

Faculte worried about lack of French

FSJ students debate

by Alex Shetsen

At a time of budget cuts and crank letters suggesting that the Faculte St-Jean be sold, its students are debating whether there is enough French in use at the Faculte.

A student debate held at FSJ last Friday afternoon revealed that the majority of its students are worried that not enough emphasis on the French language is being placed at the Faculte, and that English is making dangerous inroads.

The meeting, which was moderated by a panel composed of students, faculty, and local francophone association heads, was a

cross between a question-and-answer session and a free-for-all in which students spoke in turn whatever was on their mind.

The use, or rather frequent non-use, of French both in academic and social life at the Faculte was widely discussed. Also brought up was the question of just what the exact function of the Faculte is, and a proposition to limit enrolment the Faculte to francophone students was briefly mentioned before being dismissed by most of those present.

There was general agreement that French should be the sole lan-

guage for conversation at FSJ, both in and out of classes. As the Dean of the Faculte, Jean-Antoine Bour, put it: "If anyone wishes to come to the Faculte, they have a contractual obligation to speak French. We are not the only post-secondary institution around... if you don't want to speak French, get out!"

On the other hand, there was hot debate over the use of French music at social events and French texts in the classes. Some students felt that at dances, all the music played should be French. Other argued that all-French music was immaterial, since it is the beat not the words one dances to, and in any case the English words have a message of their own.

Drawing greater debate was the use of English textbooks at FSJ. Some students thought it was silly not to have French texts in some of the courses, especially the science ones. Others, however, pointed out that because publishers see no profit in translating texts, French books are virtually unavailable. It was pointed out that even in wholly francophone universities in Quebec, English textbooks must often be used.

Many students were wondering what the exact function of the Faculte is. Some suggested that while its purpose is to preserve French language and culture in North America, its enrolment should be restricted to native francophone students.

At the same time, the requirement to pass an English competence test at the Faculte was ridiculed. But Dean Bour made the definitive statement on that, saying that as long as FSJ remains part of the University of Alberta, it is open to all who can qualify. In any case, said Bour, the idea of francophone students only is impractical, since there are simply not enough of them to guarantee the Faculte's continued existence.

In the end, the meeting seemed to have been more of a public forum to blow off steam and reassert Faculte St-Jean solidarity than anything else.



Edits

Greg Halinda

The "only" problem with keeping the PLATO computer running as it should run is money.

That's a bloody shame, because PLATO is a boon to many programs here at the U of A. But once you ask people to pay for something they've been getting for free, you draw the line.

PLATO started up at U of A in 1980 when the Alberta economy was "super hot". That's how Michael Szabo, the chief of the Instructional Systems Group, would phrase it.

As Szabo pushed PLATO into service, the university was kind of taken by surprise. Here was a hot new service, and what shall we do with it?

PLATO users would say that PLATO received inadequate funding from the start. The university didn't budget for PLATO; they expected ISG to come up with their own revenue.

Rod Reiffenstein, a doctor of pharmacology, has done a great deal of work to bring PLATO to pharmacology. Eighty programs are now available on PLATO for pharmacology alone. Thirty of these were developed in-house by Reiffenstein, the other 50 coming from the U.S.

Reiffenstein describes the lack of university support as thus: "The whole thing has been set up and run on the basis it was going to fail."

He doesn't see PLATO as an essential part of his curriculum. The Dean of Science, R. Bercov, seems to share this feeling.

PLATO is a nice supplement, they say, but not vital to us. Some departments, they add, like nursing and medicine, do have important PLATO-assisted instruction components.

Others, like Clothing and Textiles, bought their own terminals back in 1980, eager to jump on the computer-assisted instruction (CAI) bandwagon.

As ISG consultants were forced to do more and more outside work to make the system pay, they devoted less time to campus users. The users, sensing a lack of both financial and programming commitment from the university, would not go full-bore and develop PLATO.

They saw it as a "nice" system, but an underused one. Too bad more people aren't using PLATO, they said. At the same time, they couldn't afford to develop the system to its potential.

So PLATO is dying, a neglected child. The university has let it slip through its fingers, and in the process has killed off a corps of persons dedicated to CAI. It will be difficult to keep CAI experts around, too. Who would stay in such a business not knowing if your talents will be needed five years down the line?

She plays to win

She's competitive. She likes a challenge. She's also a team player.

She's got what it takes to become a Certified Management Accountant.

If you're trying to decide about your future, call us. You might be the player we're after.



Get a head start. Find out now what courses will give you advanced standing in the CMA program.

Our program specializes in management accounting and related management subjects as well as financial accounting.

Call: 428-6828
Toll Free: 1-800-232-1998

The Society of Management Accountants

1205 - 10104 - 103 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 0H8



CATERING

for 5 to 500 people

- PARTIES
- MEETINGS
- CONVENTIONS
- DELI TRAYS
- COLD PLATES
- HOT MEALS
- BAKED GOODS

Call

l'express

Restaurant
432-2090

Main floor SUB

- all varieties of:
- muffins
 - squares
 - cakes
 - cookies
 - tarts
 - cheesecakes
 - pies
- Wholesale & Retail



VOLUNTEER ACTION CENTRE

The Volunteer Action Centre (Phone 482-6431), a United Way Agency, has urgent requests for the following volunteer assignments that are of interest to students:

Corrections: Volunteers needed to work with clients on probation, and in institutions or group homes, to help with recreation, employment preparation and probation supervision.

Alberta Hospital: Special patients with special needs need help from volunteer visitors who will offer support and companionship.

Librarian: A downtown social service agency needs a volunteer librarian to catalogue material for entry into a computer system.

Dance Group: A local dance group is looking for board members and someone to update a scrapbook.

Tutors: Volunteers needed in West Edmonton to tutor adults whose education stopped between grades four and nine. Volunteer tutors needed downtown to help beginning ESL students in the classroom.

Mentally Handicapped Adults: Volunteers needed to help mentally handicapped adults in leisure activities which include social dancing, swimming, aquafitness, jazz fitness, movie going, weight training, rug hooking, cross-stitch, cooking and nutrition.

For these and other challenging volunteer assignments call the Volunteer Action Centre at 482-6431.



SKI RENTALS

TELEPHONE (403) 865-3400
P.O. BOX 1646

HINTON, ALBERTA, CANADA T0E 1B0

Skiing In Jasper?

Reading Week Special

Any two days \$13.00

— Ski Rentals —

Open Every Day • Bring Student I.D.

Meadowlark Typing Services Ltd.

- WORD PROCESSING
- Term Reports
- Theses
- Resumes
- General Correspondence
- Cerlox Binding
- Photocopying
- Dicta-Typing
- Telex Services

Mon. - Sat. 9:30 - 5:30 PM

#57 Meadowlark Shopping Center
Phone: 489-2069