



KATIE MOONEY

# Protest campaign too daring

If we want the University to listen, we can't treat them like they're our enemies



SEAN STEELS

On 18 March, university students on campus saw the birth of the Dare to Deceive campaign, an acerbic rebuttal to the University's habit of failing to consult students before making decisions that will affect their postsecondary experience.

From the group's name, you can tell they aren't messing around. After all, twisting the University's own slogan into a shocking anti-establishment one-liner is quite saucy. But I question whether this campaign is actually the right way to approach the University about modifying the way they conduct their business.

Granted, the decision to revoke the ability for students to pay their tuition by way of credit card isn't the best one possible. Some students—whether because of financial restrictions, the principle of having a choice, or most importantly my mo'fuckin' airmiles—should have the ability to use credit to make \$5000 payments. Nowhere else in our society do we expect someone to pick up a tab this large with anything other than credit, and for most students, Visa and Mastercard are the only ones willing to give their jobless, equity-less asses that credit.

But what's more problematic is the way these students decided to react

to this news. The Dare to Deceive signs planted unscrupulously around campus may as well read "Dare to be a Douchebag." It's unreasonable to expect that an antagonistic, guerrilla-style advertising war against the University administration will be met with anything other than returned antagonism and a reticence to engage in constructive dialogue.

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In a situation like that, the University will move to quickly solve the problem and stem negative press instead of working to create real compromise with students.

Regardless, student sloth seems to have regained momentum against the group. Dare to Deceive's Facebook group had, as of press time, a measly 695 members, compared to the "return credit card tuition payment option to the UofA finances" group and its 3623 members. When you see such a chasm between the membership of two groups that seem to have a common

goal, you can't help but wonder what, exactly, they're doing wrong.

The reason I chose not to join Dare to Deceive and instead joined the other credit card protest group is because of the aggressive stance the former has taken towards the University. Either way, the decision has already been made to remove the credit card payment option. The only thing left to do is choose the tone of the collective voice with which we approach the University in the future.

To form a positive future of co-operation and agreement between students and staff, we can't keep attacking the "establishment" with salacious one-liners. That "establishment" has people behind it—people with faces, personalities, and a strong desire not to be aggressed by the uppity kids they likely want to help, considering their choice of profession. Just because they decided to do something that we might not agree with it doesn't make them our enemies.

A campaign like this might create an ambience of revolution, upheaval, and '60s-era passion for change, but the years of flower-power are dead, along with the politically ineffectual shoeless hippies that championed them.

Instead, we should be rallying ourselves around a positive, constructive voice for change and looking for ways to co-operate with the University in order to ensure that things like the cancellation of floor coordinator elections in Lister and the removal of credit card payment options without student consultation never happen again.



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