

Theatre blues

The Students' Union has begun to look seriously at solutions to a growing problem; the smooth and fiscally attractive operation of the SUB Theatre.

Plagued in recent months by plummeting attendance at films and live concerts, the theater has been the object of considerable debate in recent weeks. A meeting recently held between SU general manager Bert Best and theater manager Peter Feldman has produced a number of proposals and recommendations for the revival of the theatre. Some are good and some are bad.

Feldman experimented considerably with the nature and substance of theater programming last term; experimenting that proved to be financially disastrous. While a few popular films attracted large audiences, Feldman and Best share the opinion that for the upcoming few months an increased commercial appeal will have to be an important criterion in the future selection of films.

Most disturbing is the ominous suggestion made by Best (in a report presented to Students' Council) and by Feldman (at a SU directors/managers meeting) that an increase in theater admission prices should be carefully considered. Though they urge that a differential continue between SU and downtown prices, any price increase indicates that the problem is being approached in the wrong way.

Raising the prices is not going to bring people back to SUB Theatre. What will improve the situation is a concentrated effort by the Students' Union to survey student perceptions and requests for what should be presented in the theatre. Manager Feldman should be given a mandate from Council concerning the nature and type of programming, and the mandate should be based on accurate perceptions of what interested students expect. Furthermore, Feldman should be expected to adhere to the recommendations of Council.

SUB Theatre is experiencing a lot of competition that did not exist a few years ago. Battling the theater for audiences are the Princess and Varscona theaters, as well as the National Film Theatre and the Edmonton Film Society. A positive, well-thought-out, and accurate programming policy must be constructed, and Feldman cannot be expected to do it himself.

Students who have ideas for the theater should set up meetings with Feldman or Best, or submit in writing their proposals. Even more important is the initiative that must come from Council. SUB Theatre is a unique and beautiful auditorium that is accessible for all types of activities. That it is losing money is a poor comment on the Students' Union's use of the facility.

As a result, Students' Council is going to have to commit itself a lot more than it did at last Tuesday's meeting, where Best's proposal was met with virtually no debate or discussion.

It would be too easy to cast blame on Feldman and Best; after all, it's the Students' Union Theatre, and it's Council that should be held responsible for its shortcomings.

The answer is not to raise prices. The answer is to get some intelligent thought on the matter from Council.

Gordon Turtle

the Gateway

If it happens on campus...the Engineers did it!

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SEE DICK RUN.
RUN DICK RUN.



UNIVERSITY MAY START REMEDIAL ENGLISH CLASSES FOR ILLITERATE STUDENTS

Cambodia feature misread

It is unfortunate that the article on Cambodia printed in the Gateway, Dec., 6 has become the subject of political posturing by two letter writers in the Jan. 15 Gateway. It was the intent of the article to show that the situation in Cambodia has degenerated to the extent where political considerations have to be replaced with humanitarian ones or the world will witness the demise of an entire people. Mr. Savard's letter is especially disturbing.

Mr. Savard, notorious in print for his near psychopathic aversion to anything tinged with pink, confesses in his letter that the article on Cambodia "disgusted" him. Savard never really explains why it disgusted him. Instead he pulls out two sentences from the article: "Starving people will not think of politics; they will support whichever government can support them," and "Only with the installation of a regime not hostile towards Hanoi will the North Vietnamese leave Cambodia."

Savard does not challenge the logic of either sentence, but uses both sentences to argue that 1) Since people will support whoever feeds them we "should not allow tyrants to take advantage of a famine situation," and

that 2) "the government in Cambodia should be the government that the Cambodian people would themselves choose if they were free from all external pressure and coercion." For someone who has been in Grad Studies as long as Savard, this is a rather naive argument; it's like making a political issue of eliminating death, disease and pain forever.

The rest of Mr. Savard's letter is incoherent for the most part - take a break John, the newsprint is addling your brain. Essentially, Mr. Savard missed the point of the feature, and that is people are starving to death while diplomats, communist and anti-communist cynically exploit the Cambodian situation for political advantage, much in the same way Savard exploits the article to sing his paranoid old song of the west declining in the face of the columnist bogey

overshadowing the world.

The best way for the west to act is to ensure that the Cambodians are saved from starvation; this in the long run is the only way for the west to "act rationally in its own self interest."

Mr. Gruber's comments would have been fine if they had just been limited to his sincere desire to give us a balanced budget. "An English newspaper" wasn't the only source of information about Cambodia and if Mr. Gruber thought it was, how the hell could he justify giving away even 500 dollars? In addition, Mr. Gruber's understanding of the situation in Cambodia is almost as naive and irrelevant as Mr. Savard's as evidenced by his obvious confusion over what was said at the December Council meeting.

Beno John
Graduate Studies

PSUA gets the Knaak

It is with much interest that I read of the recent Political Science Undergraduate Association forum involving Messrs. Knaak and Stephenson. It is exciting that this association has developed so successfully in the past four years. It is even more

exciting that someone as illustrious as Mr. Knaak would seek to claim affiliation with it. The P S U A as it exists under its present constitution was formed by a group of political science students in 1976. As a member of that founding executive, I can assure you that Mr. Knaak was not present at the time. There has, however, in previous eras of the department's history existed some grouping of undergraduate students which is what I'm sure Mr. Knaak was referring to. Perhaps this is another example of the P C party's belief that if it works and is found in Alberta it must be due to the P C's Midas touch.

It is heartening to see the P S U A has continued as an association since 1976 and is also successful in its activities.

Greg Schmidt
Grad. Studies

Geologists are useful

I was very much annoyed to read the ill-considered remarks of Kirk Kirkwood's in his Jan. 10 column. Mr. Kirkwood may be surprised to find that geologists do other things than walk around in the woods looking for uranium. We also find oil, gas, minerals. Yes sir, us bozos do a lot of stuff, and you know what, we don't even have to walk around in the woods, we've got helicopters to fly us about. Geology students aren't the only

ones who get field related employment, engineers & foresters also get field related summer work. The chances of an arts graduate getting field related work after graduation is low so what makes Mr. Kirkwood think they can get summer jobs in their field? So us bozos will stick to our "cushy" jobs, and leave the shit shovelling for those that can't do anything else.

Al Byte
Geology II