

There are two ways of making something:

One way is to make it so simple there are obviously no deficiencies;

The Gateway

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and the other way is to make it so difficult there are no obvious deficiencies.

The first way is far more difficult.

Quoted in *Data Structures and Program Design*, P. Kruse



ATA President Nadene Thomas (L) and SU VP External Mike Hunter in the camera eye during Monday's Anti-Cutbacks Team press conference.

Anti-Cutbacks Team off the blocks

by Greg Halinda

A strong showing by the Edmonton media marked the beginning of the Anti-Cutback Team's campaign yesterday morning at a press conference in SUB.

Representatives from the University, the Students' Union, the Alberta Teachers' Association, and Solidarity Alberta gave their vocal support to ACT.

Also, a \$500 donation was delivered to SU VP External Mike Hunter by the president of Edmonton Public Schools Teachers' Association, Karen Brunanski.

Several of the speakers expressed their concerns for the welfare of students in Alberta.

Nadene Thomas, president of

the Alberta Teachers' Association, talked of the irony of us being in the information age while at the same time the government is planning to cut back on education, thus stifling the primary source of information.

"We as a province are willing to commit suicide (in allowing education cutbacks)," she said.

VP Academic Peter Meekison congratulated the SU for undertaking the anti-cutback initiative.

"You just don't peel five percent off the top of any organization... reductions on university spending are not, in my opinion, going to resolve the provincial government's dilemma," said Meekison.

When asked what a 5 percent

budget cutback would mean, Meekison replied it translates into a \$13 million drop in revenue. A 50 percent tuition fee increase would be in order to replace such a loss.

Mike Hunter was pleased with the media turnout. "Now we'll have to see if Albertans respond to it," he said.

ACT to spearhead fight against cutbacks

by Suzanne Lundrigan and Rod Campbell

University of Alberta students have formed an Anti-Cutbacks Team (ACT), which will spearhead a provincial campaign against pending cutbacks in education funding.

ACT is being funded to the tune of \$17,600 by the U of A Students Council for an advertising campaign, postcard drive and telephone blitz targetting Premier Getty, Treasurer Dick Johnston, Advanced Education Minister Dave Russell and Education Minister Nancy Betkowski.

The purpose of ACT, said chairperson Martin Levenson is "... fighting government cutbacks which directly affect the quality and accessibility of education."

However, Levenson stressed that ACT will be involved in a pro-education campaign, not an anti-government campaign.

ACT intends to defend all levels of education, from primary to post-secondary.

While the U of A is providing most of the funding the Alberta Teachers' Association has contributed an extra \$2000 to the campaign fund. The ATA will also run pro-education advertisements on radio stations throughout the

province.

A surprise blow to ACT came when the University of Calgary Students' Union decided against giving financial support. "Our finance committee, which okays such expenditures felt that they did not want to cloud the issue of post secondary funding with that of elementary and secondary school funds. Those people have a tax

base to go back to," explained Calgary Students' Union VP External Don Kozak when questioned about the U of C decision.

U of C is spending \$2000 on an independent campaign.

"I think it's criminal that someone would only put forward \$2000 for the defense of education in this province," said VP External with the U of A's Students' Union Michael

Hunter.

Although disappointed with the Calgary decision Hunter feels it will not hamper the campaign.

"They (U of C) will be coordinating their efforts with ours. For example we're making sure that we

don't run ads on the same days."

Tim Johnston, spokesperson for the ATA, was not upset with the U of C's decision to focus on post secondary education. "Their agenda is to look after funding to the

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Dial-a-course down

by Alex Shetsen

The U of A telephone registration system broke down on Monday and will remain out of commission indefinitely.

In the meantime, the Office of the Registrar has been telling students phoning in to inquire about the situation to wait until 8 a.m. Thursday morning before trying to re-register or to change their courses. Signs have been posted in the Universiade Pavilion and the Administration Building.

If the system cannot be fixed by Thursday, the university will likely revert to the old manual method of registration used until the computer system came on-line last spring.

The deadline for making course changes has been correspondingly

pushed back to Wednesday, January 14.

According to Brian Silzer, University Registrar, this is the first instance of problems the U of A has had with the computer system. Extra staff have been assigned to work overtime until the system is fixed.

The cause of the problem has been traced to either a bug in the registration system or software problems in IMS, the operating system on which the registration program is run.

Students are not the only ones affected by the breakdown. The university cannot update student records in any way or issue correct class lists to professors until the system is repaired.

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