

# AHS student council aims to shun 'negative' image

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Acton Tanner

Cheryl Cullingham, Matt George, Jennifer Jahn, Adam Brown, Jackie Jahn and Shannon Lyness all share at least three things in common.

They're all Acton high school students, all are members of the school's student council and this year will strive together in their goal to get rid of the negative view of council by fellow students.

"They have a negative attitude towards us," explains president Cullingham. "But we, too, have to be more informative this year and get students to be more involved and participate in the activities we provide."

George, who is serving his first year as treasurer, says a lot of the flack council takes is a result of students being ill-informed of behind-the-scenes happenings.

"A lot of the students don't know the rules (the red tape)," states George, 18, who adds a student did approach him recently with an idea to take back to fellow members. "The students get negative, but it's not our fault. We have to go to teachers for approval."

There seems to be a perception among council, says George, that students view teachers and council executives as members of the same team. He wants people to know that's not always true.

"We council are looked upon as being connected with the teachers — on their side," explains George. "But a lot of them don't want to do what we want, like chaperon a dance, until they are assigned to. I think some of them are here to teach, but not for school support."

In all fairness, Cullingham, 17, pipes in, "a lot of that has to do with the Social Contract."

In any event, the 26-member council is busy planning events for the 1994-95 school year. They recently held a Halloween dance and are working on candy-grams this month.

Throughout the year, council

will hold such events as bake sales, lip-synchs, pancake breakfasts and raffles to raise money for Multiple Sclerosis, Easter Seals, the Acton FoodShare and the Acton Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society, to name a few.

"They're off to a great start," offers student council advisor Dorothy Platner. "They're a close group and work well together, so I think things look good for this year."

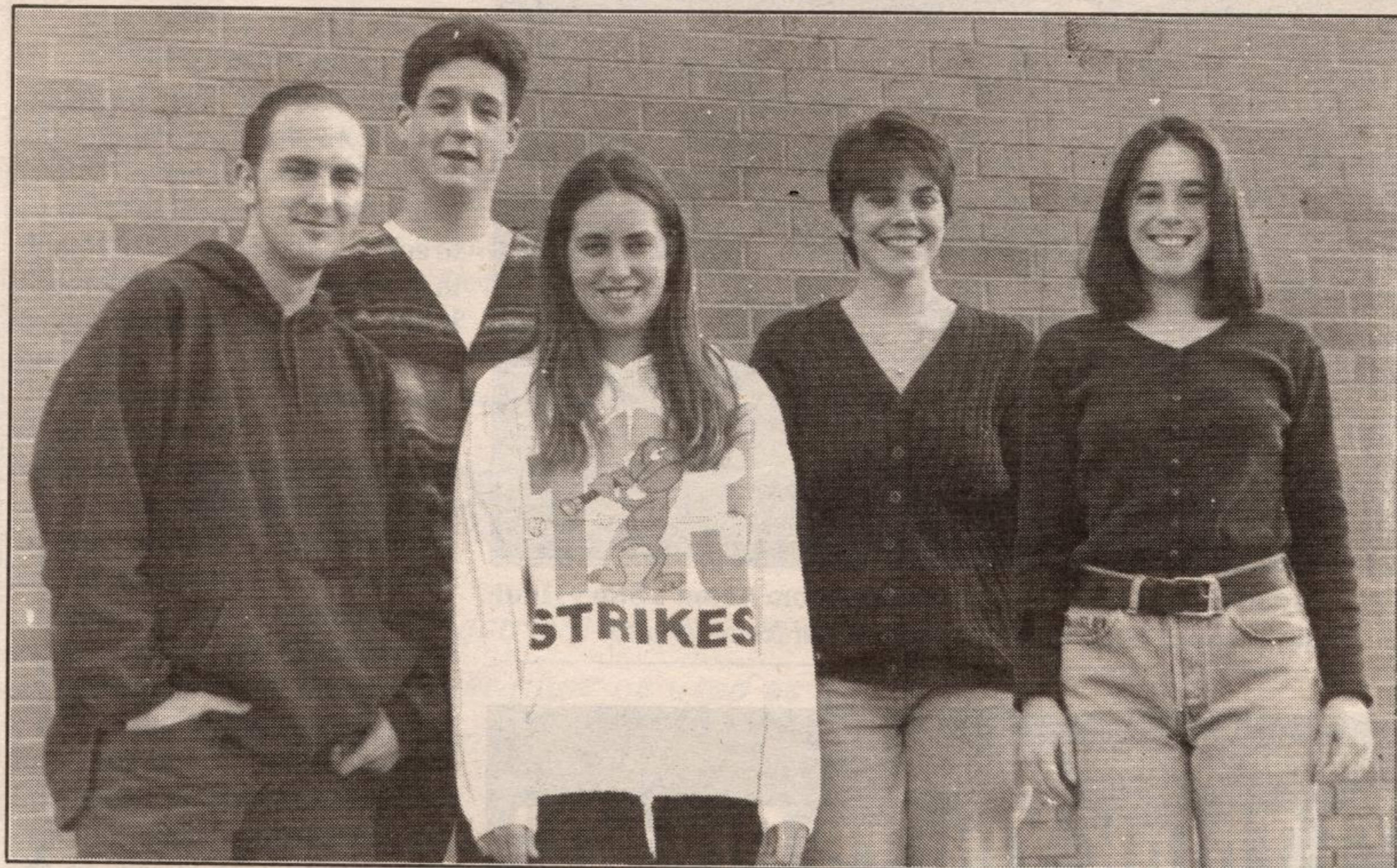
George, who's also involved in soccer at Acton High, admits council seems to have more freedom, unlike last year, in its decision to run certain fund-raisers.

"Principal Joyce Bradley and our new vice-principal (Gary Crocker) want to boost the school spirit, too," George says. "Last year administration wanted to keep things the same, but things are changing this year."

Brown, 15, joined the council executive this year as secretary to contribute to school life and make the atmosphere more enjoyable for students.

A priority of council this year is to get Grade 9s more involved. That way, Cullingham says, when seniors graduate there will still be senior students as executives.

"I joined because I thought it



**WORKING HARD!** AHS student council members, from left, Matt George, Adam Brown, Cheryl Cullingham, Jennifer Jahn and sister Jackie Jahn.

would look good on a resume," says third-year member Cullingham, a member of the school band with council mate Jennifer Jahn. "But I stuck with it and I learned more."

"You know more what's going on in school and are not just a student going from class-to-class."

The student council sponsored Friday's Yuk Yuk's show at the school cafeteria. We have a photo of that event on Page 7.

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