

SECOND WIND

An occasional column of opinion
by Gateway staff

by Jim Miller

Friends and I had just enjoyed an evening of Chinese food and were settling back after two bottles of white wine in green bottles. Our conversation turned to the occasion when a rented video disc player had provided "Fame" and "MASH" in living room comfort.

To all there, except myself, television and film came the unhappy second to a good book.

Reading requires more creativity than watching a film or television. Film and television do all the work for you; but when reading you create images in your mind of scenes, characters and everything you create is uniquely your own," argued my opponents.

"I wish I had had you with me when I was selling encyclopedias," I replied. "but I

still think you're wrong. And let me tell you why."

First, let me state that I have the greatest respect for the written language. I believe it plays a crucial role in society. Anyone who is given an education should ideally be able to express himself in writing and enjoy reading. Unfortunately, many seem lacking in this ability and some would hold television and film responsible.

This may, in part, be true. I will even grant you, that for those with poor reading skills, literature requires more effort, but this does not make film any less a form of art.

Greater effort on the part of creator or viewer does not necessarily mean greater achievement. Superior film and television leads the viewer to self examination and

exploration as intensely as the finest novel. The novelist writes, not so the reader can polish his imaginative skills, but, generally, to express the themes central to living. Film simply does the same but in a different media.

If it were true that the imagining involved in reading was superior then blindness would be a boon. Imagining far off countries would be superior to travel and reading Shakespeare far better than watching it performed. Obviously these things are not true.

In the end, both film and literature transcend themselves in the viewer's mind. Make no mistake, the final resting place of any media is in the consciousness of the perceiver. Film, television, painting, music, dance, indeed all the arts must be found equal in their ability to move the creative

impulse within the creator and the viewer. Isn't this the essence of communication?

In our discussion, the creativity of the filmmaker vs. writer was never disputed only that of the viewer. In our society's ubiquitous desire to deny self worth, we are always quick to recognize the genius of the creator but never the viewer. Our own creative ability to absorb, appreciate and react to any art is never a passive process. We should be more mindful of the role we all play in cultural exchange.

But a final word of support for those who argue against film and television. That is that there is a real danger of losing language skills in the overindulgence of the film arts. We must work hard to preserve our written tradition and equally hard to support what we deem is of quality in all the arts.

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Benefits for you

With the commencement of the Fall Term, we would like to inform newcomers and remind returning students and staff of the services available through Campus Security.

Our offices are located in Building 56, just south of the bus shelter on 89th Avenue and across the street from the Dentistry-Pharmacy Building. Campus Security functions 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and patrols the campus by vehicle and on foot. Personnel, both male and female, wear green jackets and slacks and gold shirts with identifying crests.

We provide the following services:

- *Lost and Found Registry, where reports of lost items are interfaced with found items, and where possible returned to owners.
- *First Aid assistance throughout the campus, including, where practical, transportation to Health Services or University Hospital Emergency where needed.
- *An Escort Service for staff and students who feel nervous or concerned when working or studying in remote or quiet areas and wish to be accompanied to parking lots, bus shelters, etc.
- *Security advice regarding self-protection and safe-guarding of property.
- *An identification program whereby bicycles, skis, and other valuable items will be engraved for identification, in the event they are later lost or stolen.
- *Crime prevention brochures relating to various subjects.
- *Bookmarks describing our services.
- *Identification labels to be placed in glasses cases, books, etc.

All these services are gratis. We can be contacted by telephone at our 24-hour number: (432) 5252.

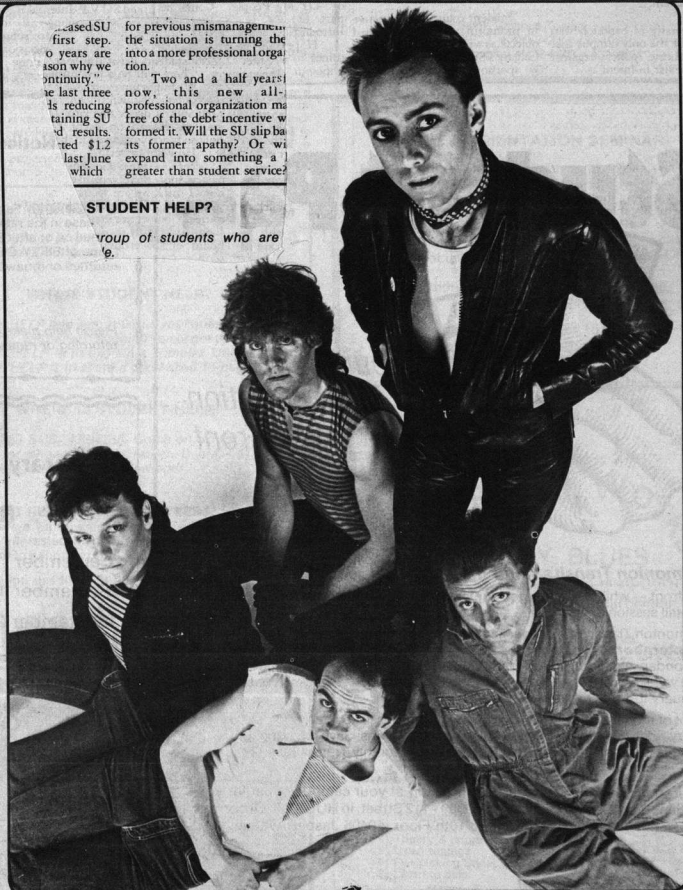
W.F.G. Perry, Director
Campus Security & Parking
Services

...ceased SU first step. 0 years are ason why we continuity. he last three is reducing taining SU d results. ted \$1.2 last June which for previous mismanagem... the situation is turning the into a more professional orga tion. Two and a half years now, this new all- professional organization ma free of the debt incentive w formed it. Will the SU slip ba its former apathy? Or wi expand into something a l greater than student service?

STUDENT HELP?

group of students who are
g.

REGISTRATION WEEK CABARET



Saturday, September 11

Dinwoodie Lounge

Tickets: SUB Box Office, Door.
Doors open 8:00 pm.