

# President

This individual will be your official spokesperson for then next year, so choose wisely. In addition to wooing you with fancy speeches, The Prez is also responsible for preparing the Council meeting agenda and chairs the Communications Planning Group. And besides having a large influence over which issues will be addressed by the AMS Student Council, like all AMS executives, the job comes with a tidy annual salary of nearly \$21,000.



Maxwell Maxwell, left, and Jeff Friedrich settle this race like men.

## University Boulevard

### Driving down the road of change

The future of campus development is the big issue on campus these days. Even if you live under an encyclopedia, you'd be hard pressed to deny the significant effects increasing campus development has had on all aspects of university life.

The stakes are high for hungry businesses eager to have a taste of our meager wallets, but also for the university, whose national and international appeal lies, to a large extent, in the hands of planners: architects and, hopefully, students who want to have a say.

And indeed we did, or so we thought when a costly referendum was held in 2005 to allow students to vote for the best architectural plan in a University Boulevard Architectural Design Competition.

Things looked good in 2006 when the

University Boulevard Design won a prestigious award in Urban Design from the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

But construction has yet to begin.

Bernie Peets, the AMS General Manager, explains: "Construction was supposed to begin in September 2005, but didn't because they couldn't afford the original design. The [new] design hasn't been completed yet, so the AMS' job has been liaising with the university to bring the student voice to the University Properties Trust and the University administration to make sure the student voice is well represented."

So far, the development is reportedly set to obscure the much-loved grassy knoll and replace it with 35,000 square feet of retail space. But Kevin Keystone, the current AMS President, suggests that perhaps it is not too late to change the

knoll's fate.

"The plans for the grassy knoll seems to be under review, but there is some possibility that the grassy knoll could be phased," he said. "The Boulevard plans are in transition right now. The architects changed and the budget was a big question. The underground transit loop was under question as well and there wasn't a high level of satisfaction."

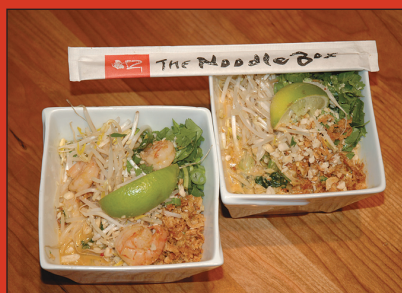
When Peets was asked if he thought students would like the new retail development, he said, "It all depends on who they invite to participate, whether students are going to be enamoured with the place or not."

It looks like we'll have to wait and see if this year's AMS council can pull off the near impossible: satisfying the corporate interests and making students are happy with the new space.

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