

Cash Kesh Northwestern

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Case for theater at UW-Fox Valley overstated

Outagamie County is \$35.7 million in debt, which requires interest and principal payments of \$6.8 million annually. The County Board intends to borrow \$5.3 million more in 2007 for a new theater at the University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley. To buttress their argument for this expenditure, Supervisors Gosse and Differding made the following statements which were published in the Appleton Post-Crescent.

Gosse: The place is a "fire trap." As a suggestion Supervisor Gosse, call the Neenah-Menasha Fire Department to discuss your comment. I'm sure you'll find a very different opinion.

Differding: "Anybody with a physical disability could shut the place down tight." I talked to a representative from the building Superintendent's office at the UWFV who stated all buildings including the theater/auditorium are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (wheel chair access, toilets, etc.) and they

have never received a complaint. UWFV has now entered into an agreement with the defunct Big Picture and intends to show foreign films approximately six times a month, public invited. Are we to believe these showings and all other activities in this theatre are being conducted in a fire-trap that's not suitable for people with disabilities? What is this - some kind of WMD deja vu? This community deserves an answer.

Some, if not all, of these costs for this \$10.6 million expenditure (\$5.3 million each from Outagamie and Winnebago counties) should be borne by the UW system; the \$6 million the UW rakes in each year from the luxury suites at Camp Randall Stadium would be a good source.

By the way, Winnebago County is \$72 million in the hole with principal and interest payments of \$10.2 annually.

Above all, a referendum, please.

Ed Hodges
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