year. I had little trouble picking up the Greek again, and I consider this a tribute to the effectiveness of the little outside class I was in (and not necessarily a tribute to my intelligence, one way or the other).

Please, let's start doing more practicing at St. John's, and let's start doing it in the right way: efficiently! Who wants to leaf through the lexicon all the time anyway?

Sincerely, Bennet Curtis

P.S. I am quite ready to run a small extra-curricular Greek class in the format described, and would hope that some other people with a modest competence in Greek would be willing to run other classes.

the mountains and foothills which have plagued the international cause. You can say that the extermination of whole segments of the population are necessary to unify the whole. You can deny the obvious, and not accept what is to be done. Nevertheless, all that I have said will come to pass, and eventually even the ostiches of this world will have their heads forcibly and rudely pulled from the sands.

John E. Stevenson

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT POLITY

For the past two terms I have held the office of treasurer. During this time I have brought order and balance back to the Students Polity's books. I feel it is time to bring a similar order and balance to the office of president. My name is Martin Miller, and I have been nominated as a candidate for President of the Student Polity.

The Polity Stereo does not work, nor do most of the dorm refrigerators. Campbell kitchen is in desperate need of repair. The TV's in the health center do not work properly. The DC is responsible for maintaining all of this equipment, yet lacks the money to repair any of it. As treasurer I began investigating ways to finance the repairs on this equipment. As president I will be able to put these ways into practice.

Big changes are on the horizon for the DC. Next year the DC will have its own office. I plan to take a few steps now which will help utilize that office space efficiently. Also, there is a new constitution in the works. It outlines a DC which runs much differently than the present DC. I plan to run the current DC in a manner analogous to that outlined in the new constitution. This will not only ease the transition should the new constitution be adopted, but it will also afford us a practical test to see how the new constitution will work.

Finally, as treasurer under two past presidents, I have witnessed first hand all the mistakes they have made. I will not make these mistakes. I will not choke the council with bureaucracy and unnecessary procedures. I will not ignore criticism from the community. I will not ignore the needs of polity members who live off-campus. I will not alienate the administration. In fact, through the office of treasurer I have developed very good relations with most members of the administration. Such relations will be necessary to secure the college's financial backing for the repair and maintenance of polity equipment.

If you do not want to see how much the DC can do for this school, then do not vote for me. If you do not want to hear a good sound system during the reality parties, then do not vote for me. For I am going to make it my job as president to see that the DC realizes its full potential, and taking top priority on my list is the purchase of a new sound system before Reality.

Sincerely,

Martin Miller

NARKOTIC HAZE

9. How can we maintain the spirit of morality in this country, the spirit that has in the past made us enter war with great hesitation, seemingly only when provoked? Once at war, how will we be able to maintain a distinction between "necessary" destruction and actions that are unjustifiable even in war-time. How can a pacifist contribute anything applicable to moral questions during war, given his/her dogmatic stand? Miss Baker, as a representative of the pacifist line, how do you think you will be able to speak to a military leader without him/her thinking you are a fool, or at least pretty naive? White: "Every act of violence is unjust." Black: "Whoever loses this war is responsible for it." The world is a deep pool of grey. I am ashamed of my own shallowness in these matters, but I think I know where the depths lie. Why don't some of you sharp people plumb them?

When I ran for election last November, voted in vain for any traditional campaign strategies on my part, and so wondered whether or anything definite would be accomplished during my term of office. Since then, however, some positive things have been accomplished which deserve to be mentioned in this context.

A workable refrigerator has finally been installed in Humphrey's; the council has approved new student clubs and committees, including a faculty-advised Political Forum Committee, which is adding yet another dimension of thought to St John's Program; a recent issue concerning equipment was settled out of court in an arrangement which seemed to please all those involved. Delegate Council is enjoying a remarkably good record of working with the administration; this is shown in the fact that the questions on the part of grades at St John's, originally asked in the fall of last year, were answered a few weeks ago; I was merely asked for the statement, and it was agreed with the minimum of negotiations.

I do not think that all this can be ascribed to happenstance. It is enough to prove that my administration has been neither directionless nor disastrous, but instead has worked for results in an efficient and practical matter, for the good of the community.

I am up for reelection in March because I want to continue working for the good of the community. My ideals and methods are the same as ever - now my remarks can be based on specific points rather than on general statements.

Thank you,

James DeMartini
Polity President

ENDORSEMENT FOR MARTIN MILLER

I would like to offer forth my endorsement of Martin Miller for President of the Student Polity. I have lived next door to Martin all year and know him to be a considerate human being, concerned for others and a man with a sense of humor. In addition to these qualities, I have seen his interest in the welfare of the students in his role as Treasurer and am certain that his genuine aptitude for dealing with responsibility will be carried over to the high office of President, if he is elected. Other than being his friend, we are not related.

Thank you,

Richard Miller

MILLER

these sorts of problems.

G: It seems in St. John's politics that sometimes you have to be a joke to win. You're serious, though.

M: I'm not a joke. That's my weakness. I've shown as Treasurer that I can do it.

MEN'S

by Bryce Jacobsen

VOLLEYBALL

Feb. 20...Spartans-4, Greenwaves-0
Feb. 21...Guardians-4, Hustlers-1

Thus ended our volleyball, as expected. The Guardians clearly were tops...and the Waves clearly were bottoms. All the other teams were bunched in the middle at 4-4.

BASKETBALL

Feb. 23...Guardians-85, Druids-71

In the first period the Guardians were shooting about 80%, and the Druids about 20%. So the Guardians accumulated a 15 point lead. Their B's added four to this, hence effectively countermarching any Druid hopes. This loss dropped the Druids behind the Hustlers, who took advantage of this situation in the next game.

Feb. 23...Hustlers-92, Greenwaves-51

No contest, here. The Hustlers relaxed their way into the title, finishing the season at 6-2. Highlights of the game, selected at random, were:

- 1) Mr. Hartzell connected on four field goals, but missed connections on twenty four!
- 2) Mr. Edwards ended his collegiate basketball career in double figures...10 points. How about that?
- 3) Mr. Schoener was strong on the boards, picking up 10 points...but also four fouls.
- 4) The Waves took only seven foul shots in the game...but made every one! How about that? Watch out for them in our Free Throw Contest.

FREE THROW CONTEST...Thurs., Feb. 28, 1:00-6:00

Its easy. Just come to the gym, and whenever you are ready, shoot 25 foul shots. The eight highest scores on each team are counted. Hence there is no way you can hurt your team...only help it.

TWO-ON-TWO...Saturday afternoon, March 1

The schedule of play is posted on our bulletin boards. Remember, a player may participate in one match. Therefore, the men need eight players per team, and the women six. As in all of our competitions now, all eligible players may compete...alumni, staff, family, etc.

LEAGUE STANDINGS

Volleyball	Won	Lost	Pts	Basketball	Won	Lost	Pts
Guardians	7	1	22	Hustlers	6	2	20
Hustlers	4	4	16	Druids	4	3	15
Druids	4	4	16	Guardians	4	3	15
Spartans	4	4	16	Spartans	3	4	13
Greenwaves	1	7	10	Greenwaves	1	6	9

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE:

Basketball...Thu. Feb. 28 1:00-6:00 Free Throw Tour.
Sat. Mar. 1 1:30 Two-on-two(Women)
3:00 Two-on-two(Men)
Fitness Test...Wed. Mar. 6, 6:00-Deadline

Announcements

BLOOD! BLOOD! BLOOD!

FROM THE HEALTH CENTER

The Red Cross Blood Mobile will be on campus on Thursday, Feb 28 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Donors are needed. So far the number of donors scheduled is low, probably due to the nasty virus that has hit campus last week (and is still claiming victims this week). If you can give, please call ext. 53 for an appointment or come to FSK Lobby on Thursday.

Marilyn Mylander
College Nurse

WOMEN'S

by Beth Gordon

VOLLEYBALL

Feb 19...Nymphs-3, Furies-2

Once again the Nymphs take it after a furious struggle. Miss Alers showed good form in her overhand serve, and in the fourth game, Miss Paschall came out from nowhere to serve thirteen, or so it seemed, and the Furies won that one.

Nymph Ambur had a curious propensity to slide under the net, which may be the reason why it took the Nymphs all five games to edge one game over the Furies.

Feb 21...Maenads-3, Furies-2

Oh! They were sure that they were going to win this one!

Somehow, the team that wins the first game always ends up losing. In the second game, the Furies even played to a 17-15 game, though they lost in the final couple of crucial points.

Feb 22...Amazons-3, Nymphs-2

The two strongest teams, in another battle towards first place, showed that strategy sometimes wins out over sheer strength. Playing with the maximum, nine, opened up more room for mistakes than the Nymphs could deal with.

The highlight of the game was a sneaky Amazon snag between Misses Parks and Welch, to their great surprise. Carry? Despite such unorthodox plays, the Amazons squeezed the necessary three games to win out over the Nymphs.

LEAGUE STANDINGS

Volleyball	Won	Lost	Pts
Amazons	6	2	20
Nymphs	4	4	16
Furies	3	4	13
Maenads	2	5	11

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE:

Feb 28 Thu 4:00 Free Throw Contest
Feb 29 Fri 4:00 Furies-Amazons
Mar 1 Sat 1:30-3:00 Two-on-Two
Mar 4 Tue 4:00 Maenads-Furies

NEED A HOUSESITTER?

I will be here during Spring Break and would be happy to take care of your house or apt. I get along well with plants and animals. Please contact Mark Jaehnig at ext 45 if you are interested.

EMPLOYMENT

Valerie Uhlig wants someone to teach her beginning Greek. Call her at 757-2648.

NOTICE

Now is the time of year when things start coming out of the ground. Watch where you walk, particularly, but not exclusively, between Chase-Stone and the Health Center. Careful steps today mean flowers after spring break.

DEBATE

THE GADFLY is sponsoring a debate between the candidates for Polity President. The debate will take place Sunday, March 2, at 7 p.m. in the Great Hall. Mr. Miller and Mr. Hartzell have committed themselves and Mr. DeMartini is still making up his mind.

GADFLY DC Report of Feb 26th

by Scott C. Boyd

The meeting opened with criticism of the absent Secretary's minutes of last week, termed a "model of sarcasm" by the President.

Being the end of his term, Mr. DeMartini was required to nominate two new Polity Justices. He nominated freshman Jeanne Connors, who was unanimously accepted in a DC vote.

Mr DeMartini nominated Martin Miller as his other choice for Justice. This was very interesting, since Mr Miller is running against Mr DeMartini for president. Miller declined the nomination (he wasn't even asked before the meeting if he wanted the post), since, if he accepted it, he would have to withdraw as a presidential candidate, and hence, threat to incumbent DeMartini. The reason is that the Justices supervise all elections, and how can you supervise an election you participate in?

DeMartini had asked two other students to show up, and presumably they were back-up choices for Justice. Neither of them came, and upon questioning, DeMartini revealed that he hadn't asked one if he wanted the post, and the other had already held the post for a year.

Saturday the DC will meet in special session to choose a new Justice.

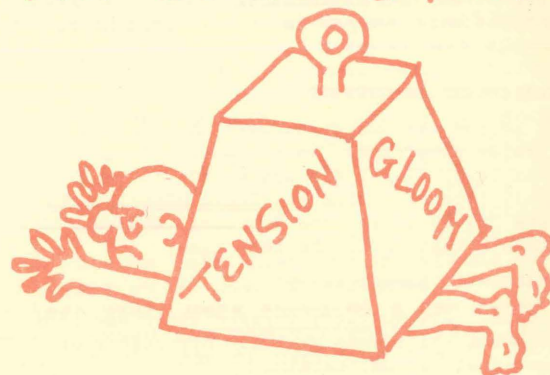
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Letters longer than one single-spaced typed page cannot be accepted.

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