

## Drama club blues

I was pleasantly surprised over the weekend by an entertaining performance of David Mamet's *Sexual Perversity in Chicago*, a show produced by members of the newly formed U of A Drama Club. Expecting to see a seriously flawed, slap-dash presentation of my favourite playwright's work, I viewed with gusto the apparent time and effort put into this serious, yet bawdy comedy. The performances were marked by their honesty and solicitude. In fact, the care taken was evident in every facet of production except one, its location.

Why these obviously serious aspiring dramatists were exiled from the Fine Arts building is beyond my comprehension. The only reason I can imagine is that the Chairman of the Fine Arts Department, Dr. Carl Hare, desired the audience to experience the edifying atmosphere of the Mechanical Engineering Building. Admittedly an interesting structure, it still lacks certain necessities for theatre. Access to lights, sound equipment, and perhaps even (God forbid) a set would have enhanced the production and greatly increased the learning experience of those involved.

I realize that precedence must be given to the professional acting program and mere arts students must take second place. (If this is unacceptable to the non-BFA student, there are other universities where this situation is non-existent.) However, if not funds, at least space should be provided to those members of the department who are attempting to explore the possibilities of their chosen major. All they ask, is for an acting room to perform in, as a sign of some visible support. The ranks of professionals are full of people whose interest in drama was sparked during their academic career. It should be the responsibility of the Drama department to support their own.

James Jack  
Arts III

P.S. It would also be appropriate for the Gateway to review the Drama Club productions since they are a university event.

## Communists recruit

The Edmonton Young Communist League (YCL) is in the process of forming a campus section. The YCL is an organization of young people fighting for youth rights and a Socialist Canada.

We believe that youth in this country must have rights to jobs, accessible education, cultural and sports facilities, and, above all, the right to live in a world free from the threat of nuclear war.

The YCL was founded in 1923. We've been an important part of the socialist and progressive movement in Canada. We are an organization with a history — and a future.

We work to unite Canadian youth against the policies of big business. While the YCL has its own perspectives, we think that young people with various political views can work together around issues such as peace and jobs.

In the long run we think that the unjust and wasteful system of capitalism must be replaced with the only workable alternative — socialism.

If you are interested in learning more about us drop by our literature table this Friday in SUB or call 426-2097.

The Young Communist League has a revolutionary perspective and a fighting spirit. We're fighting for a life with a future.

Anne McGrath  
Education IV  
Danica Frazer  
Arts III

## 'Misguided' missiles

I have attended U of A for some time now and have endured, through the *Journal* and the *Gateway*, the flood of statistics, proclamations and half truths brandished by a multitude of peace activists and frustrated militarists. Well I've had it! For all the argument and almost pornographic interest in who has how many missiles and where, no one has approached the reasoning or, if you'll excuse the pun, the method in the MADness of the current world deadlock.

Let's state some facts first and I'll draw some conclusions afterwards.

1) Since 1945, no superpower has gone to war against another directly.

2) Superpowers have fought since 1945, but only against unequal rivals. (Not necessarily winning either!)

3) The drive to find an ABM system by any country has always been met by anger and fear by opposing superpowers.

Since 1945, the U.S. and U.S.S.R. have had ample reason to go to War by pre-1945 standards i.e. for territorial, economic, and ideological reasons. The invention of nuclear weapons in 1945 and of intercontinental missile technology in 1957 combined to provide a system of instant punishment in the event of hostilities. Naturally, the gruesome and totally destructive effects that such weapons would bring to a homeland revolted the populace and, since the early '60's, has resulted in prolific anti-nuke demonstration.

These demonstrations are misguided! Why? They oppose the one 'magic bullet' that has removed world wars from the face of the earth for 40 years! The real problem is not the weapons at all. The real problem is the reasoning behind any weapons.

For example, when I see people massacring their own countrymen in India, or whole nations in virtual slavery as in South Africa, or coal miners tossing Molotov cocktails at policemen, or superpowers fighting in Third World countries, I don't see people who want peace. I see people who don't want the carnage of war brought to their doorstep in the guise of a nuclear weapon!

Surely it is far nobler to demonstrate against warfare and display its anachronism than to decry the single machine that has managed to give us peace! (The nuclear weapon).

Now don't misunderstand me. I, too, abhor these weapons of mass destruction, but I despise the attitude of world leaders, who, after all, represent their people, that still consider any kind of warfare, nuclear or not, a viable solution to international disputes between 'sophisticated' superpowers.

Tragically, war is still considered a solution in many countries, much like fighting between schoolboys, but a warlike mentality in any of the superpowers is inexcusable and foolish. The planet is only so big, we have to get along like it or not!

Sadly, though, we can not trust ourselves to stay at peace willingly. And so the unsightly organ of nuclear weapons within the body of World Affairs keeps us in check. To remove them before we are ready for peace would certainly signal our slow descent into the spiral of World Wars. But with the right kind of public pressure and public thinking we could ready ourselves for the day when war really is an anachronism and remove all weapons.

Simon Monckton  
Mech. E. IV

## Foreign advice

I am one of those international students from Hong Kong. Recently, I have been devastated by an incident. Luckily, I arranged to have an appointment with Wilfred H. Allan, an advisor to international students at the University of Alberta. He is the most enthusiastic University staff (member) that I have ever met. I am happy to recommend Mr. Allan to all international students as a diligent advisor, helpful friend, and person of high integrity.

Finally, I would like to use this opportunity to thank for all of Mr. Allan's patience, kindness, and help to all international students.

Margaret Hui  
III Year Nursing Student

## Book tradin'

It was quite disturbing to read Audrey Djuwita's comments concerning used books, which she calls "bad news for students because the publisher then sells new ones at higher prices." A pamphlet of the Canadian Book Publishers' Council she quotes says something to the same effect and charges that used books take sales away from a publisher and royalty from an author.

The second-hand book trade has been in existence since the first books were printed five centuries ago and has provided a useful service ever since. Publishers may not like it, but the buying and selling of second-hand books will go on as long as there will be books.

Used books bad news for students? Not really, if they can sell the ones they don't need anymore and if they can buy the ones needed for considerably less than new ones.

And what if the book they are looking for is out-of-print? In that case, the publisher is bad news and you can expect some good news from the second-hand book trade.

Frans Speur  
The Edmonton Book Store Ltd

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by Shane Berg

