

Trip pall-bearers

It would be shallow and reactionary to oppose, in principle, all changes to the HUB Mall. But if we consider the costs and benefits of the current programme of renovation, from the point of view of the student one thing becomes quite transparent: the HUB administration cares not a fig for the interests of students, only for fattening its take from the generic consumer.

The Mall has undertaken a programme that will exact a heavy cost from the character and quality of the Mall. The extensive retiling, refitting of doors, and contractual requirement that stores meet a new "dress code" will serve only to drive out smaller, independent merchants or compromise their aesthetic freedoms. There is no doubt in my mind that this taxation of the shops has something to do with the tragic impending demise of SU Records.

The Mall, as we have known it, has an eclectic quality springing from the small and specialized nature of its shops. And it has, in its very architecture, a reflection of youth — of diminutive furnishings and economical eclecticism. For the Mall management, the changes may be seen as signalling a "renaissance". For the student, it can only be seen as a slow but steady step in the funeral procession towards Ghermezianism; youth compromised to the mean in an aging consumerist society. I say trip the pall-bearers.

Adam Chippindale

Tupper congratulated

On Wednesday, October 5th, the students of the Faculte Saint-Jean residence met with representatives from Housing and Food Services to discuss the complaints that have filtered to the top of what is a behemoth of a bureaucracy.

The results of the forum will have, in all likelihood, little effect on the quality of life at the FSJ residence, but Housing and Food Services can no longer claim ignorance to defend its inaction. Much of the responsibility to improve the situation will fall on the handful of volunteers that form the residents' association.

Students' Union participation at this forum, however, was a marked difference from previous such meetings: both Aruna D'Souza, the Housing and Transport Commissioner, and David Tupper, the V.P. External, were able to attend. Their presence was acknowledged and appreciated.

Recently, Mr. Tupper has been chastised for his "youth, ambition and inexperience." I would ask for nothing less from a V.P. External. (It is, after all, difficult to have real experience with an elected position in student government). May I take this opportunity to congratulate him for having the ambition and the insight to take a sincere interest in some very real student concerns.

Tom E. Kalis
Faculte Saint-Jean III

Excellence a virtue

Re: Mote's Oct. 4th letter criticizing the Olympics

As a competitor, a coach and a student of Physical Education and Sport Studies, I disagree with the views expressed by M. Mote in his letter that appeared on Oct. 4th. One fact that he failed to address is that many institutions are structured like the Olympics. The one that comes immediately to mind is the University. How can Mote criticize a system that parallels the one that employs him?

Let's examine what it takes to become a political science professor. First, it takes large amounts of tax dollars to support a student

going through a bachelors, masters, and Ph.D. program. Not to mention the tax money it takes to pay the professor once he or she is working. Secondly, it takes years out of a student's life to devote to studying. Of course it takes time and devotion to accomplish anything worthwhile, i.e. excellence in athletics.

It is human nature to be competitive. Any sport or academic situation inevitably leads to competition amongst its participants. The highest accolade for athletes is the Olympic games or professional sports. The equivalent achievement in political academics is earning a Nobel prize or a chairmanship at a prestigious university. Neither of these goals should be discouraged. Excellence is a virtue in both sports and academics.

We wouldn't propose abolishing all political science programs, using the money to buy social studies materials and text books for schools.

In regard to the lack of medals won in Seoul, I feel that excellence should be strived for. If we focus on excellence in training, coaching, physical fitness, and psychological readiness we will produce winners.

Not everyone who enjoys sports must try for the Olympic games and not every person interested in political issues must become a political science professor. I do think though, that both of these institutions should exist for those with the talent and the inclination to strive for them.

H. Barb Parsons
Physical Education and
Sports Studies III

Anyone interested in educational, employment, and business opportunities in the Pacific Region, **The Pacific Rim Opportunities Society** is holding a wine and cheese on:

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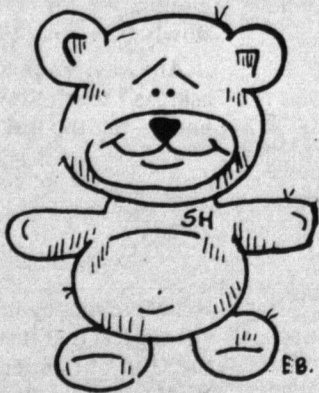
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