

The trouble with being a good sport...

The Gateway

...is that you have to lose to prove it.

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Ed students march to teach

by Greg Neiman

About 150 students organised yesterday for a march on the legislative buildings, demanding a hasty resolution of the impasse between the Alberta Teachers' Association, the university, and the provincial government regarding the implementation of extended practicum programs for ed students.

Education Minister Julian Koziak met with the group, discussing with them the government's stand on the issue, and trying to communicate the government was both cognisant of and sympathetic to the education students' problems.

"I had a meeting yesterday (Tuesday) with the President of the university, the Dean of Education, and the Associate Dean of Education, and we were made aware of their and your concerns," he told the group.

A statement on behalf of Education students was read to the Minister complaining that they felt they were unfairly being used as pawns in a union scuffle and references were made to the financial costs to students if degree requirements could not be filled.

The students supported the ATA's demands for release time, but not to the extent that their degrees could be used as a lever in the dispute.

The statement ended with a demand for immediate action.

Some students had lost as much as two weeks' time in their courses because they were not allowed into classes to student teach under the new program,

and felt their degrees were in jeopardy since they could not fulfill the new degree requirements.

Others asked why, if the government had authorised the extended practicum program, they were not willing to pay for the increased costs resulting from it.

Koziak then gave the group his view of the situation.

"The Board of Teacher

Education and Certification decided that as of 1976 teachers would need a Bachelor's degree in Education to teach. They also felt it would be beneficial if students could have a degree of practice in conjunction with their educations."

"This was brought to the Faculty of Education and they said they would be unable to implement the program without

additional funds of \$400 per student over a period of three years."

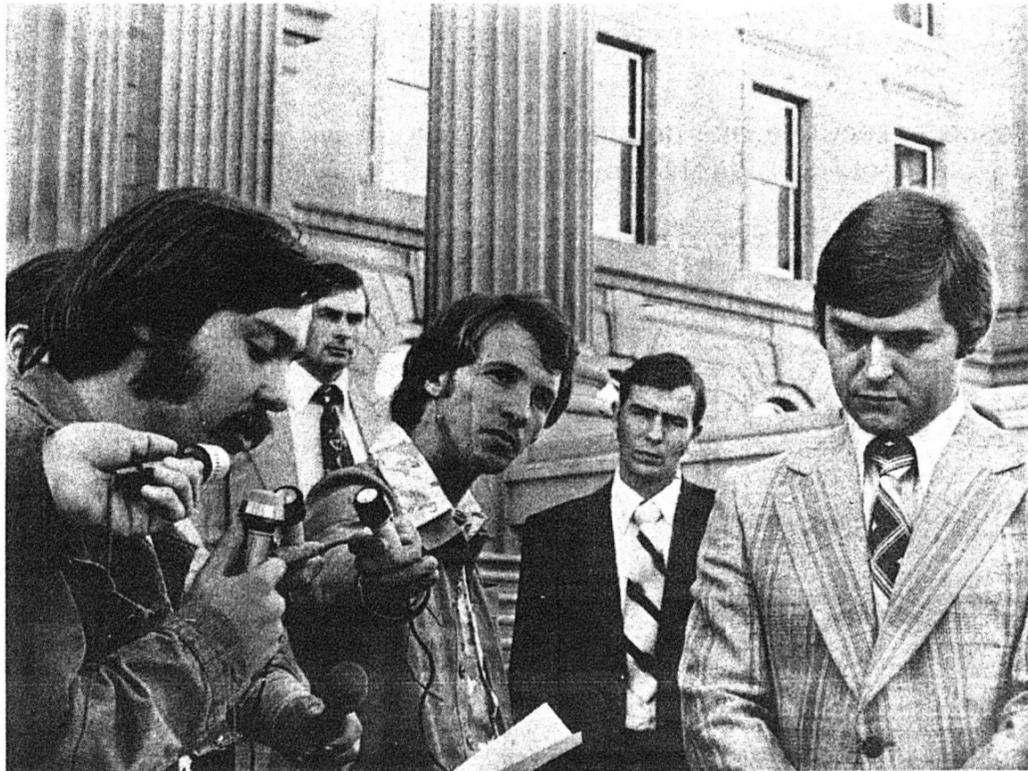
This the government agreed to, he said.

"Subsequently, the ATA said they could not participate if teachers were not given release time to spend with students."

The Board of School Trustees is the body that is recognised in the implementation of the practicum program,

not the ATA. The squabble over release time, said Koziak, is an employer-employee discussion and is being treated as such.

Representatives of the group were invited to speak with the minister, about two and a half hours later, the representatives, mainly Education Students' Association reps, came out with a prepared statement detailing the outcome of the talks.



Education minister Julian Koziak preparing for talks with protesting students at the Legislative Bldgs. Photo: Greg Neiman

Broad-Bent on education

EDMONTON (CUP) - The whole educational system in Canada should be much more closely tied to the needs of the communities it serves says Ed Broadbent, federal leader of the New Democratic Party.

In an exclusive interview with Canadian University Press yesterday, Broadbent said, "What is needed is a reciprocal system of responsibility."

Arguing that "the public already pays 80 percent of the costs per student" of Canadian post-secondary education, Broadbent said that "the student has an obligation to work for his or her community."

Although referring specifically to post-secondary education, Broadbent said "this should hold right through the educational system."

He said that the community should assume complete responsibility for educating Canadians.

What is needed, said Broadbent, are provincial and federal government programs to "guarantee tuition, a living allowance and jobs that would provide productive labour for the community" during a student's education.

Referring to the ROTP program, he said, "We have already done it for students being specifically trained for military purposes."

"The justification holds in even greater force for people who could be doing future non-military work"

This is consistent, Broadbent said, with viewing education as a social investment.

As for financing a program including free tuition, a living allowance and guaranteed employment, Broadbent pointed out "once a university student graduates, they almost automatically become members of society paying higher than average income tax. It is at this point that the student pays for the cost of his or her university education."

Is it reasonable, he said, to expect students to shoulder the burden of tuition fees and living expenses while at university, precisely at the time when "students are in their worst income position."

Practicum-ly agreed?

The Edmonton Public School Local of the Alberta Teachers' Association has notified its members of a possible interim agreement with the U of A concerning the practice teaching program for education students.

Representatives of the ATA and the Faculty of Education met on September 22 where they exchanged information and discussed possible solutions. No agreements were concluded at this meeting.

At the meeting the Faculty of Education indicated they were anxious to make arrangements as there are 1500 students enrolled in field experience programs this year, 650 of whom were planned to be involved in the extended practicum program. As yet, no U of A students have been permitted into classrooms for any of the practice teaching programs.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Faculty had agreed to clarify their position on release time for co-operating teachers and the ATA agreed to give urgent consideration to interim arrangements for the continuation of field experience.

At a special meeting of the ATA executive the position was taken that, if the Faculty of Education would not attempt to implement any form of extended practicum without providing

release time, the ATA would agree to continuing the old style of student teaching on an interim basis.

The ATA also indicated a willingness to continue taking part in the planning activities for the extended practicum program, provided they do not interfere with in-school activities. They are also willing to implement the extended practicum program if the minimum

of forty minutes release time is provided to participating teachers.

If the proposal for continuing with the traditional practicum programs are approved, student teachers may soon be back in the classroom. Although the extended practicum was to have started this year, it will not be necessary for teacher certification until 1977.



A surprise dinner party was held to honour Burt Krull on his last day as SU General Manager Tuesday. Leaving his post to Harry Goldberg, Krull plans to continue work in accounting.

Referendum based on NUS report

"The problems faced by U of A students are closely related to those faced by other students across the nation," says a report submitted to Council in early September.

"We are affected by a severe housing shortage which is epidemic throughout Canada. This crisis is neither the full responsibility of the federal government nor the provincial government, but rather, both."

The report submitted by Brian Mason, SU vp (executive) and Len Zoetmen, ag. rep, outlines the structure of our students' union's proposal to sponsor a NUS referendum.

The report lists a brief history of events leading to NUS/UNE's present political structure, and points out the advantages and disadvantages facing the 20-member national union.

The idea of a national union of students dates back to the 1920's with the National Federation of Canadian University Students, primarily a service organization whose use was student discounts on goods and services, or block bookings for musical groups, etc.

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