

# ACTISEC puts pressure on FAS

CALGARY (CUP) — Alberta's original student organization is struggling for survival.

The Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) is being pressured from within by demands for restructuring and from without by a new, conservative student organization.

The Alberta Colleges and Technical Institutes Student Executive Council (ACTISEC) was created in March and proved an instant hit with Jim Horsman, the advanced education minister.

Horsman appointed an ACTISEC representative to a provincial participation study on accessibility to post-secondary education only weeks after the group formed. He also treated members to lunch in September.

Meanwhile, FAS has been reduced to seven members, fewer than ACTISEC's nine. One of those members considers itself outside FAS and another is planning a pullout vote in December.

Mount Royal College in Calgary voted in March to pull out of FAS and join ACTISEC. But the vote was only 60-17, with less than a two per cent turnout.

FAS fieldworker Mike Walker claimed the pull-out vote was illegal, according to FAS bylaws. Walker said FAS requires members to conduct referenda for a three to four day period to inform students adequately about the issues. He said FAS considered legal action against the Mount Royal College Students' Association

(SA) but prefers that they hold a new referendum on membership.

But SA president Kim Duce said she is bound by last year's vote because it is democratic, according to the SA's constitution. She said she is prepared to defend the vote in court.

She ruled out a referendum, saying FAS could mount a more effective campaign because they can bring in a full-time fieldworker.

Duce is cautious about ACTISEC. "ACTISEC is seen as an alternative to people who were opposed to FAS and anti-FAS feelings seem to dominate meetings of ACTISEC without any clear-cut policy decisions," said Duce.

"People associate FAS as a left-wing organization and ACTISEC as a right-wing group who were not happy with the extreme leftists from FAS," she said.

Duce said neither organization will work until left and right wing politicking is replaced by a more student service-oriented approach.

"There's not much of a student movement, just student activists," said Duce.

Across town at the University of Calgary, the Students' Union (SU) will try once again Dec. 2 and 3 to convince students there to reject FAS.

Rick Fercho of the SU, who is also a FAS executive member, said unless FAS changes radically, the U of C will pull out.

"The main reason people were dissatisfied with FAS in the past is that the organization has had a

reputation of being off-the-wall confrontationists," said Fercho.

FAS president Don Millar is working hard to convince students FAS has changed.

"There were some serious problems with the Federation. The executive was making decisions that

should have had input from the members," said Millar. He cited last spring's march on the legislature as an example of an event with no member input.

"But that situation has changed now," said Millar. "At our last conference all the executives kind of hung back and the delegates realized

they were the ones making the decisions."

FAS decided on a compromise in September in response to a U of C call for voting, weighted by campus size. Now, major policy decisions must be approved by 50 per cent of both the universities and the colleges.

## Cutbacks killing ACT?

by John Roggeveen

Are you concerned about the quality of your education? You are not alone. The Anti-Cutbacks Team is a group of concerned students who are interested in the quality, accessibility and funding of your education.

ACT is the Students' Union's main instrument for informing students about government underfunding of education.

But, like many student organizations, ACT is suffering from a loss of members over the summer.

"Because it (ACT) was an open structure, a lot of people in student politics were involved and they either lost interest or became interested in other things," says Tony Brouwer, SU external commissioner.

Brouwer has had to organize ACT this fall because it has no executive at present. He says that if an executive isn't elected at the ACT meeting on Thursday (5:00 p.m. in

270 A SUB), then "the future of ACT is in question."

"Last year the decisions in ACT came from the top down," says Brouwer.

Brouwer comments that "this is why we need student involvement at all levels."

"It isn't something that should be directed by the Students' Union. It (direction by the SU) confirms the government's perception that these organizations are run by a small clique of 'radicals' whom students don't support at all," says Brouwer.

"Because of the way in which ACT is structured this year, the activities of the organization haven't been decided," says Brouwer.

An information campaign for later this term has been budgeted for and two more information campaigns during next term have also been budgeted for says Brouwer, but their actual substance hasn't been decided on as of yet.

Brouwer says that students can influence government policies regarding education. He says that, for instance, students' actions in the past have succeeded in obtaining student representation on the Student Finance Board, in getting grants implemented as a part of the federal government student loan system (starts in '83), and in postponing some tuition fee increases in the past.

Brouwer urges anyone interested in ACT and its goals to attend the meeting on Thursday.

## Chaim takes aim

TORONTO (CUP) — Immediately after the removal of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Israeli troops should have withdrawn from Lebanon, according to Israel's former United Nations Ambassador.

"They were innocents abroad — they would have avoided problems," General Chaim Herzog told an audience at the University of Toronto's Hart House recently.

The former Israeli chief of military intelligence, first governor of the West Bank and current member of the opposition's Labour Party, criticized the UN peace-keeping force for not remaining in Beirut long enough to ensure Lebanon's safe return to sovereignty.

But he added that the withdrawal of Israeli troops was only a matter of time. He said once an agreement had been struck with the "hard-bargaining" Syrians it would have been honoured.

Herzog said the Lebanese war was an "impetus for major advancement on the Palestinian situation." He said it is part of a process that needs the perspective of time, "just like the Yom Kippur War which created the possibility of peace with Egypt."

There has been "a gradual acceptance of Israel in the Middle East" and now the Palestinians in Lebanon will compromise, as they have "indicated they might," he said.

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