

## EDITORIAL

## Cheap thrills

In his report to Council Tuesday night - somewhere between the itemization of the parties he attends, his hangovers, his study habits and his informal poll on the feasibility of strippers in RATT - Gord Stamp proposed that Students' Council should try to bolster the sagging "\$1 movie" scheme through handbill publicity. At present the movies are losing about \$300 per showing, for a total loss of \$5,000 since the beginning of September.

Gord Stamp, of course, ran on the platform that \$1 movies, and doors on the bus shelters are what students really want.

Well, perhaps they do. It is usually hard to discern what this inert herd of humanity is thinking (if anything) and Stamp may be as telepathic a diviner as the rest of us. Besides, classic free enterprise theory says demand should increase as price drops, no?

Unfortunately, another factor seems to be at work here, namely the low quality of second-run movies. SUB Theatre necessarily plows a thin, barren strip between first-run films and the exotic presentations of repertory film theatres like the Princess and the Citadel's National Film Theatre. There just ain't that many good (or popular) films in between, and most of them are already on TV.

Nor is publicity going to overcome this drawback. Few people are going to watch trash under any circumstances, and even good stuff will do poorly if it can be gotten free elsewhere.

In fact, it is hard to think of a solution to SUB Theatre's film problems. Theoretically a few second-run films should do well, and a few like *Clockwork Orange* actually do so (weakening the argument of poor poor publicity in the process). But ultimately the SU may have to face the fact that they are in a no-win situation and cut their losses. Aside from improving the selection of movies (easier said than done) they could jack up prices again. Two or three dollar movies are still a bargain, and they wouldn't have the stigma of being a cheap date.

And if good films are hard to come by, as they seem to be, the SU could simply have fewer of them. Instead, SUB Theatre could book more interesting acts: say, a progressive Anti-Med Show demonstrating how the deadly combination of sex and humor causes rape, or a Gord Stamp Strip-o-Rama to benefit the Women's Centre, or mud-wrestling between Student Councilors...

Jens Andersen

## Opposition, anyone?

Government House Leader Ray Hnatyshyn sat with a straight face and told reporters the new Conservative government would do everthing in its power to ensure the Liberal Opposition had the adequate resources to do their job effectively.

Sure, Ray.

A sense of fairness will prevail, he continued. The Liberals would have the opportunity to fully scrutinize the actions of the Tory government.

Right, Ray.

As the Tory machine invades the capital for the opening of parliament, we should fear for the safety of the Liberals.

But more important, we should fear for the future of parliamentary accountability.

It will be all but impossible for the Official Opposition to monitor and scrutinize the actions of the largest government in Canadian history.

House Leader Hnatyshyn has said he envisions a greater role for MPs in policy development and surely with 210 members, there will be more committees to keep the boys busy.

John Turner will need every one of his members just to "shadow" the cabinet. And then they will worry about committees.

The money and resources the opposition receives from the government is simply inadequate.

Hnatyshyn must provide the Opposition with the needed resources and the government must be committed to making Question Period and other devices of accountability productive.

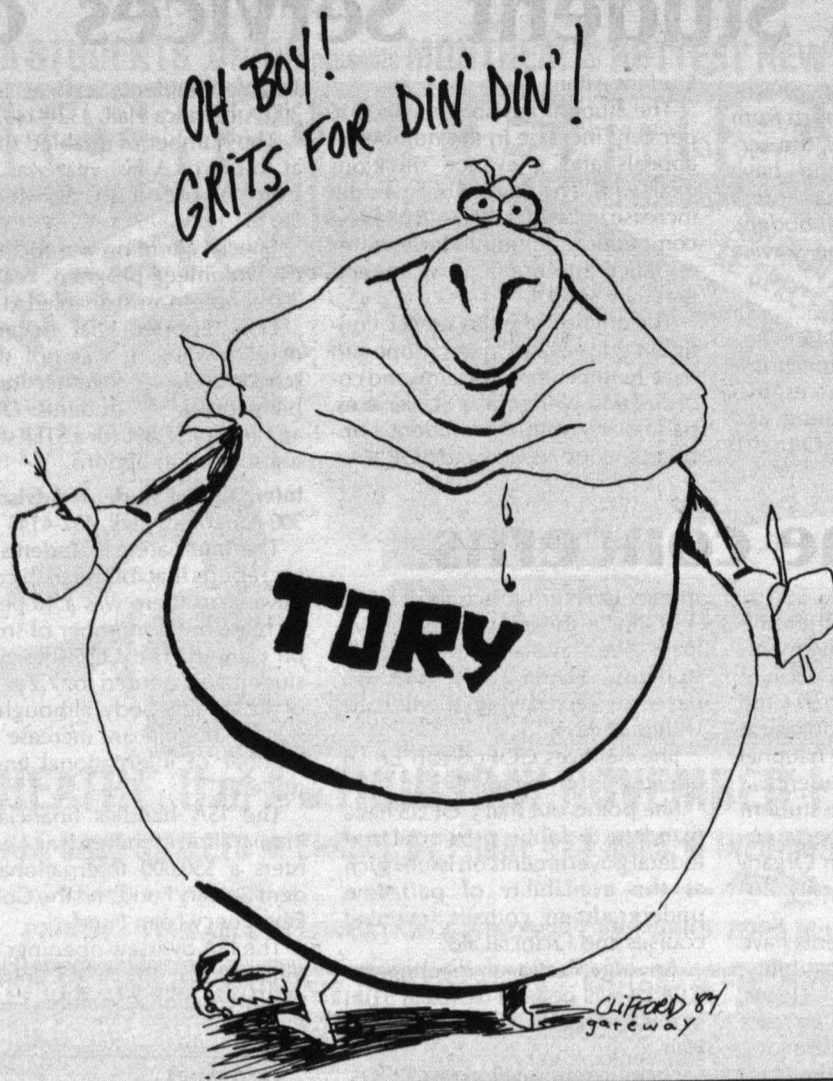
And, of course, Turner and company better be well-prepared to handle the responsibility.

An organized, well-informed, vigilant opposition is essential to the parliamentary system. Otherwise, government will quickly lose touch with the people.

Just ask anyone in Alberta.

Neal Watson

The chief value in going to college is that it's the only way to learn it really doesn't matter. - George Edwin Howes.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

## Political athletes?

Why does an individual run for Students' Union or CFS executive? Is it the money? Surely a small penance for the amount of work involved. Is it the ability to sway events of international, national, or provincial importance? The students union can not sway enough opinion to secure parking spaces for its members. Is it an underlying urge to assist the student population? I doubt it.

Do you think that, maybe, these people are driven by a force which compels them to seek political fame and prestige? Can't you see the Students' Union and CFS executive huddled around the Gateway every Tuesday and Thursday scoring how many times their names appear in it? Can't you see these self motivated politicians obtaining a collective hard-on every time a real controversial issue surfaces, and they get to banter it about in the campus media.

In my opinion the student council and associated committees are merely bureaucratic training sites, where those so inclined can hone their political skills and hopefully go on to a career of public (dis)service. (Or at least build a dandy resume). We should save our \$4 and drop out of CFS rather than sponsor these political athletes. While we're at it, why don't we tone down the activities of the Students' Union? Let them string popcorn balls in HUB, throw sock hops, and even collect food hampers for the needy.

L. LaRoche  
Commerce IV

## A CFS alternative

In response to a letter to the editor (Oct. 25/84) regarding CFS which was penned by Morag Humble, the editor noted: "The Federation of Alberta students existed from 1975-83. It disbanded due to lack of interest." This is an accurate, if not a complete des-

cription of the fate of that student body.

In 1983 FAS existed to a large extent in name only. It had become a centralized and underhanded (if not corrupt) organization which succeeded in driving away its members in droves. During the 1983-84 academic year I served as Vice-President External at Grande Prairie Regional College. In the course of my term I heard countless FAS horror stories; I certainly was not surprised that FAS had been replaced.

ACTISEC, the organization of colleges and technical institutes in this province, has to a great extent taken over as the lobby group for these institutions. Most members feel that CFS fails to serve their needs. ACTISEC is an inexpensive savior to colleges whose tight budgets make CFS fees quite a burden.

The University of Alberta Students' Union sent an observer to an ACTISEC meeting last year at Olds College. I believe that he left the meeting quite impressed with the value of the organization. I am sure that the U of A would be welcome at the discussion table again, if they took an interest.

Carsten Jensen  
Ed III

## Council censors

DEMOCRACY IS DEAD! What students believe in doesn't matter. I hoped that your representatives would put aside their personal beliefs in situations where YOU asked them to. I should have known better.

The situation I am talking about is the recommendation from Building Services Board (BSB) to delete from the SUB policy manual the section which gave the Students' Union the power to be a censorship board for the Students' Union Building. A large majority of BSB voted that a very small minority (0.18%) of the Students' Union should NOT have the right to impose their morals and beliefs in the building which you pay for. Although 1,082 students signed a petition to restrict Students' Council, your representatives refused to follow your demands.

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It's Hallowe'en and illegible Gilbertologists are having a theme party: S.E. Hinton, and mangled animals. Soda Pop Clifford and Dimples Bennett are hanging out at the blood bank with the rest of the gang, while H.L. Andersen and Zip Opheim roll drunks in the alley out back. Cuddles Berg and Blondie Beckers are dressed up like rumblefish, but their gills keep on slipping and Scoop Teplyse and Sunshine Kardaal gasp at what's exposed. But Burnout Burns, Chaucer Jackson and Mad-dog McDade aren't even at the party since they prefer live animals and Hardy Boy novels. "Hey, look, gang! It's Matt Dillon, Klaus Nomi and Lippy Derkson," screech Spike Evans and Party Pendzich, who broke out the air freshener. But the party never really got off the ground and the Lord Algard went home early...

## The Gateway

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