

...but not to Amchitka

You can see for miles from RATT

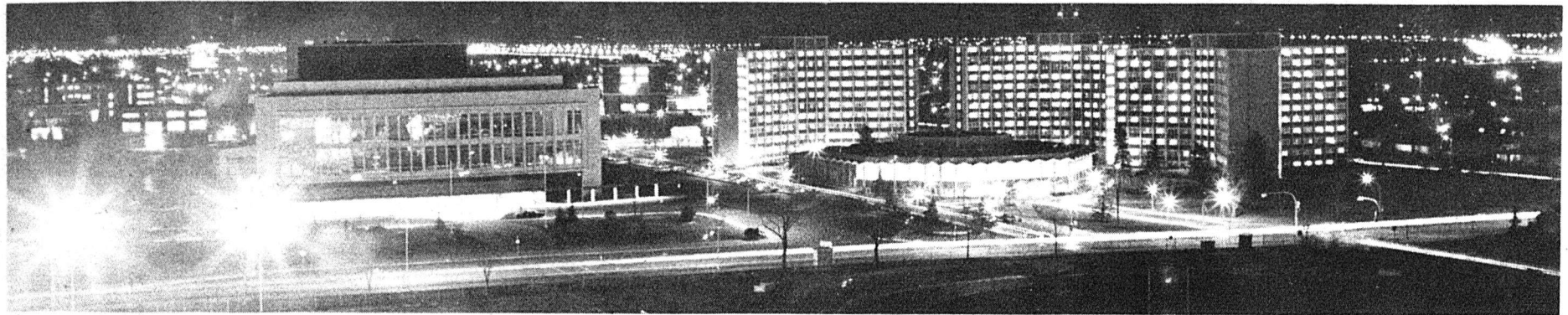


photo Barry Headrick

The future of Room at the Top is indeed uncertain. Closer inspection, however, reveals no identifiable conspiracy on the part of student councillors, nor does it point to a clear cut case of capitalists beating up on Lovers of Folk Music. It involves rather a concern to improve both the service offered to the student by RATT and the dollar and cents return on this service.

Most union-run services function as both services and businesses. Into this group fall the games area, Student Cinema, the information desk and RATT. These service-businesses may or may not make money. Student Cinema, for example, has recently begun to show a profit, the curling rink breaks "even", and Ratt has shown fairly consistent losses in its few years of operation. The service-businesses which prosper have to carry those which do not. Ultimately, it is the students themselves who subsidize them, either through their patronage or indirectly through tuition fees.

The poor attendance for evening entertainment at Ratt means that Ratt is not only unsuccessful as a business, but

also raises the question as to whether it performs any necessary service to the student body.

Room at the Top performs a divided service. In the daytime it functions mainly as a soup kitchen offering a more relaxed atmosphere for between-classes snacks than you are likely to find in the Cafeteria. Daytime operation has improved markedly this year under the supervision of Art Warburton. The menu is more diversified and, the lounge no longer bears the mark of the careless destruction once so characteristic of Ratt.

Evenings and weekends Ratt functions as an entertainment center along the lines of a coffee house. This operation, under the supervision of Cecil Pretty,

Students' Union Arts Manager, is now in process of creating a new image for itself. Ann McCrae, a parttime student employee in charge of the kitchen, would like to see Ratt develop along the lines of a continental music club. It would offer good food and good music (blues, light rock, jugband) at a reasonable cost to the student. Miss McCrae feels direct competition with coffee houses such as the Barricade could be reduced to the extent that Ratt would be successful in creating its own unique atmosphere. She suggests that distinctive dishes could be furnished through the Arts & Crafts center. Small changes in decor could be made and the evening hours could hopefully be

extended beyond midnight.

Ratt has applied to the Alberta Liquor Control Board for a liquor licence, but has not as yet received it.

Last Saturday and Sunday nights (October 30, 31) demonstrated conclusively the draw power of liquor. The New

Prairie Pals were featured both nights. Saturday night a special permit allowed the sale of beer and wine. The result was a near capacity crowd. Sunday night, a dry Ratt witnessed the usual small group of faithfuls in attendance.

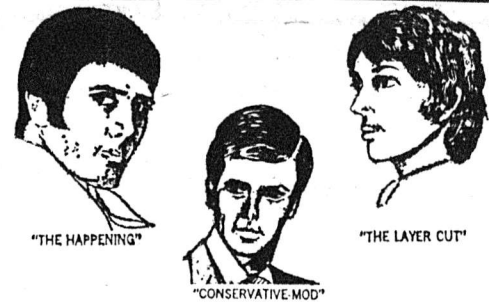
by Ted Goodden

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