

Abuse of feds' funds charged

CALGARY (CUP) — The provincial government is seriously misusing millions of dollars of federal funds originally intended to finance Alberta university programs, according to figures released at a conference on university funding held earlier this month in Toronto.

The conference was co-sponsored by the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) and the University of Toronto's Institute for Policy Analysis, and examined a wide range of topics related to the financing and growth of Canadian universities.

One of the most significant points raised at the conference, according to Colin Johnston, president of the confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA), was that several provincial governments — including Alberta's — are taking advantage of federal transfer payments for universities to cut back their own contributions to the costs of university operation.

Under the existing Established Programs Financing (EPF) plan between the federal and provincial governments, the federal government provides the provinces with \$1.65 billion annually for its share of university funding. Provincial governments then have jurisdiction over how the money is spent.

Figures revealed at the conference, and included in a CAFA press release earlier this week, show that total government funding for regular university programs in Alberta has increased only 7.7 percent per year for the last four years, far below the annual rate of inflation (currently over 12 percent).

But the federal government's contribution has increased by about 17 percent annually to \$174 million this year, 77 percent of total government contributions.

As a result, provincial contributions to university operating grants have declined dramatically during the same period: from 41 percent in 1977 to 23 percent in

1981 of the total, or \$63 million to \$38 million in real dollar terms (a decline of 12 percent per year).

It appears that the Lougheed administration is using the federal transfer payments as a screen for its own cutbacks, in effect transferring the federal education money to other parts of the provincial budget.

Johnston says that other provinces do the same thing, but says "There's no excuse for a province as wealthy as Alberta to be cutting back that funding."

Minister of Advanced Education Jim Horsman and his entire executive staff are away on retreat, and thus unavailable for comment until next week.

Asked how CAFA plans to oppose further funding cuts, Johnston replied, "To make as much public noise as possible to reverse the pattern."



photo Bill Ingle

Curious lookers go on a tour at last weekend's Computing open house. See story, page 7.

FAS fight lost at Olds

by Mike Walker

Olds College students voted Friday to drop out of Federation of Alberta Students, in a referendum marred by charges of administration meddling.

The referendum, asking Olds' 600 students to support their Students' Council decision to pull out of FAS, was passed 142-101, although 50 ballots were ruled 'spoiled' because they were marked with checks rather than

Xs.

FAS representatives claim the Olds College administration subverted their campaign.

Jim Turner, director of Student Services and Board of Governors member, said FAS people didn't know how to deal with the college.

"When the FAS people came here they blew it," he said yesterday. "None of them touched base with me at all."

One FAS worker got a room in Olds College's 500-person residence. This was against the rules, Turner said. The next night, four people stayed in this room, which is also against the rules.

The result was that Thursday, when FAS people wanted to put up posters in the college's main academic building, Turner refused his permission. They were also prohibited from

campaigning in the residence, where the majority of students live, and from setting up information tables.

"They'd broken the trust so far," he told the *Gateway*; he had no indication they were going to behave differently in the future.

FAS fieldworker Anne McGrath blamed the actions of Turner and other administration officials for the referendum loss.

"What did he (Turner) have to do with a student referendum?" she said.

"A lot of people wondered why the administration had such an interest in pulling out of FAS.

"They've got to stop treating them like high school students.... I don't think I'll ever go to an administration official to find out how to run a referendum."

The loss at Olds means FAS has only 11 member campuses, two of which haven't paid their fees for the year. Six others (including Olds) are non-members, including the 9,000 students at NAIT in Edmonton.

However, University of Calgary students voted last fall overwhelmingly in favor of continued membership in FAS, and students at U of A, Mount Royal College in Calgary, and the U of C grads have all approved a hike in FAS fees from the current \$1.50 per student to \$3.50 per student.

Last chance Music Store

by Peter Michalyshyn

In last Tuesday's *Gateway* we said the Students' Union Music Store may be closed, but at Students' Council that night Pat Haws said differently.

Haws, vp finance, said the SU could give the music store one last chance (that's not the Record Store, folks) because of lease concessions won from the university.

The ailing Music Store may

also get an exclusive to sell blank recording tapes in HUB, and, to improve business further, the SU box office may be put back where it was two years ago, next to where the Music Store now stands.

In other trifling Students' Council business, president Nolan Astley asked the university on behalf of council to get moving on cleaning up its asbestos after itself.

Vp internal Jan Byer said the university's priorities were "screwed up" when they cleaned out asbestos in the Bearpit in SUB before cleaning up students residences.

Finally last week, Council dumped Darryl Rankin's motion to change the voting procedure

from electronic to manual, that is with a show of hands.

Clarence Hudson, law rep, generally voiced Council's derision with the procedural change: "I think it's a big waste of time when we've got these nice little buttons," with which to vote secretly.

Rankin persisted that he wasn't "against councillors voting according to their wishes," but that he would like the executive to show leadership in Council by showing their votes.

"Do you observe executive fence-sitting as a problem?" asked last year's vp academic Chanchall Bhattacharya, in response.

"Having observed last year's executive, I do," Rankin said succinctly.

Baz by Skeet



Squibs

by Spike Milligram

From an ad in the Edmonton Journal, March 21:
Billy Graham answers the question: Why does God allow suffering?

How Mark Twain dealt with the same question in Letters from the Earth:

If science exterminates a disease which has been working for God, it is God that gets the credit, and all the pulpits break into grateful advertising raptures and call attention to how good He is. Yes *he* has done it. Perhaps He has waited a thousand years before doing it. That is nothing; the pulpit says He was thinking about it all the time.

When exasperated men rise up and sweep away an age-long tyranny and set a nation free, the first thing the delighted pulpit does is to advertise it as God's work, and invite the people to get down on their knees and put out their thanks to him for it.

And the pulpit says with admiring emotion, "Let tyrants understand that the Eye that never sleeps is upon them; and let them remember that

the Lord our God will not always be patient, but will loose the whirlwinds of his wrath upon them in his appointed day."

They forget to mention that he is the slowest mover in the universe; that his Eye that never sleeps might as well, since it takes a century to see what any other eye would see in a week; that in all history there is not an instance where he thought of a noble deed first, but always thought of it just a little after somebody had thought of it and *done* it. He arrives then, and annexes the dividend.

The view of the panel at a Dagwood held by the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, as reported in the same Journal:

Masturbation is a misuse of sex.

The view of Mark Twain, from his aforementioned book:

No Protestant child exists who does not masturbate. That art is the earliest accomplishment his religion confers him. Also the earliest her religion confers upon her.