

Jean-Charles Martin

On the Faculte student executive "I was very upset about it (the actions of the student executive). I signed the petition. I voted in favor of it (impeachment). The vote reflected it. The students didn't want them."  
"This has awakened the consciousness of the students. They'll watch more carefully in the future."

# Faculte speaks

by Shaun Cody

Last Friday the Gateway asked Faculte St. Jean students to comment on a variety of topics. Students were asked why they chose to attend the Faculte St. Jean and also to comment on the recent controversy involving the Faculte St. Jean student executive.

Students most often commented that they valued the close knit intimacy of the Faculte St. Jean. The controversy with the student executive was viewed by most students as a threat to the "family" atmosphere at the Faculte St. Jean.

Thanks to Gilbert Bouchard.

Photo Timothy Hellum



Eric Fontaine

On the Faculte student executive "The greatest problem is inaccessibility. I mean, the executive members are very friendly, but students are not kept informed. I'd like to be more aware of events."



Heather Smith

On the Faculte student executive "I think a lot of them are valid (the complaints about the student executive). When they have an audit and ask them to open their books, I don't think (the FSJ student executive) council will be about to show anything."



Photo Timothy Hellum

Natalie Colleson

On life in the Faculte St. Jean "I live in an English world. (But) Here it's a kind of family."  
On the Faculte student executive "It's really bad to have this. We are not a lot of students here. We should be able to trust the executive. They are not defending the students."



## The Gateway

Tuesday, February 11, 1986



"When social scientists are recognized, it's usually because they say something outrageous"

# Humanities ignored by government and society

OTTAWA (CUP) — The president of the council that awards grants to social scientists for research says federal funding and support for the liberal arts is now so low it's "bloody insulting."

But William Taylor of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council says social scientists themselves "don't sell themselves nearly well enough," and are partly responsible for the eroding public awareness of their work.

The contributions of the social sciences are generally ignored by society. The humanities and social sciences define our mental, social, cultural, and political environment, and are so damn pervasively important, yet we don't seem to get that across as a constituency very well," he said.

While historians, linguists, and economists, to name a few, may realize the importance of their own work, few spend little time telling others beyond academic circles about it. The researchers that manage to attract attention are those that know how to deal with the media, Taylor said.

"When social scientists are recognized, it's usually because they say something outrageous," Taylor said. A bilateral lack of interest in one another is making the social sciences increasingly invisible in society.

The humanities are also losing their place on the government funding agenda, Taylor says. Real-money support for the social sciences has been steadily decreasing over the last 15 years, while researchers have only recently learned the rules of lobbying for financial support.

Taylor said funding for graduate students has reached devastating proportions. Of the 19,000 Master's level students in Canada, SSHRC

has funds to cover only 103. As well, only one in six doctoral applicants can obtain funding.

"The students who apply are the very best in the country, and we can only fund 15 per cent of them. It's discouraging. No, it's bloody insulting.

"That's the scale of poverty our researchers have to deal with."

Taylor said SSHRC, whose five-year proposal has yet to be approved by the federal government after

more than six months in limbo, can't survive on less money than it receives now. "We've gone well beyond thrifty," he said. The council received \$50 million last year, about 10 per cent of the federal commitment to university research.

With governments across the country pushing for more restraint on education spending, universities have less money to contribute to their researchers. "The universities themselves have been suffering,

and the ability to make up the gap gets worse and worse and worse." SSHRC is not the only research council surviving in lean times.

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council is also awaiting the long-postponed word on its own five-year proposal, and has drawn up emergency measures for the coming months as applications arrive for the next wave of funding competitions.

NSERC president Gordon Mac-

Nabb says things can't get much worse. "You could say we're operating on crisis management," Mac-Nabb said.

Both NSERC's and SSHRC's five-year plan calls for increased links between university researchers and industry, guaranteed government financing for key areas, and attracting more graduates to Canadian schools to develop national pools of talent.

## FSJ Dean wants bigger role for students

by Gilbert Bouchard

Students should show more interest in the academic growth of a university, says Jean Bour the dean of the U of A's Faculte St. Jean (FSJ).

"Students who join the FSJ are joining a kind of family, and the members of that family must show an interest for that family and contribute to the operation and planning of that institution," said Bour, in an exclusive Gateway interview.

"Students are the heart of FSJ, we are here for them, they are not here for us," he said. "Students as a group have a special role to play in the life here at FSJ. They have a right to demand certain things from the staff - a good education, respect - but we also expect certain things from them, both as a group and individually."

While Bour has publicly stated his dissatisfaction with the current student government at FSJ, he staunchly defends the principle of autonomy for student organizations. "I believe in autonomy for student governments, but I have certain expectations from them, and I feel that I have the right to express my disappointment."

"Student groups must have their autonomy and liberty, as long as

they don't disturb the academic functions of the organization and respect the Francophone nature of FSJ, and the basic liberties of speech and person," he said. "Students here at FSJ have a government, a constitution and an executive. They must be respected."

Bour would like to see the student government take a hands-on interest in the academic operation, the intellectual life and the long range planning of FSJ. "Student government must show its maturity by reflecting in a mature way on the mandate of the institution. I said that I was upset with the endless talk about parties, not that I'm against parties as such, but there are other things to consider."

For example, Bour would like to see the student government take a more active interest in the issue of language, adding that not enough students speak French at FSJ, and that the student government should perhaps try and increase the use of conversational French on the FSJ campus.

"I've seen minimal action in this direction," he said. "Also I would like to see the student government play a larger role in the larger French community."

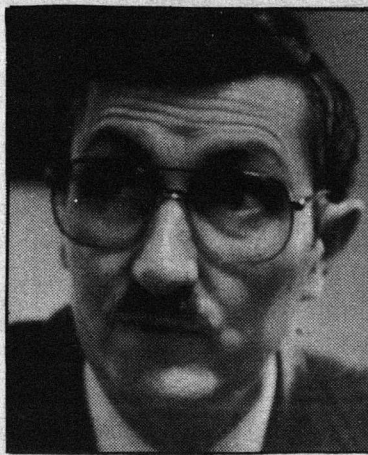


Photo Bill Daskoach

Dean Bour — "allegations of inaccessibility anger me"

Bour would like to see students become less egocentric and work in the community. "They could

work with French school kids, organize tours of FSJ or reach out with their sports teams either by playing other organizations or helping to coach kids' teams. Something to show that they have ideas."

"They should be training to be leaders, and not only in the students' lounge, but in the outside world."

Bour wants to see students in his office to plan the future of FSJ, and added that it is "a false excuse" for the present student organization to accuse him of being inaccessible. "I am visited often by students, and their allegations of inaccessibility angers me."

But while students should participate in the planning of the FSJ and its policies they have to live up to **continued on page 3**

### Important organizational meeting

Anyone willing to write French copy for the Gateway, please meet this Friday, Feb. 14, 4:30 pm in the Faculte St. Jean Student Lounge.