

Alex MacDonald says what he lacks in experience he makes up in enthusiasm. Overall he believes the quality of entertainment on campus can improve.

That's entertainment, folks

by Wes Oginski

"I don't like the booking agents dictating to the student groups on what bands they can get," says Alex MacDonald, the new entertainment director for the Students' Union.

One of MacDonald's priorities this year is to try and organize with other student groups on campus who will be booking bands.

"I want to help organized student groups book their functions," says MacDonald.

"With the creation of a larger power base the agents will have to work through me and hopefully through my efforts the cabarets will be better organized."

Overall MacDonald believes the quality of bands coming to campus can improve.

The inconsistencies not only involve the caliber of entertainment but also how the cabarets are run.

"It's not that I run a better cabaret, but together we will have a better chance of success," he explains.

"The problem with Dinwoodie is that the Friday night cabaret is associated with Saturday night," says MacDonald, "because people associate Dinwoodie as a whole."

The trend to different and sometimes better calibre bands will also have an effect on prices.

"I think it is a question of whether people want to come," he says. "Prices should not matter if the people want to see the band."

"I want to try and bring in the better calibre bands and some of the lesser known bands."

"Prices go up with more expensive, better bands. The question is — will people pay the extra costs," he adds, "or do they really care what's playing in Dinwoodie?"

"If it is the price affecting

attendance, then you have to keep it in line," he says.

Some of the other types of music MacDonald wants to bring to campus include bluegrass, country rock, punk, new wave, and jazz.

"To try different kinds of music is a tricky business," he explains. "There might not be the market to sell to."

MacDonald may not have much practical experience but he is willing to try.

"Officially I started at the beginning of July. My first major commitment was the Beer Gardens which involved two months of planning," says MacDonald.

"What I lack in experience," he says, "I make up for in enthusiasm."

Deficit cut

SASKATOON (CUP) — The University of Saskatchewan will be phasing out at least three departments over the next year, in an attempt to reduce a deficit of 1.7 million in their 1981-82 budget.

Scheduled for elimination are the department of Plant Ecology and the Institute for Northern Studies. The department of Far Eastern Studies is also scheduled for phasing out by 1984.

Student Union president, Donald Rutherford, a member of the Board of Governors that approved the decision, said he was unsure what criteria was used in deciding what departments would be axed.

"Something about doing the least damage to the university community," said Rutherford.

Professor of Plant Ecology, J. Rowe, said he was told his department was being phased out because his is the only plant ecology department in any College of Agriculture in a Canadian University.

"It seems to me that that would be the best reason for keeping it," said Rowe. "There is an increasing need in Saskatchewan for agricultural and northern studies; we feel cutting these two departments at this time is a very biased decision."

The department of Far Eastern Studies is scheduled to be phased out by 1984, the date of retirement of Dr. H. V. Guenther, the department head. This department is the only one of its kind in Western Canada and the only one in the country that teaches Classical Far Eastern culture.

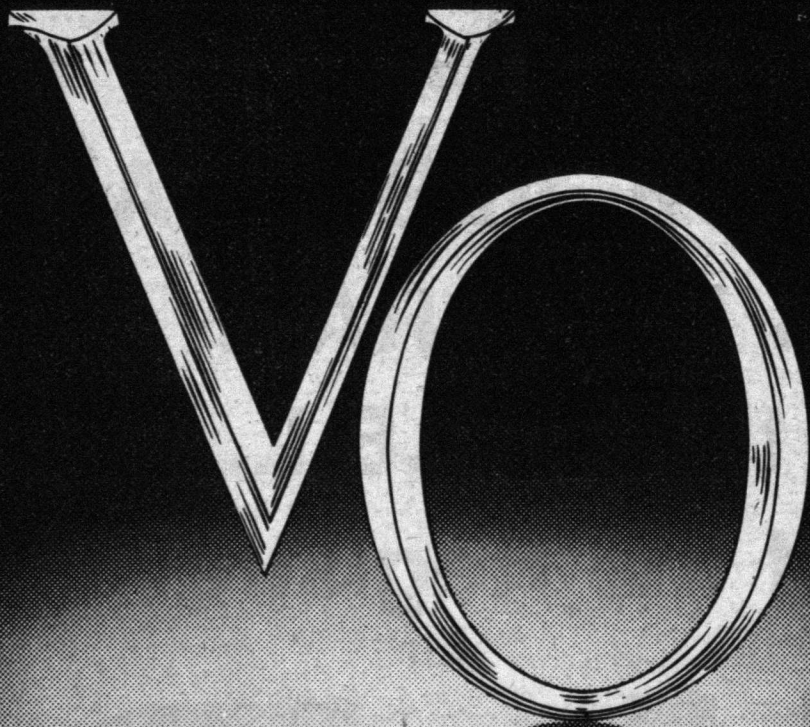
The students in the departments have been assured they will be able to complete their majors. No new students, however, will have the option of majoring in Plant Ecology or Far Eastern Studies.

Due to the standard university practice of hiring on tenure, the affected faculty will be re-located in other faculties. Given this, it is hard to figure out where the U. of Sask. will save money.

Whatever the exact amount the U. of Sask. stands to save from these cuts it is clear that it will fall far short of alleviating of their 1.7 million dollar debt. Students at the University of Saskatchewan can expect to see more of their options disappear.

Director of the departments of Northern Studies, Dr. R. Bone says: "It's disappointing that the Saskatchewan provincial government hasn't been more generous. If Saskatchewan was in fiscal difficulties it might be more understandable."

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