

Money wasted on sport?

Almost \$60,000 will be spent in the 1961-62 term to provide University of Alberta teams for Western Canada Intercollegiate Athletic Union competitions.

It will cost \$530 to put one Golden Bear hockey player on the ice for the season; one Bear basketball player will cost \$505; and one Bear football player costs \$300 per season.

The hockey budget is \$9,550. There are 18 players on the team. Hence the \$530 per player. The total for basketball is \$6,075 for 12 players. The football team chalks up another \$9,750. The average for all teams that participate in inter-varsity athletics is \$200 per team member. Three hundred people are involved in inter-varsity competitions.

The issue is obvious. Is the expenditure of \$60,000 justified for the benefits this university receives from athletics?

Over the years, various arguments have been advanced supporting participation in inter-collegiate athletics. Some have validity—most do not.

One contention is that athletics are a facet of extra-curricular activities. Both the participants and the spectators enjoy the sport as a combination of entertainment and school spirit.

In addition, athletics provide a release from tensions and pressures not attainable in any other fashion.

Further, it is argued, there are scholarships for the intellectually gifted. Therefore, why should not the athletically gifted be given the privilege of what amounts to a subsidy? Both belong to the same university.

Athletics also provide the opportunity for contact and friendly rivalry with other universities, and the means whereby this active inter-relationship can be conducted on a regulated basis.

Moreover, students should have athletics simply because they take most of the financial responsibility. Of UAB's \$65,000 budget, more than \$43,000 is contributed in the form of Students' Union fees, at seven dollars per student. The remaining \$22,000 is made up from gate receipts, game guarantees, and other minor sources of revenue. The administration pays only the coaches, most of whom are members of the school of physical education.

Students need some means of identification with a university. Athletics are the most convenient means of providing a sense of belonging. Academic standards alone cannot provide a satisfactory basis for pride in a large

institution.

The fallacy of some of these arguments needs no explaining. Some have been rebutted into dark corners and forgotten.

It can be argued that a "rah-rah" type of spirit is not desirable for a mature, self-confident institution. Too often students attend a game with a mickey tucked conveniently in a pocket. The thrill of violating the liquor act takes precedence over watching the teams in action.

Is this a desirable substitute for academic pride?

The primary function of a university is academic. Therefore, contact between universities should be maintained on an intellectual level—the exchange of ideas on vital topics, rather than the exchange of blows on a football field. We should develop our thinkers, not our sweat-sock and jock-strap crowd. We should make ourselves aware of the varying philosophies that are generated by residence in diverse regions with their different problems, and not of the quality of the hockey players that a region produces.

While each student pays approximately seven dollars for athletics on this campus, he pays only 45 cents for NFCUS. Yet through NFCUS a more general, more continuous and more effective contact can be maintained. The \$2,875 we pay to NFCUS enables that organization to integrate to some extent the various regions of Canada. Is this true of athletics?

Contact between east and west is limited to a yearly clash for the Churchill Cup, emblematic of Canadian College football supremacy. No other inter-collegiate sport reaches national proportions.

Most important in the activities of the UAB should be a well organized intramural program. With ten times more students involved than in inter-varsity athletics, it seems ludicrous intramurals are only apportioned one tenth of UAB's total budget.

Athletics offer the university a very pedestrian identification with the public. The primary aim of the university must be to produce scholars—not football heroes.

Soon it is to be expected the old drawing card of fine facilities and brilliant professors will yield to the attraction of attending the University of Alberta—where sport is king and athletic scholarships are provided for all.

Should we spend \$60,000 a year on inter-collegiate sports?

Mass procrastination

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frantically in ever-narrowing little circles in an attempt to dodge anything contentious. If dynamic progress is to be made, a few mistakes will of necessity be made along the way.

Too much emphasis should not be placed upon mistakes. In illustration, the Stan Kenton loss is not held as a grudge by students against this year's council. Mature students chuckle at it as simply a slip by young executives just a little too "dynamic" in fields new to them (like theatrical booking).

A more significant reason for council's indecision can perhaps be found in the lack of preparation by council members for meetings. Two weeks lie between council meetings—and apparently some councillors spend the time perched on small wooden altars contemplating their navels and their magnificence.

Meetings are interrupted to explain agenda items to councillors—items they have never heard of before. One item on Tuesday's agenda was simply "Canadian Conference on Education." Councillors were sent no information concerning the nature of the conference, or why it was to be discussed by council.

However, in cases where an agenda item is obvious and the council has a few days to in-

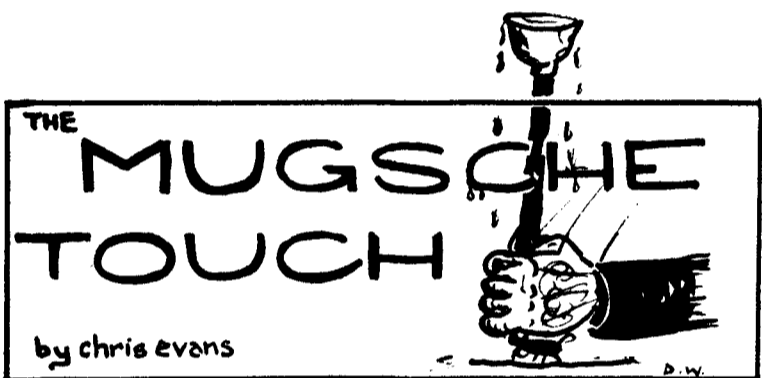
vestigate it, still some councillors have absolutely no knowledge as they have not taken the trouble to obtain any.

General knowledge of important aspects of student government is sometimes lacking. Tuesday evening, business manager Walter Dinwoodie had to explain the difference between the grant and reserve funds three times to one councillor.

Lack of preparation and knowledge results in unnecessary delay during council meetings. In past years, some efficient councils have managed to conclude most meetings by 11 p.m. This year, meetings are running long—despite the elimination of agenda items by the chairman as meetings grind to a close. Tuesday evening, the Canadian Conference on Education was dropped. Council may never find out what it was.

In all fairness, it must be pointed out that the university is expanding and council is confronted by more problems. However, a lack of efficiency is apparent, despite the efforts of the more competent councillors.

Until Students' Council can overcome its fear of making mistakes, until it can prepare for its meetings, it will remain nothing more than a pathetic study in mass procrastination.



Funny moneyman Gerry Harlequinne, Council's answer to the Jolly Miller, has indicated to me of late that the University's survival measures to evacuate key personnel on or before a nuclear attack includes members of Council. Obviously, the definition of "key personnel" needs tightening up. The phrase might include GOLD key personnel, the remainder of the students being designated, appropriately, as "civilians." Who else qualifies for asylum? No doubt the Campus Cops will be right in there, frantically taking with them such necessities as parking tickets and autographed pictures of Broderick Crawfish. And don't forget the fur-coated Registrar's secretaries. Plus ten year's supply of Indiv. Fallout Pie.

After the bomb drops (a direct hit? no such luck!), and Operation Toxin not only flops but becomes the real thing, the decentralized U of A will find that they forgot to take any scholars with them. Remember scholars?

Oh, well, one profits by mistakes. Next time, if there is a next time, scholars might be included, if there are any scholars, replacing the faculty of engineering which will be left behind to mop up.

Do not overlook the probability that the attack may not necessarily come from Russia . . . we remember 1812! Or it might come from Quebec or other independent states. The quality of Strontium 90 is not strained; it droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath (quoth a smoking room bard).

Shades of mediaeval philosophy! It has come to my attention that the topic for next year's NFCUS seminar is something like: "How many fairies can dance on the end of a pin?" Most apt. Does not necessarily have to be in an English Country Garden. Guest speaker will be a Friend of the University who will

recite "I love America" ad nauseum times. Amen.

At the request of the Panhellenic Society, the Dominion Experimental Station at Suffield, Alta., has recently developed an inflatable, life-size nylon co-ed capable of playing bridge all day, making small talk, singing in Songfester, and attending nattie frattie formals. That way, every sorority will get its quota come rushing. Nobody will ever know the difference, although it is probable that the Polyethnic will get more dates.

I notice that a McGill student was recently fined twenty rasbuckniks for throwing (of all things) a dixie cup at a member of the undergraduate empire builder society, the Scarlet Key. Hell . . . if someone threw a bomb at a Gold Keyster, he would probably get a medal, or a full dixie cup.

Late Flash: Gateway reporters are trying to think up new ways of covering the Administration . . . like, with six feet of earth.