

# Anti-Cutbacks Team had hands tied

by Jeff Cowley

The Anti-Cutbacks Team (ACT) has been disbanded until funds are available from next year's SU budget.

Although the Anti-Cutbacks Team accomplished its main objective, which was to lobby for public support and educate the student body on the consequences of budget cuts, students will be faced with higher tuition next year.

According to Martin Levenson, ACT chairman, ACT had been given too little time to perform an enormous job. "It (ACT) was started very, very late. We only had a planned campaign for the month of January," said Levenson. "After that, we didn't know what we were going to do. We were going to judge from the support we had."

ACT began planning its campaign in early December, but received almost no funding before January.

ACT's budget bloated to about \$28 thousand, most of which came from students' council.

But miracles don't happen overnight. Slowed by out-dated legislation and administrative hassles, ACT organizers had problems receiving money at the beginning of the campaign, said Levenson. "Executive members of ACT spent a lot of time working against a SU motion

supporting tuition increase, and it took away energy from the actual campaign."

Student council passed a motion supporting increased tuition fees in late January.

The motion was later declared invalid by the SU appeal board (D.I.E.).

SU president Dave Oginski said the decision came after a poll, conducted by the executive indicated students would rather endure higher tuition fees than compromise education standards for a tuition fee freeze.

Although ACT and council frequently exchanged differences of opinion, most executives view the campaign in a positive light.

"Any time you can wake the sleeping giant of 25,000 students you should be patted on the back," said Mike Hunter, VP external. "We had mutual respect, if not mutual understanding."

Both Levenson and SU executives agree that the main problem for the Anti-Cutbacks Team came from ACT's dependency on student council.

Amendments in the SU constitution, passed during previous administrations, had eliminated ACT from the SU budget, forcing organ-

izers to go through council to receive funding.

Former SU President Floyd Hodgins claims the current council stabbed ACT in the back by abandoning the zero per cent increase policy. The policy has been re-adopted.

Regardless of what ACT has

done, budget cuts are still budget cuts, and students are faced with finding an extra 100 dollars or more for school fees next year.

Despite the general wave of hysteria that followed the announcement of budget cuts, tuition fee increases are not uncommon.

According to Oginski, since the

crash of the oil market, the U of A has had to raise tuition fees annually in order to keep pace with inflation and avoid operating in a deficit.

Fee increases were previously limited by a formula tied to increases in University funding. Last year's increase was 3 per cent.

## Fed science policy to come

**WATERLOO (CUP)** — A federal-provincial agreement on a national science and technology policy is only a few weeks away, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said during a recent visit to the University of Waterloo.

During an afternoon visit to the Waterloo campus March 4, Mulroney said Ottawa and the provinces will soon sign a National Science Policy Accord. He said this agreement would be the blueprint for a national strategy for increasing the country's performance in research and development spending.

Canada currently spends 1.28 per cent of its gross national product

on R & D, less than half spent by such trade competitors as Japan and the United States.

While Mulroney condemned Canada's performance in research spending, he blamed the private sector and provincial governments for not taking initiatives of their own in R & D. The Conservative government itself has weathered intense heat from the education and scientific communities for restricting growth to, or cutting, research spending, in line with federal restraint policies.

Mulroney, who was shown many of the engineering and computer science labs that made Waterloo a

leader in technology innovation and development, said Canadians must realize the importance of developing and instituting a national gameplan for science and technology development.

"Science and technology are not only a means of securing and enhancing our prosperity, they are vital to our national sovereignty," Mulroney told an audience of students and faculty members.

Mulroney made no financing announcements, but said details of the national accord would be revealed as the coming weeks pass.

## Le Bistro St-Jean vous invite

par Lisa Hall

Aimeriez-vous goûter un peu de culture française? Aimeriez-vous trouver un endroit où vous pouvez oublier vos problèmes pour quelques heures? Pourquoi pas essayer le Bistro Saint-Jean?

Chaque vendredi, les étudiants sont invités à finir leur semaine au Bistro de la FSJ. Ils peuvent partager de la bière, des coolers, de la pizza et des conversations, tout, en écoutant de la musique française.

"Nous essayons de créer une ambiance française," a dit Michel Doucet, Animateur Culturel de la FSJ.

Ce n'est pas seulement les étudiants de la Faculté qui sont invités au Bistro.

"Les gens du campus principal sont les bienvenus," a dit Doucet. "S'ils désirent de parler français ou s'intéressent à la langue française ou à la Faculté, ils peuvent venir."

Le Bistro se déroule dans le salon des étudiants de la Faculté Saint-Jean chaque vendredi après-midi de 15h à 19h.

Chaque semaine un différent comité étudiant de la FSJ est responsable pour travailler au Bistro. En revanche, ils reçoivent des profits des ventes. C'est une façon pour ces groupes (comme la Radio Active et la Presse Active) d'obtenir des fonds pour subventionner quelques-unes de leurs activités.

Comme Doucet l'a mentionné, le but principal n'est pas de gagner une abondance d'argent, mais c'est plutôt de donner aux étudiants l'opportunité d'oublier leurs problèmes, leurs cours, leurs examens. Ils peuvent se relâcher dans une atmosphère française et se débarrasser des tensions qui accompagnent l'université.

La réponse au Bistro est très positive; c'est l'activité de la FSJ le plus fréquenté par la population étudiante. Avec cette popularité, c'est probable que le Bistro continuera l'année prochaine. Le dernier Bistro de ce semestre va être le 3 avril.



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