

## Women's Centre weakened by division

by Denise Workun

"If the U of A Women's Centre isn't prepared to take a position on issues that affect women students, then why bother having a women's centre at all," says Anne McGrath, a member of the U of A's Women's Centre.

McGrath made this statement in the recent edition of the newsletter *Enragée*, a U of A's Women's Centre publication.

At present, there is a debate within this Centre regarding the non-radical approach the Centre has adopted.

The Centre has declined to take an official stand on many women's issues, preferring to emphasize its role as an information source and drop-in centre.

Women's Centre Chair Sheryl Jackson says "the centre is not in a position of strength right now where it can afford to alienate

members and potential members by adopting official policy stands on women's issues."

McGrath maintains that she is being "turned off the centre by its lack of policy."

However, Jackson stresses the Centre's usefulness, as a forum "or catalyst for discussion on women's issues."

The purpose of the Women's Centre set out in their constitution "is to improve the status of women on campus and the community through education."

McGrath insists, "simply putting the issues forward in an 'educational' format isn't enough."

She says "the organization's role as a resource centre doesn't exclude adopting a political function as an advocate of women."

But Jackson says maintaining the education focus of the Centre

doesn't hinder members from organizing as individuals to take action on certain issues.

Members have reacted individually to campus issues, such as the lack of adequate campus day care service, sexual harassment by professors, and sexism in course content.

Jackson stresses the "need to establish a base for an ongoing women's centre." She mentions the vulnerability of the Women's Centre in terms of its reliance on the Students' Union for office space, and on the government to provide funding.

Though Jackson admits there is some dissension within the ranks, she maintains that the present policy has the support of the majority of members.

The Women's Centre has

operated on campus for approximately two years, and has a small active membership of about 55 women and men.

Though it maintains close contact with other women's groups in the city, its focus is oriented toward women's issues at the University.

It presents a public film and speaker on the first Wednesday evening of each month dealing with various subjects related to women.

In the first week of March, the Centre will be organizing Women's Awareness Week, sponsored by the External Affairs Board.

The Centre is open to all students and the members encourage students to drop by the office at Rm. 270 in SUB to express their views and to increase their awareness with the available resources.

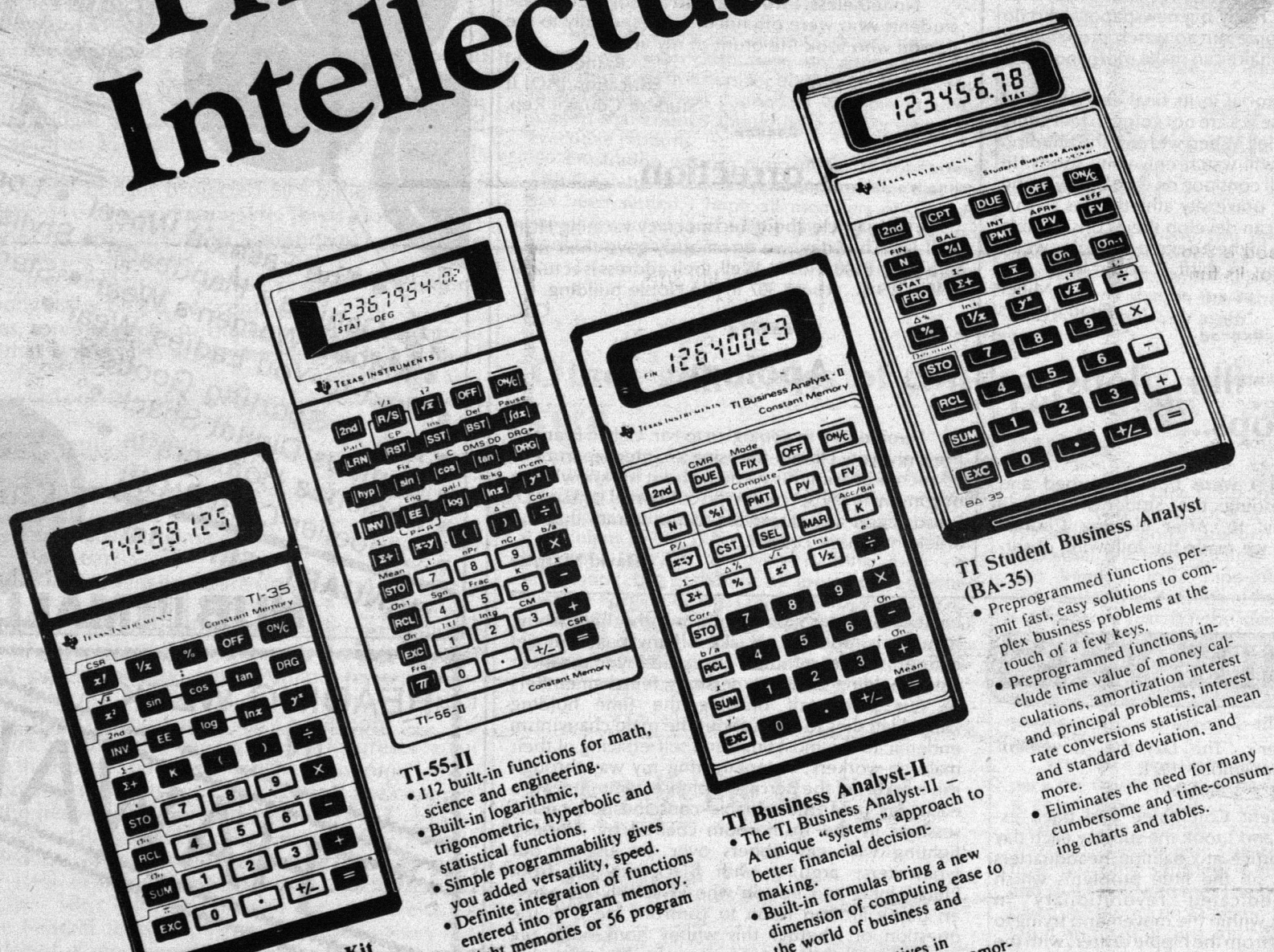
## Rhythm governs impulses

(RNR-CUP) - Scientists say they may have discovered who some people are impulsive, and others aren't. Their internal clocks are different.

University of Texas psychiatrist Ernest Barratt says impulsive people have a faster inner tempo, which makes time seem to pass more slowly. For some reason, Barratt says, impulsive people have a poor sense of rhythm, meaning they aren't very good at tasks requiring precise timing.

He also found impulsive people are more willing to predict the future, which may account for their tendency to take risks, but they are much less aware of what's happening in the here-and-now.

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