

FAS' ire raised by Training Act

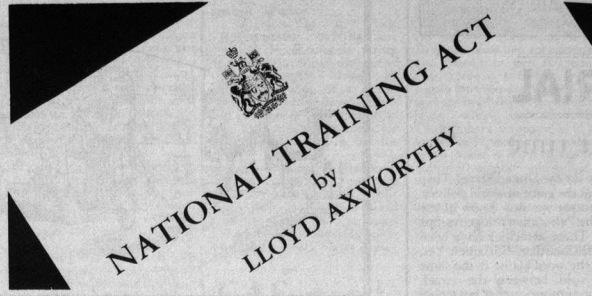
by Allison Annesley
The Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) is in an uproar over Minister of Employment and Immigration Lloyd Axworthy's National Training Act.

The Act's proposals would direct special funds from the Ministry into what a joint committee of the ministry has deemed "national occupations".
The federal government, therefore, will be offering its own funding for post secondary and job training programs tailored to specific industry needs affected by technological change.

The NTA could be construed as an infringement of provincial jurisdiction because it bypasses provincial ministries, so it requires the approval of each individual province. So far, only Ontario and New Brunswick have negotiated deals with Axworthy.

The main objection of FAS is that the recipients of these NTA programs will be qualified only for very specific jobs, which may then be made obsolete by further technological change.

Although the program purports to be offering skills to



students, the effect is likely to be precisely the opposite," claims FAS President Don Millar, "The plan will in fact 'de-skill' young people by giving them overly specific job training."

FAS also fears that the program would deny students the chance to get a more general education. They feel general

programs qualify students for a variety of jobs and give them more flexibility as the job market changes.

The proposal itself is not a new one. It is something the provinces have held a united stand against for years. It has recently been made more attractive though by the \$108 million Axworthy has

offered through the Act to fund specific programs this fall.

The act itself consists of four proposals:

1) An industrial training program meant to encourage greater private sector involvement in job training. There are wage reimbursements for employers to train and apprentice

students in some 25 "high skill national occupations" in fields affected by technological change.

2) An occupational growth and adjustment fund designed to provide financial assistance for national occupation training facilities. Funds are used to assist in the establishment, expansion, or modernization of these facilities.

3) An institutional training program for the expansion of pre-employment and pre-apprentice training in colleges and universities for "national occupations."

4) A Canadian occupational projection system which provides alternative growth paths to promote high growth and adjust the job market to current trends.

Says Millar, "The big problem at universities is that it (the NTA) will hurt university autonomy when money coming in is tied to specific programs."

"I think what's going to happen in the end is that new money coming in is going to go directly into the professional programs," Millar comments.

Millar fears that the NTA jeopardizes education for its own sake.

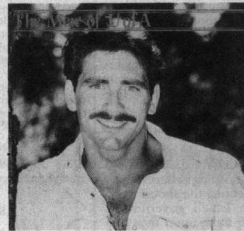
I love, I love, I love my little calendar person

by Jens Andersen

In your travels about campus, did you ever meet a hunk so handsome, or a gal so gorgeous, that you wished you could stuff them in your backpack and take them home with you?

Well, now you can, thanks to *The Men of the U of A* and *The Women of the U of A* calendars, available at the University Bookstore.

The 1983 calendars are the brainchild of two local students, Dawn Izzard and Keeley Vickerson, who got the idea from a



similar project at Arizona State University. The two U of A calendars are intended to help finance the two ladies' studies, with some money left over for the "630 CHED Children's Charity."

Due to the use of the University of Alberta's name, the calendars are only available at the University bookstore. Price is \$5.95.

And remember, unlike the sweethearts one meets on campus, the beaus and belles on the calendar will never give you a dirty look or tell you to get lost.

Unemployment benefits

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or less education were unemployed.

Zsigmond said that during a recession more people upgrade their education to increase their job prospects.

He said the proportion of

people attending Alberta universities declined during the economic boom there because well-paying jobs were available to people holding only bachelor's degrees.

With the collapse of the

boom, more Albertans are staying on at university to get a master's degree, even in programs like commerce and engineering.

A smaller factor in this year's enrolment increase was the movement of the tail end of the baby boom through post-secondary institutions, said Zsigmond.

Many people have the mistaken impression that the baby boom has already passed through the 18 to 24 age bracket, but the largest number of births in Canadian history was in 1959.

The birth rate went into a steep decline in the early 1960's, so enrolment should presumably start to fall after 1982-83. But Zsigmond said the state of the economy and the availability of student aid will be major determinants of next year's enrolment.

He said that post-secondary education is much more affordable now than it was in the last period of very high unemployment, the 1930s. Because of this, today's students are more likely to remain in school longer, he said.

"God help us if unemployment stays this high next year," said Zsigmond. "But if it does, and if it is not really a big financial burden for most students to stay in school, they will stay in school."

So the long-awaited enrolment decline remains. But the unemployment crisis will only postpone the decline for a year or two, said Zsigmond.

"By 1985 for sure."



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Deadline September 24, 1982