

Money woes...

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facility by the English, modern language, art and other departments put that issue to bed long ago.

Dan Ladely, Sheldon Film Theatre director, said inter-department cooperation is valuable. He said the free showings for the departments, which are open to the public, have been beneficial to everyone involved.

It was with this in mind that he originally made the offers to the various departments to screen the films without cost.

It seems odd that the theatre has been taken for granted so long, that the notion of Sheldon's paying for the screenings out of its budget seems normal.

It's not. It is expensive. Sheldon has been willing to pay it all along. But the point is, it never should have had to.

It is like a friend dropping in for a drink and staying for three months.

It is about time the university quit yelping about a deficit until it pays its share of the bill.

Ladely is requesting \$5,000 to help pay for department screenings. This is how it should be.

This seems entirely in tune with what should be.

There are other factors. The fact that Ladely has to be present for all screenings, the fact that Ladely had no contractual job security in the last few years, the fact that Sheldon has been supportive of the local and national independent filmmakers movement, and the glaring fact that the Sheldon Film Theatre is one of the most respected film houses in the nation all show an imbalance.

Ladely has run the theatre in an educational and cultural context. He has shown as many films free of charge as possible, has tried to keep admission prices low and provide a program of entertaining and beneficial films.

Sheldon has offered the only alternative to commercial cinema in Lincoln, and the fare has been exceptional. It is ludicrous that Sheldon is in its current condition, having to ask for support that should have been there all along.

Ladely is asking the university to make the film theatre director's job a salaried position within the university. He is asking that a student assistant's job, also university salaried be set up. These requests, coupled with the request that the university pay for some of the screenings for the various departments, is all Ladely asks.

This request amounts to \$18,000 to \$20,000 from the university's budget. All other costs still would be shouldered by the film theatre.

The question is not whether the university can afford to put the film theatre on the budget, it is whether the university and its community can afford to lose such a valuable asset as the Sheldon Film Theatre.

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