

editorial

Some facts about the Games

In a recent supplement to the *Poundmaker* several arguments against the voting yes on the city's proposal to borrow \$11.6 million to help underwrite the cost of facilities for the 1978 British Commonwealth Games were brought forward.

They attacked the expense of these facilities, the usefulness of them after the Games are over, locations for various facilities and the problems of vested interests.

Cost factors seem to be the main reason for opposing the Games. Rising costs (both estimates and practical costs) and amounts already spent have caused quite a bit of concern.

Contrary to what some may think, the money spent on promotional work by the foundation was \$24,000 not \$60,000 as has been reported and the city has been paid back from voluntary contributions that the Foundation has received.

The lack of research charge that has been levelled against the Foundation is based upon some rather hazy evidence as well. There has been a planning and production committee for the last two years and two studies have been carried out, one by the City of Edmonton and one by an independent firm of consultants.

It appears that until a final go ahead (the plebiscite) is approved, this is about as far as they can go in planning.

The charge that City Council will have to pick up any losses incurred by the Foundation is also untrue. City Council is absolved of any debt.

The Foundation itself is not quite the wild and free group that the article presents. Directors cannot do business with their own firms. The contract would be revoked and that director would be removed from the board.

The books of the Foundation are no less available than those of any other business firm, or, I imagine, political party in Canada.

With regard to the lack of benefits for the public, it appears that the researchers for the article refused to look at or passed over rapidly, the results of the building of similar facilities in Edinburgh.

In the last three years, these facilities have seen use from some three million people and the people who control its use have it open around 18 hours a day. Further, they have been considering a new addition to it to accommodate more people. Hardly a white elephant.

As for the Aquatic Centre, it has yet to be planned and while the Commonwealth Federation does specify a pool that is 6 feet deep but these specifications can be change; upon application. The pool in Christchurch was a 3-6 pool and a number of world records were set there and the Foundation will probably apply for this sort of construction because besides being of more use to the community at large, it will also cost about \$1 million less.

The Games Foundation is not contributing directly to the building fund for the Edmonton Coliseum, rather \$3.7 million of the province's \$11.6 million contribution was specifically allocated for use in this way when the grant was awarded.

The U of A has been talking about getting in on the building of the Velodrome if it is a field house type of structure. The city plans, in addition to the permanent cycling track, nature-hiking trails and, in the infield area, tennis in summer and, for the winter, cross-country ski trails, and in the infield, skating.

The lawn bowling centre will be used after the games as a public club in the same manner as the Victoria Golf Course where members pay about \$10 per season for the use of the facilities. The idea of the lawn bowling club would be to provide and exercise area for older people and children.

There is a good deal more to these facilities than was presented in this article. Similar Canadian sporting enterprises have failed because they were not open to the public as these would be and there is all too little in the way of willingness to try and do things of this magnitude in Canada.

The conservatism that drives people to crawl into shells and not take "gambles" of this nature keeps Canada at the world sporting level in which it now wallows.

I have my doubts as to whether the people who researched and put out this article have any idea of the benefits, both tangible and otherwise that are connected with sporting events like the Games. Tangibles include the money that comes into the host city and the added facilities.

On the other side, when there is a major sporting event, the host city of town is simply a great place to be.

The worry about it not doing anything for the fitness of the average Edmontonian is totally unreasonable. Fitness implies that the person does the work himself to get into shape, not having someone else 5000 miles away do it for the sake of example or something.

These facilities can benefit most people in Edmonton. Perhaps a little policing by the citizens will ensure that it does. The main thing is for anyone who can vote get out and do so and keep in mind just what it is we can have.

I feel that it is one of the best things that has come Edmonton's way in a long time and I am going to vote yes.

Paul Cadogan



Objection

I must most sincerely object: I most certainly do exist, and while I may not be able to prove it there is very little question that I am. May I suggest Mr. or Ms. Hawes look in Nobility of Greater Brittain. 1311 published in paperback by the Gremlin Press. I am sure that most people realize the importance of Welsh nationalism but I would suggest there is little of the royal bloodline left in a pure condition to act as a foundation for an independent Wales.

I am sincerely afraid the struggle between elves and their lackeys and goblins must come down to a last violent confrontation unless we can educate humanity in the immediate future. Fairies and Elves: Up against the wall.

Kevan Warner
GAPE executive chairman

CO-OPS

With regard to Lynne Spaulding's letter in the *Gateway* of March 14th, here is a list of Edmonton's Food Co-Ops.

Incredible Edibles, (distribution: every Friday, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m., or thereabouts, at St. George's Anglican Church, 11733-87 Ave.) For information, call Dave Stott, 426-0635.

Information for voters

In connection with the plebiscite on Money Bylaw 4210, I am writing to request from you assistance with respect to informing the voters of WHO MAY VOTE, an item in which there is no bias, for or against.

The fact is that this is the FIRST time that ALL Canadian citizens of 18 years of age, who have resided here for 12 consecutive months prior to March 20th, 1974, may vote on such an issue. No longer is this restricted only to property owners - this time, apartment dwellers and other renters get to vote, too!

This fact is an important one to the citizens of the city. Also it must be remembered that, should less than ten percent of the total electorate vote, the plebiscite is invalid.

Then, there is the very important fact that those who are not already on the voters list MAY BE SWORN IN AT THEIR OWN POLL and may then vote.

Your assistance in making these facts well known to the public would be a service to the citizens.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Yours truly,
Ivor Dent,
Mayor

Scona Co-Op, (distribution: every Friday, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m., or thereabout, at Gameau United Church, 84th Ave off 112 St.) For information, call Jill Konkin, 439-6783 or, bus. 482-6511, ex 43.

Michener Park Co-Op. For information call Patty Hartnegal, 434-7321.

SACK, (operated from the Boyle Street Community Services Co-Op), 10348-96 St. Information: Call Mark or Joan, 424-4106.

Anyone interested in Food Co-Ops is invited to call any of the above people for further information.

Thank-you
Yours
R. Davies

As your letter pointed out this could be interpreted as meaning The Student Christian Movement of which I am not a part. In future I will be more specific. Thanks for your comment.

P.S. My group's concern is people not publicity.

Pam

Gripes

Dental Health Week has just passed and for those many students who stopped by the booths and stood around at the brush-ins on campus, and for the citizens of Edmonton who asked questions at the displays in shopping centers, the message was the same: "PREVENTION". The advertising slogan "is your sulcus clean?", the free dental floss and free oral hygiene instruction were all aimed at preventing tooth decay and the associated gum diseases.

For some reason the significance of all this was lost on Max Billingsly who authored one of the most inflammatory

Reply

A Reply to Karen:
I would like to clarify the misunderstanding that resulted from our telephone conversation in which I asked your help with a survey. What I actually say is that "I'm with a student Christian group on campus."



AND IN THESE PAINTED PORTALS PASS
COGITATIONS OF GREAT THINKERS
WHILE OTHERS NAUGHT BUT READ, ALAS,
ANONYMOUSLY STINKERS.

G.N.

