

Faculte looks to feds for funding

by Greg Halinda

As Alberta schools and universities brace themselves for anticipated funding cuts, the U of A's French-speaking Faculte St-Jean is preparing to ask the federal government for major financial support.

The Canadian Secretary of State has an arrangement with the provinces that gives bilingual institutions federal funds to support bilingual education.

J-A Bour, Dean of Faculte St-Jean, said the funds are needed to effect the transition from the three- to four-year degree programs.

"Any funding from the Secretary of State would go into the teaching area," said Bour.

Bour spoke of the Faculte being under enrollment pressures, of an increasing student vs. instructor ratio.

"We would welcome more education instructors . . . and try to

upgrade the science facilities," he said.

Since the Faculte is a U of A faculty, the request for funding must first receive the approval of the university, and also of the Alberta government.

The actual request will come from the Alberta government. They make an annual request to the

Secretary of State on behalf of Advanced Education. Funds are provided under the Official Languages and Education Program.

The Faculte received over \$700 thousand for the 86-87 academic year, according to Marc Arnal of the regional office of the Secretary of State.

The Faculte is currently prepar-

ing next year's request with the office of the VP Academic, Peter Meekison. Dean Bour would not speculate on the size of the request.

Arnal says the provincial government requests up to 50 per cent of the additional cost of running programs in French. This encompasses elementary through advanced education.

Network assists victims

by John Watson

Working above the Astoria Restaurant, across the street from the law courts, is a group of individuals concerned about the spread of a deadly disease.

The disease is AIDS and the office, named after the first person in the city diagnosed as having AIDS, Ross Armstrong, houses the AIDS Network.

The Network provides educational and support services to the general public and victims of AIDS.

"We exist to provide support for people with AIDS and ARC (AIDS related complex)," said Barry Breau, Executive Director of the Network.

The office has the standard equipment of coffee machine, photo copier, and work desks.

Immediately noticeable are posters proclaiming the virtues of safe sex and a large box of condoms that sits on the table next to pamphlets that detail the latest available information on the disease.

The most recent statistics show 46 Albertans have been afflicted by the disease. Twelve of those cases are in Edmonton.

About half of the individuals who have contracted the disease have died. The first known case in

Alberta was discovered in April of 1983.

Dr. John Waters, Director of the Communicable Disease Control Centre in Edmonton, says the major concern is still mainly in the high risk groups — sexually active homo-

sexual males and intravenous drug users.

There is a "fair amount of concern in the risk groups," said Waters, "but it's not a disease that is going to be a tremendous problem in the general population."

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University of Calgary; that is a very legitimate concern."

Johnston recognizes post secondary funding as an issue for the ATA. "We are concerned with that issue as well. It's not an immediate concern for us but people involved in the faculty of education, teachers in training and so on, we're concerned about the programs available to them and how cutbacks may reduce the quality of education."

Tom McLaren, executive assistant to Dave Russell, confirmed that cuts were pending: "There will be cutbacks but to what degree . . . we don't know."

Asked whether student protests would have any bearing on budget decisions McLaren said, "I don't know if protests are going to work. I think reasoned debate with the Board of Governors is the way to

solve problems."

Part of ACT's strategy will be to invite the media into overflowing classrooms, which Levenson and Hunter say illustrate that the U of A is already functioning under austerity measures.

To these charges McLaren responded, "We are not convinced that the quality of the instruction is going to be harmed . . . There are going to be many classes which aren't overflowing. And I think that there is going to have to be rationalization to develop the resources that are available."

ACT's campaign will run throughout the month of January.

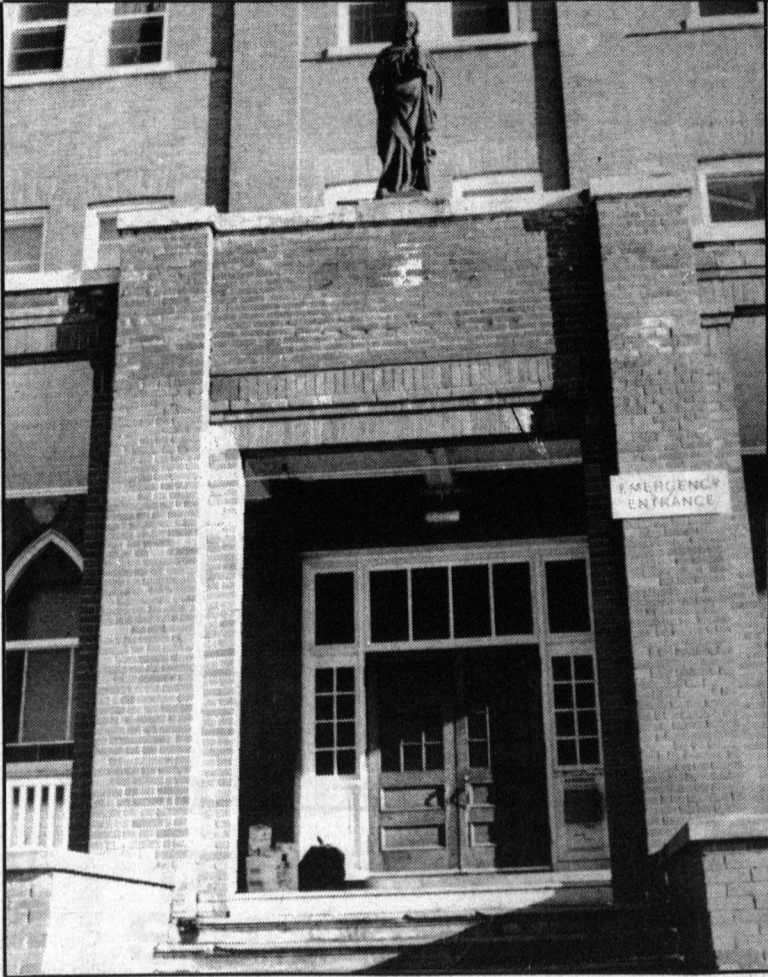


photo Bill St. John

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