

NHL champs sacred

The National Hockey League, under the auspices of league president John Ziegler, is planning to count games against Soviet opponents in the league standings. The NHL also is planning an annual series between the Stanley Cup champion and the top club team in the Soviet Union.

Ziegler has said that a major U.S. network would put up a few million bucks to televise the series. The NHL has hungered for a major American network deal since NBC cancelled Saturday afternoon hockey due to bad ratings.

What Ziegler and his cronies are doing now is no less than a sell out. It won't be good for the NHL and it won't be good for hockey either.

Many people say to me, "Why shouldn't the NHL play the Soviets after the great Canada Cup games and Rendez-vous '87?"

Sure, those games were great, but all they would amount to is a "world club team championship". The Stanley Cup, which signifies the top team in the NHL, if not the world, would become a second class championship as teams would look forward to playing the Soviets rather than winning the Stanley Cup.

It has never helped a sport when rival leagues and countries try to get undeserved attention. Here are two examples:

- In 1967, the American Football League did some fancy footwork at the negotiating table and started something called the Super Bowl, which sent the top AFL club with the top National Football League club. At the time, the NFL was by far the better league. In that first year, Vince Lombardi's Green Bay Packers ran roughshod over the AFL's Kansas City Chiefs. It overshadowed one of the greatest NFL championship games, between the Packers and the Dallas Cowboys, won on the last play of the game. The Super Bowl never caught on until Joe Namath's New York Jets upset the Baltimore Colts. All the Super Bowl did was accelerate the merger of the two leagues and generate thousands of column miles of media hype.

- One just has to look at the soccer scoreboard in the major dailies to see how multi-country tournaments cloud the whole issue of which European soccer team is the best. The European Cup is reserved for the top first division clubs throughout Europe, and the Cup Winners' Cup is for winners of each country's championship. There is even the UEFA Cup, which pits the second, third, and fourth place clubs in each European country against each other. All of these games undermine the efforts of teams that win championships like the FA Cup, for instance. Being the top team in your country just doesn't cut it anymore.

This would happen to the NHL. I'm not complaining about Canada Cups or Summit Series or exhibition games with the Soviet Union, but equating those games with present regular season matchups or making a series more important than the sacred Stanley Cup Final should be against the law.

Alan Small

The Gateway



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"KEEP SENDING THAT
 HUMANITARIAN AID, BRIAN.
 WE'LL DO THE REST."



Horowitz defended

Re: Dr. Pagliaro's attack on President Horowitz (Gateway, Nov. 26/87)
 I don't for one minute believe Dr. Horowitz is responsible for the decision to retire professors over the age of 65. He has obviously been appointed to play the Devil's Advocate.

Dr. Horowitz welcomed my group of re-entry students five years ago with an inspiring talk on which I have reflected more than once when the going got tough. As an over-50 student, I have been subjected to the same indignities as young students vis-a-vis the academic bureaucracy. However, each conviction that I have attended to see classmates graduate, I have been encouraged by Dr. Horowitz' obvious delight in seeing the antiquarians receive their sheepskin.

I do not wish to debate the merits of professors. Some are good, some not. One cannot even be judged by the size of his/her class. However, it may be safe to say that a senior class of small enrollment does not indicate an incompetent professor but, rather, a demanding one. She should be treasured. And age should not enter into it.

What is the solution? I don't know. The young pros have to be welcomed but not at the expense of putting out to pasture experience, wisdom, and compassion. Even the young, ambitious teacher should concede to that. Dr. Pagliaro admits to procrastination on his part. How many of his colleagues are similarly guilty? Now is the time for all good (colleagues) to come to the aid of the party!

Esie A. Miller

Merry Christmas

Here is a young man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty, and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled 200 miles

from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself.

While He was still a young man the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial.

He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth, and that was His coat....

When He was dead He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries wide have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race and the leaders of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever sailed, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as has that one solitary life.

—author unknown

As you celebrate the holidays this year, take time to remember the One whose birth we are celebrating. Keep the Christ in Christmas!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

Gallyne Howard

Letters to the Editor are encouraged and always welcome.

If you have a comment which would be of interest to the students of the University, please do not hesitate to send it in. All we require is your name, address, and phone number, and student ID number if you are a student. We will not print letters missing any of these.

Letters should be no longer than three hundred words.

Mail or deliver your letters to Room 282 SUBJ, or drop them at any SU information booth.

Ambassador an opportunity

On December 4th 1987, the South African Ambassador will be coming to the University of Alberta campus to speak on the issue of Apartheid. This event occurs at a critical moment in the struggle for freedom of black South Africans.

The continuing struggle inside this country, together with the actions taken by the international community against racist South Africa, has driven the apartheid into a deep and worsening crisis.

Apartheid (separateness) is a complicated issue in which everyone needs to be educated on this comprehensive structure of a racial government. The population of South Africa is one fifth white and four fifths black. The white minority controls the political and economic structure; the black majority provides the labor within this controlled arena. This dichotomy was and is deliberately created and maintained. The keystone of apartheid is the Bantustan (officially Homelands or Black states) policy. The African population is relegated to areas amounting to 13% of the land, often the poorest and least productive parts. Blacks are only allowed to live on the "white land" — the other 87% — if they are economically productive.

The unemployed, the old and the young are sent away to "homelands". South Africans have survived martial law, abductions, house arrests and massacres only to rise each time stronger and more determined to rid their country of the affliction of apartheid.

The visit of the South African Ambassador affords students the opportunity to voice their concerns about the perpetuation of racism in South Africa and to embrace the cause of liberation movements which are fighting to create a democratic South Africa. This is a moral issue which should concern everyone, nationally and internationally. It is about equality and liberation for the oppressed. It is about pride, suffering and preservation of human dignity. So I urge you to lend your support in the struggle to break the chains.

Tandy Mabindisa