

# Lack of interest kills forum



Improvisational drama as a learning experience. The blue-eyed sheik (center) plots new ways to limit university accessibility at a drama presentation yesterday in SUB cafeteria.

by Portia Priegert

What if they held a forum and no one came? Well, not quite no one . . . the guest speakers showed up and so did the 23 members of the improvisational drama class who were to present a skit. The media managed to make it and even the organizers were there . . . but students? Forget it. The event, part of Student Awareness Week, was planned to promote student interest in the quality of post-secondary education. And ironically, it came only days before a long-anticipated announcement by the Board of Governors that a 10 per cent tuition increase will be implemented this fall.

Speakers and members of the drama class were visibly disappointed. University president Dr. Myer Horowitz, post-secondary affairs expert Dr. Steve Hunka and former president of the International Students' Organization, all guest speakers, made their retreat after it became clear that the few students in attendance were all who were coming.

The drama class went ahead with their production in SUB cafeteria, where student reactions ranged from amusement to slight embarrassment.

One second-year science student said the performance was "great . . . I loved it." A third-year education student said he thought the actors were "a bunch of fools," but the show "was kind of fun."

Why weren't they at the original performance? One woman said she'd heard about it only when a member of the drama group took over the radio station to make an announcement and by then she already had plans for lunch. "But it's really good they're doing things," she said.

But if the experience was "great fun" and a "useful learning experience" for Kevin Burns' Drama 253 class, it was anything but for organizers.

Tempers were hot and accusations were levelled at organizers, particularly SU vp external Tema Frank, for mis-managing the whole affair.

"I'd like to see you do better," she fired at a challenger. And that's a question a lot of student leaders are asking themselves now.

Was the forum a victim of poor publicity and planning or has student apathy hit an all-time low?

Frank later said she was really surprised by the poor turnout. "We tried something new, but it didn't work," she said. *Continued on page 2*

See the little moron,  
He doesn't give a damn . . .

## the Gateway

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. . . I'm glad I'm not a moron.  
My god! Perhaps I am!

# Tuition hike to be considered Friday

by Lucinda Chodan

A 10 per cent tuition increase at the U of A for the 1980-81 academic year will probably be approved by the Board of Governors (B of G) Friday.

The B of G Finance Committee will recommend the 10 per cent increase to the Board Friday morning. If the fee hike is approved, the recommendation will go to the Minister of Advanced Education for final approval.

The increase will raise fees for full-time students in most faculties from \$621.50 to about \$685.00. First-year medical students will have to pay about \$950 per year if the recommendation is implemented.

The revenue from the proposed increase has been incorporated into the university's preliminary operating budget for 1980-81.

Reaction from student leaders to the proposed hike has been vehement.

Federation of Alberta Students president Hamish Kerfoot denounced the effect of the fee increase on accessibility to post-secondary education.

"The increase . . . is only the

first link in a chain that could close our colleges and universities to low-income people forever," he said.

U of A Students' Union (SU) president Dean Olmstead

also spoke out against the increase.

"The board is in a tight spot. They have several sources of revenue, starting with the government. If the government is not

giving them enough to meet their requirements, the next source is tuition fees."

"However, I'm still not in favor of an increase."

The B of G meets Friday at 9:00 a.m.

# Students' Union fee referendum coming

by Keith Krause

Students at the U of A may be paying up to \$7.50 more in Students' Union (SU) fees next year.

This levy includes \$7 for the SUB Development Fund and 50c for the Eugene L. Brody Fund, a fund to be used for charitable donations. Both of these motions passed first reading at last night's council meeting.

The fee increase depends on the outcome of a campus-wide fee referendum to be held March 21.

"It's a question of economics," said SU vp internal

Sharon Bell. "In order to do any long range planning, we need the money."

The development fund would be used to finance such items as enclosure of the SUB courtyard and improvements to RATT and Friday's.

The Brody Fund will be administered by a semi-independent board which will hear presentations and distribute the money.

This board will free Students' Council from dealing individually with these groups, said Tema Frank, vp external.

More money will also be

required of clubs renting space in SUB for social events. The actual rental rates will not be raised substantially, but clubs holding non-profit social events where food and liquor are served will no longer be exempt from room charges.

Students are also being hit in the pocketbook in other vital areas.

The price of beer in RATT and Friday's is rising 10c to cover the Alberta Liquor Control Board (ALCB) increase in the wholesale price of beer. Beer will now cost \$5 per case.

Council also approved in

principle the creation of an Academic Reviews Commissioner to work with students for upcoming departmental and program reviews.

In other business, Students' Council approved the creation of a permanent Information Service Desk to be located at the main entrance to SUB. This desk will be separate from the present retail sales outlet.

Students' Council also awarded former university president Harry Gunning an SU life membership and a T-shirt to honor his contribution to the university.

Photo Karl Wilberg



Mad dogs and Englishmen also race downhill. Britain's Konrad Bartelski wasn't the fastest racer at Molson's World Cup Tuesday, but he still reached speeds of 110 km/hr. Story on Page 13.