

# Fumes story "premature"

by Richard Watts

Allegations linking the Alberta Research Council (ARC) with toxic fumes in the Medical Sciences Building have proved premature.

Last week the *Edmonton Journal* ran several stories linking the ARC with toxic fumes found in Med Sciences. Reportedly the fumes were originating from the exhaust vents linked up to the fume hoods in the ARC's laboratories. "I don't know who leaked the information but the coverage has made life difficult for us. The Research Council people have become particularly sensitive," says Dr. Ronald McElhane of BioChemistry in Med Sciences.

According to the *Journal*, repeated complaints of nausea and headaches have been made by the occupants of Medical Sciences.

Says Dr. Erwin Diener of Immunology, "I have had only one real complaint - one technician felt nauseous - but we all smelled fumes."

Over the past year a number of people have noticed chemical odors in Medical Sciences. These odors, although usually unidentifiable, were reminiscent of organic solvents.

Says McElhane, "we could smell something most of the time but we couldn't tell what it was. A few people did recognize pyridine, though."

Whether or not these odors are coming from the ARC is uncertain. For the last two years the operations of the ARC have been largely curtailed while renovations to the building were carried out.

Dr. Duncan Currie, building manager of the ARC, says, "only about five of our hoods have been operational while the renovations were going on."

The renovations involved giving each fume hood its own separate exhaust in order to avoid dangerous combinations of gases, in compliance with government

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Medical Sciences was the vent of some controversy last week as the *Edmonton Journal* reported some noxious fumes leaking from the nearby Alberta Research Council Building

photo Ray Giguere

China has a two party system...

## the Gateway

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1982

...one's in power while the other's in jail.  
I.Stone.

*Claiming conflict of interest*

# Council bans ACT pamphlet

by Peter Michalshyn

Claiming conflict of interest and abuse of funds, Students' Council has ordered an SU election 'gear-up' pamphlet removed from campus immediately.

The white, folded single page pamphlet entitled "ACT (Anti-Cutbacks Team) Speaks Out" identified certain issues ACT organizers felt should be raised in the election campaign starting today.

Among those issues are student aid, tuition indexing, library funding, and the willingness of candidates to address those issues.

The pamphlet was produced by the Anti-Cutbacks Team, an activist group supported financially by the Students' Union and informally by the Federation of Alberta Students. ACT chairperson Amanda LeRougetel is running in the upcoming February 5 student executive election on the Walker slate for vice president external affairs.

"One of the people on a slate in the upcoming election (LeRougetel), is one of the people who is directly responsible for putting this pamphlet out," charged Engineering Representative John Koch at Council.

LeRougetel told the *Gateway*, "there is no conflict of interest."

"It was totally out of my hands. I refused to have anything to do with it."

She said the important things were the issues the pamphlet raised, and that these issues be thoroughly addressed during the election campaign.

Speaking against the motion to ban the pamphlet, SU v.p. external Lisa Walter said she saw no conflict of interest because LeRougetel in fact was not directly



Students' Council met Tuesday and actually left the same night.

involved in producing the pamphlet.

However, Walter admitted Dawn Noyes and Mike Walker, v.p. internal and presidential candidates respectively for the Walker slate, helped lay out the pamphlet.

Walter and ACT member Siobhan Avery wrote the contents of the pamphlet, based partially on a January 11 ACT meeting LeRougetel attended.

At that meeting, LeRougetel said the pamphlet would force the slates to take positions on the election issues.

However, ACT member Tony Brouwer was not at the same meeting that ACT might appear to be supporting a specific candidate.

Plans for the idea of an SU election 'gear up' pamphlet go back as far as May 20, 1981, but no provision was made for one in ACT's August budget submitted to Students' Council.

Lisa Walter said the "perceived conflict of interest" was irrelevant if the pamphlet did not say "...if one slate is better...more responsible than

the other..."

She asked Council to prove if LeRougetel and Walker had anything to gain from the pamphlet.

Arts representative Grant Littke said the pamphlet "im-

plicitly but very clearly takes a position."

As well, Paul Fitzgerald of Faculte St. Jean said the Walker slate had the advantage of seeing the contents of the pamphlet before it came out Monday.

The pamphlet was supposed to be distributed on campus Tuesday and Wednesday this week before campaigning started. Walter asked if the important issues concerning students would be raised if the pamphlet was removed. She also said she thought Council has no authority to order the pamphlet banned.

SU president Phil Soper said he thought those issues would be raised without the pamphlet, and expressed little doubt about Council's power to do just about anything it wanted with a group funded by and under the umbrella of the Students' Union.

Council voted 13 for, six against, on the motion to ban the pamphlet; there were two abstentions. In the roll call vote, the executive was split, Soper, v.p. academic Liz Lunney, and v.p. internal Brian Bechtel voting for the motion; Walter and v.p. finance and administration Elise Gaudet voted against.

photo Dave Chan

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