

Gays organize

by Gilbert Bouchard

"The U of A is one of the few universities in Canada that doesn't have a campus homosexual organization," said Rick Hurlbut.

Hurlbut and several other U of A students are out to change that by organizing just such a group.

"We're having an organizational meeting Wednesday, September 26, from 5 to 7 pm in room 034 (the basement meeting room) in SUB," said fellow organizer Edward Sandberg.

"We want all kinds of suggestions and opinions on how to make the group work, and what direction we want the group to take."

Hurlbut said that the idea for a campus group has been around for a long time.

"G.A.T.E. (Gay Alliance Towards Equality) was originally off-campus on 9th street, and the founders

were students, but it evolved to become an Edmonton-wide organization and moved downtown," said Hurlbut.

"That doesn't mean that it isn't accessible to university students, it just means that it may not be convenient to all students."

"One of the reasons that this (the establishing of the campus group) is happening now, is that there are enough interested people who are willing to be active," said Hurlbut.

"The group won't be offering peer counselling and people who do want counselling will be sent over to G.A.T.E., we don't see counselling as our mandate. We also won't have political activism as one of our primary goals. Individuals can be politically active if they want to be, but the group won't be unless it needs to protect itself,"

The group will attempt to provide a social atmosphere for gay individuals to meet on campus, and will also try to provide education for both its members and university community.

The group is also attempting to gain club status with the Students' Union.

"Reception has been quite good," said Stephen James, another of the group's organizers. "Paul Alpern, the Students' Union Vice-president External, was very helpful in securing information on the CFS stand on gay issues - which incidently was very positive."

"Gord Stamp also said his committee (Building Services Board) would rubber stamp any application for official club status and that there would be no problem at all," added James.

Courses chopped

REGINA (CUP) The financially strapped University of Regina has cancelled more than 60 courses it planned to offer off-campus this year, leaving hundreds of students scrambling for credits.

Faced with a \$2 million deficit, the university board of governors decided at its August meeting to cut 63 courses from a scheduled list of 123. The courses were to be offered through the university's extension program run jointly with Saskatchewan's community colleges and had the lowest enrolment so far.

Herb Kindred, university extension dean, acknowledged the move came less than a month before classes were scheduled to begin. He said the university knew in April it would have to cancel some

courses but failed to notify the parties involved.

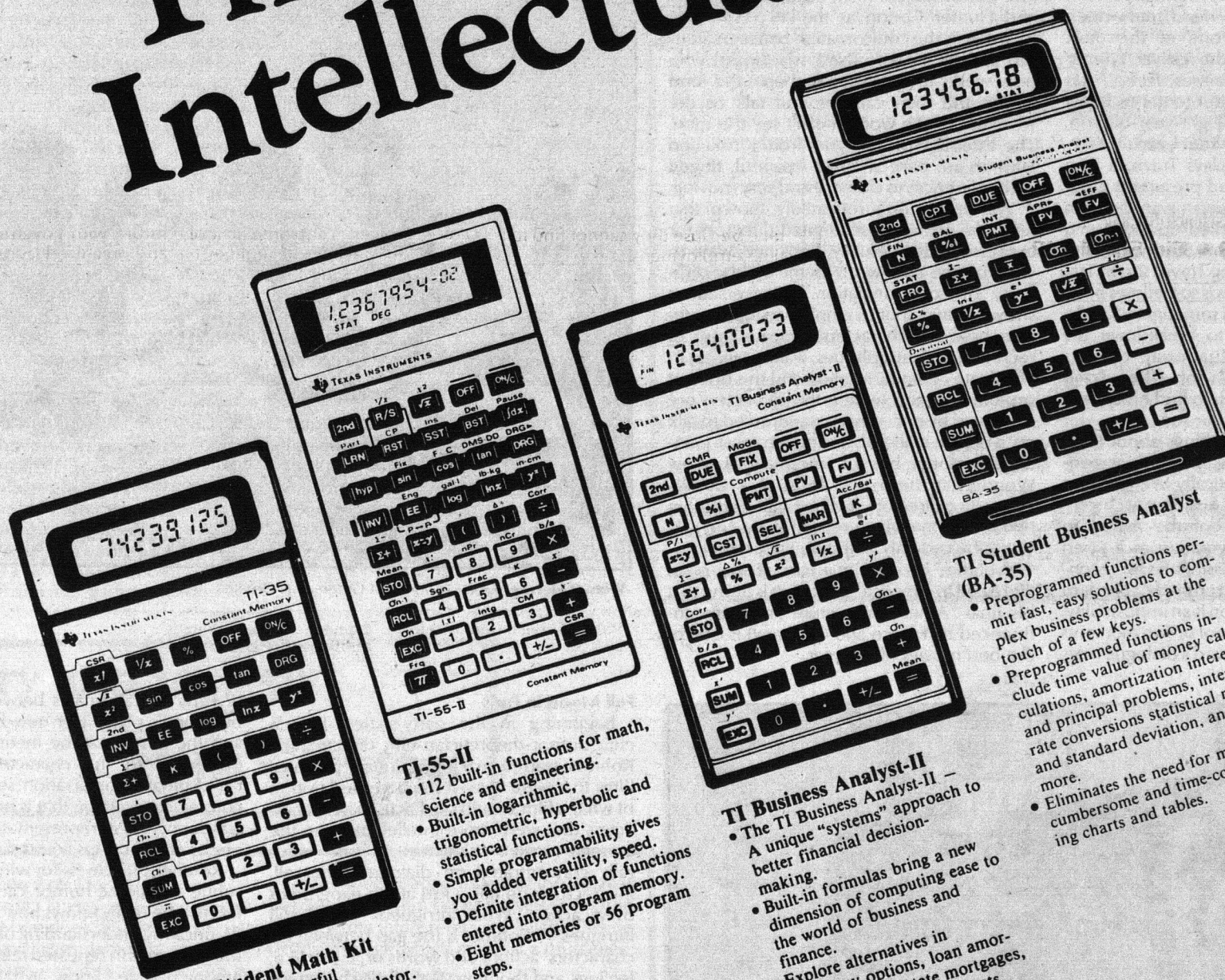
Gae Jones, university extension department assistant, said community college officials are angry that the university did not warn them of the cuts.

It is not known how many students are affected and how much money will be saved by the decision.

Kindred said he hopes the provincial government supplies more money to the university to fund the program but he said he fears the extension program may be closed down entirely.

The university and the community colleges fund the off-campus courses jointly, with the university paying about \$2,000 a course and the community college about \$1,200 to \$1,500 each.

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