

Blind faith...

# The Gateway

...is redundant

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## Government optimistic about job programs

by Ann Grever

The federal government is optimistic about the employment prospects for students this summer. According to Richard Berthelsen,

the Program Supervisor of Northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories, and Margaret Sinclair, an employment counsellor here at the U of A, their main program, SEED

(Summer Employment Experience Development), this year will focus specifically on the private sector and career related studies via wage subsidies.

Opportunity Workshop is a new program this summer for secondary students.

The student can make themselves available for most of these programs by filling out a COSEP form at the Employment centre on the fourth floor of SUB.

## Internship snags

by Neal Watson

The proposed new internship program for graduating education students will only apply to students who have graduated within the past 18 months, says the VP Finance of the Education Students' Association, Greg Wilson.

The details of the program are sketchy — the official announcement is set for April 15 — but, according to Wilson, there will be about 900 one-year positions across Alberta when the program begins in September.

Wilson said the government had worked out its problems with the Alberta Teachers Association and the school board.

But certain questions remain unanswered. Wilson said only students who have graduated within the past 18 months would be eligible leaving many unemployed teachers left out.

Wilson also commented he felt it would be difficult to sell the program to the school boards, particularly in the city where school boards have to pick up many student teachers from the U of A.

"It (interns and student teachers) is a conflict situation," he said. "There is a lot of flexibility left to the school boards."

Another problem raised by Wil-

son was the fact that the internship program may add one more year to the professional training of the teacher.

"The graduating education students will compete for jobs with the teachers finishing their internship," he said. "There will be a one-year lull in hiring. Graduates will be forced to enter the internship program."

Wilson said the government's intent with the program was "a little wishy-washy" alternating between job creation and professional development.

Randy Atkinson, executive assistant to Education Minister Dave King, would not confirm if the program would only apply to students graduated from the education department in the past 18 months.

"This discussion is premature," he said.

Atkinson said that the government could eventually incorporate the program into the training of teachers.

"It is possibly conceivable that this government could make this a requirement for teacher certification."

The Minister of Education was unavailable for comment when contacted yesterday.

The SEED program is the largest of the programs the government is running this year. A wage subsidy program, according to Berthelsen is a lot easier for the employer to administer and...more money goes into the job creation aspect not administration."

Added to the "active solicitation phase" and the additional funds given to Alberta, Berthelsen said this should be "the most successful year ever."

The government has made available \$12 million over last years \$6.3 million for summer student employment in Alberta.

"We are anticipating 4,000 to 5,000 jobs in North Alberta" said Berthelsen, or approximately 8,000 jobs throughout Alberta. Last year's programs provided approximately 3,500 jobs.

The federal program is also coordinated with the provincial STEP program, with SEED covering the private sector and the STEP covering the public sector.

The Student Entrepreneur program is not coordinated yet. Berthelsen was unsure of the details of the program such as the relationship between the provincial and federal government. Berthelsen was also unsure about how concerns regarding Student Aid and how the Entrepreneurial loans will be worked out. Nevertheless Berthelsen was confident the program would be successful.

Other programs besides SEED are the Hire a Student Program, the Native Internship Program and the Federal Public Service. The Work

## Hi-tech selection

by John Watson

The faculty of Arts is developing a computer system to assist students in course selection.

Currently students select courses they want by following the course guide in the calendar. Their choices are then reviewed by department advisors.

This process involves counting the courses already taken and then determine what courses are necessary for completion of the degree.

The student Program Audit System is designed to do most of this work. The system will review the student's past record and supply a list of courses necessary for completion of the program.

The student and advisor would then decide what specific courses would be most beneficial.

The University has been working on developing the system since the

late 70's.

Vic Stobee, Arts administrative officer, has attended a number of seminars on similar systems throughout North America.

The U of A has attempted to "distill all the best ideas" of other systems, Stobee said.

Shelagh O'Hara has been involved with the project from the beginning. O'Hara, a computing science graduate from the U of A is "efficiency personified," Stobee said

She has been responsible for interpreting the department's needs and developing a computer program to fulfill them.

The Arts department hopes to have the system in place for advance registration next year.

Other faculties will also take part in the system after the initial bugs have been worked out of the program.

## No SU fees for seniors

by Susan Sutton

Full-time students over the age of 65 will no longer be required to pay student union fees at the U of A.

Following the passing of a motion by the Board of Governors which waived all tuition fees for seniors, the students' union passed an addendum which also waives SU fees.

The motion, which involves a

constitutional amendment, must be passed at three council meetings. It has already been passed twice, the second time with a 20-3 majority.

The amendment will be kept conditional to the SU continuing agreement, while the waiving of tuition fees is permanent.

SU fees for 1985-86 will be 54.50, down \$4 from last year, since the CFS membership fee will no longer be charged.

## Bear Country



by Shane Berg