

## Gambling: Bilko would have had a ball with our suckers

by J.F. Sonley and Baron McCormick

More than \$50,000 has changed hands in card games at York since the first deck was broken.

The novice can have his choice of several 'money' games. Poker, the true game of skill, can be played for the traditional 'penny-anti' stakes, or for more lucrative stakes.

Bridge contests are popular, with stakes usually set at a tenth of a cent a point.

Hearts, however, appears to be the most popular money game on the York campus. Stakes are high.

At these prices it is wise to have a sizeable bankroll if you are planning on 'sitting in'. Several hundred dollars can change hands in one night. One student is known to have dropped about \$800.00 over the year.

The novice must be wary of joining the more expensive games. Players are serious, and reasonably professional.

They have adequate card sense, and a good knowledge of odds and percentages.

In any game with strangers it is necessary to watch carefully for any signs of cheating. At York, friendly games abound with such manoeuvres as looking at the bottom of the deck, peeking at the other person's hand, and even the occasional renege.

However, this innocent type of cheating can easily be avoided by always insisting on proper shuffling and cutting of the cards.

### THE SCARNE CUT

The Scarne cut is designed to foil even the most sophisticated

types of cheating.

Developed by John Scarne, chief advisor to the United States Senate Committee on Gambling, the cut can be described as follows:

Draw the middle portion of the deck out and place it on the top. Repeat this action then cut the cards in the normal fashion.

This will foil any attempts to stack the deck, and upset the most sophisticated mechanic in the game.

### THE SKILLED CHEATER

There are many more dishonest manoeuvres to watch for. Marked cards, or 'readers' are seldom used, but can easily be spotted:

Hold the deck firmly, and riffle the cards quickly. The cards are marked by the removal of a small part of the ink mark on the back corners of the card. By this action a 'moving picture' effect will appear as the various white spots flash by.

The more skilled cheat can resort to other techniques for taking your money. Stacking the deal, dealing bottoms and seconds (the second card from the top of the deck), are possible manoeuvres, as demonstrated in the accompanying pictures.

In watching for the stacked deck it is vital to remember that it is not necessary to control the entire deck.

Knowledge of a few key cards, such as the aces, or the queen of spades in Hearts, is all the advantage one needs. The Scarne Cut should always protect you from stacked decks.



SECONDS. This is a demonstration of the second deal (Ace reversed for clarity). The dealer is playing with a confederate (holding 3 Aces).

To detect other modes of dishonest dealing, you will notice unnatural hand movements. This will be accompanied by a louder and different sound as the card is dealt. The unusual way of holding the cards called the 'mechanic's' grip is another way the card-sharp exposes himself.

### "BUDDY SYSTEM"

A convenient way for amateurs to cheat is the buddy system, which has been observed

particularly in some of the poker games at Glendon. Two players work together. One player will fold, look at the other hands, then signal to his partner.

If you happen to spot someone cheating, it is best to quietly leave the game.

Cards are fun, and you may be good—but don't bet on it.



Ace of Spades coming off bottom. Note method in which deck is held; the mechanic's grip. Top card is moved over to conceal this action.

## BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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Clarkson, Gordon representatives will be on campus

**NOVEMBER 14**

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If this time is inconvenient, please contact us directly. Phone 368-2751.

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**NOVEMBER 15**

to answer your questions.

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by chance you are unable to make an appointment at this particular time, get in touch with us direct by calling Mr. Warren Labrie, or the partner in charge of our Toronto Office, at 366-5521.

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