

gateway

Tuesday, September 13, 1983

My friend has been here four years taking Medicine...

...he still isn't well

SUB Theatre gets facelift

by Brent Jang

SUB Theatre is getting a \$183,000 renovation. New seats, similar to those at the Cineplex downtown, account for \$90,000 of that total. The rest goes to new carpeting and reupholstered sofas.

Theatre Manager Peter Feldman is glad about getting the improvements, scheduled for completion in two weeks. He suggests that shows will be enhanced by the new setting, which in turn could mean larger audiences this season.

"Over the last three years, in excess of 100,000 people per year use the Theatre," said Feldman.

Unfortunately for SUB Theatre, very few of these people attended last year's "artistic" *Decameron*. "Despite the enthusiastic critical response, it just didn't draw. We lost \$6500 on that show," said Feldman, who started as Theatre Manager in March 1979.

Feldman says SUB Theatre will continue to book "risky" shows, provided that such shows are "saleable".

"If we break even, I would consider us to have a successful year. There are four other similar types of operations (university-affiliated) in Canada. Financially, we do the best of any of them," he said.

How will the renovations change SUB Theatre's approach? Feldman says they'll be using SUB more than last year.

"We did five shows at the Jubilee last year. We're only going to be using the Jubilee once this

year. I prefer to go to the SUB whenever I can. Anyone would agree it's more fun to watch something in a smaller hall than a big one."

However, those five shows at the Jubilee all made a profit. Notably, Canadian Brass made \$10,000 for SUB Theatre, Andre Gagnon \$12,000, and the Nylons \$14,000.

Thus, Feldman will be looking to a couple of SUB shows to get the same financial result as the Jubilee successes. He'll be relying in large part on two-week runs of John Gray's *Rock 'n' Roll* and Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*.

Gov't wants high GPA's

(RNR-CUP) - US government wants to stop throwing good money after bad grades.

Congress is considering a bill to force colleges to cut off aid to students with poor academic records. Behind the bill: the National Commission on Student Financial Assistance, which says federal education grants should be tied to minimum grade, attendance and course requirements.

According to the Commission, nearly half the American colleges pay little or no attention to the grades of aid recipients, and at least one student still got money from Uncle Sam with a zero-point-one GPA.



Saskatchewan defensive back Brian Perberdy carries the ball amid flying mud and falling bodies. The Huskies beat the Bears 27 to 22. Story page 17.

photo Martin Beales

U of A makes exams mandatory

by Ken Lenz

Writing competency exams has been made compulsory at the U of A this year.

All first year students without transfer credit are required to take the exam, which costs fifteen dollars and consists of a 400 word essay on a topic of "general interest".

The topics range from questions about the nuclear arms race to the ethics of paying professional athletes large sums of

money.

The essay is not designed to test students' knowledge but rather to test proficiency in seven specific areas: content, structure, paragraphing, sentence structure, grammar, word usage, and punctuation - spelling.

Dr. Lorna McCallum, administrator of the exam, comments on the exam's intent: "The exams are designed as a service to students to help them with their writing problems."

The fifteen dollar fee includes tutorial help for students before and after the exam.

If a student fails the exam, and 44 per cent do, he or she is required to take a remedial writing course provided by the University.

This course, which costs sixty dollars, covers "essential writing skills and involves approximately twenty hours of instruction over a nine week period."

McCallum adds, "Since we realize students will be taking a full course load as well as the course, the course is structured so the students are not overburdened. For example, instructors may provide class time for written assignments."

Students' reactions to the course have been generally good, according to McCallum.

She comments, "We circulate a questionnaire to all students after the course. Most of the comments were positive including such responses as 'should be mandatory for all students' and 'an excellent course'."

Students wishing to enquire about the exam or the course should go to room 441 Athabasca Hall.

Reach out and tap someone

Vancouver (CUP) - When it comes to eavesdropping, the days of shady looking operatives creeping stealthily around a house planting "bugs" in the walls and phone are quickly disappearing.

Police can now monitor private conversations in a room or building without even going near their target, thanks to rapidly developing technology.

Surveillance techniques are becoming so sophisticated a police wiretap can be placed on someone's phone simply by punching the phone number into a VDT unit several miles away.

And police use of surveillance against political activists is steadily increasing across the country.

These points were made at a recent Vancouver workshop where Don Stewart, head of the Civil Liberties Action Security Project, called B.C. "the wiretap-

ping capital of Canada."

Stewart called surveillance "a complete and absolute intrusion into our lives. You really can't know how much of an invasion of privacy it is until you sit down and read the transcripts. They know more about you than you do yourself."

Citing lawyers, journalists, BC Tel employees, and civil servants as sources, Stewart said the RCMP, the Coordinated Law Enforcement Agency, and BC Tel frequently work together to place wiretapping on phones.

Stewart said a BC-Tel employee recently testified in court that he had personally placed 400 wiretaps in the last four years in his province. He added that the wiretapping process is becoming more efficient and streamlined.

"The entire process usually takes less than one hour and sometimes as little as 20 minutes."

Stewart described a typical wiretapping process:

After obtaining authorization from a Supreme or County Court judge (required only in cases where evidence is needed for prosecution) the police phone one of two technicians in the security division of BC Tel. They in turn connect wires from the target phone to the "intercept room" in a police facility.

Police tape recorders are activated when the target phone is lifted off its receiver and the call, time, and date are automatically recorded.

Stewart said an informed source from BC Tel told him there are 3700 phone lines, including pay phones, in the Lower Mainland under continuous

wiretap. An experienced lawyer also told him that figure "was not out of line."

Thomas McKay, a member of the Coalition to defeat Bill C-157 (the proposed legislation to create a civilian security system) also spoke at the workshop.

"This bill will legalize everything we've heard tonight and more," said McKay. "It will widen the RCMP's powers. There is a certain amount of fear, anger and frustration over this bill, and it affects everyone, not just the radicals in this room."

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