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OPINION...

TV sports is good therapy

Very few people realize the value of watching sports, whether it be in the stadium or on television.

One of two things is going to happen - your team (the one you have followed since birth, or since your father told you to follow it) is either going to win or its going to lose (ties are rare and some sports don't allow them).

What possible value is there in watching your favorite team lose - especially to a team you despise? (Teams falling into the latter category are the Montreal Canadians, Dallas Cowboy's and the Toronto Blue Jays.) For one thing it allows you to get rid of the frustration that builds throughout the week (we're all familiar with frustration) by shouting obscenities at the op-

posing players or insulting a player's ability ("Ernie Whitt -you're a lousy show-off of a catcher"). Most of us either carry our anger and frustration around inside of us and get ulcers or strange nervous ticks or we take it out on someone else, someone who probably has the same frustrations. The result is we lose friends. What better way of ridding ourselves of frustration than shouting at the TV?

Of course, we do have to be careful that we don't take this "therapy" too far. It would not be very helthy to walk around for days afterwards in a dark mood because your team lost (something I'm prone to do when the Jay's beat the Tigers). Then we run into a problem of simply creating more

frustration, instead of lessening it.

Equally important is that we must realize this animosity towards the opposing team's players is to end when the game ends regardless of the outcome - but then, if your team is winning the animosity likely doesn't exist and instead you feel somewhat sympathetic to the other team ("Ah, Ernie Whitt probably can't help being a show-off. Being in a big city like TO causes a feeling of insecurity.")

Finally, this animosity should not be genuine. After all, it really would not do to have a genuine dislike of another team's player. So what if they clobbered your team? There's always next year.

Michael R. MacKinnon

Honesty, Journalism and Reflections in the Night

Someone once said that all writing is political. This is one of the truest things I've ever heard. Objectivity is a myth.

When writing, one can be disinterested; that is, one can find the subject dull. This doesn't lead to good writing.

No; the best approach would seem to be one where biases are laid out for all to see and where a fair, balanced account is offered. I feel pretty sure in my compliance with the former. The latter is something I'm working on.

And what is the significance of this for you, dear Reader? Well, you might not read-or take seriously-my attempts at 'journalism'; chances are you're exposed to someone else's. This is where the objectivity rubbish can get you.

On the level of the big boys and girls, you've really got to question sources. TASS is like-

ly to claim Afghani peasants give flowers to Soviet soldiers. The Agency mumbles something about its 'advisors' in Central America. M.P's retract their 'mistaken' comments after the PMO leans on them. Lies, lies, lies...

On the local level, keep in mind just who owns the Anglo-papers in this province. The *Gleaner* and its siblings are merely the most pathetic of the generally gutless papers in this country. You don't bitch too loudly about the Irvings and McCains even if they do contribute massively to keeping this region a sort of feudal state.

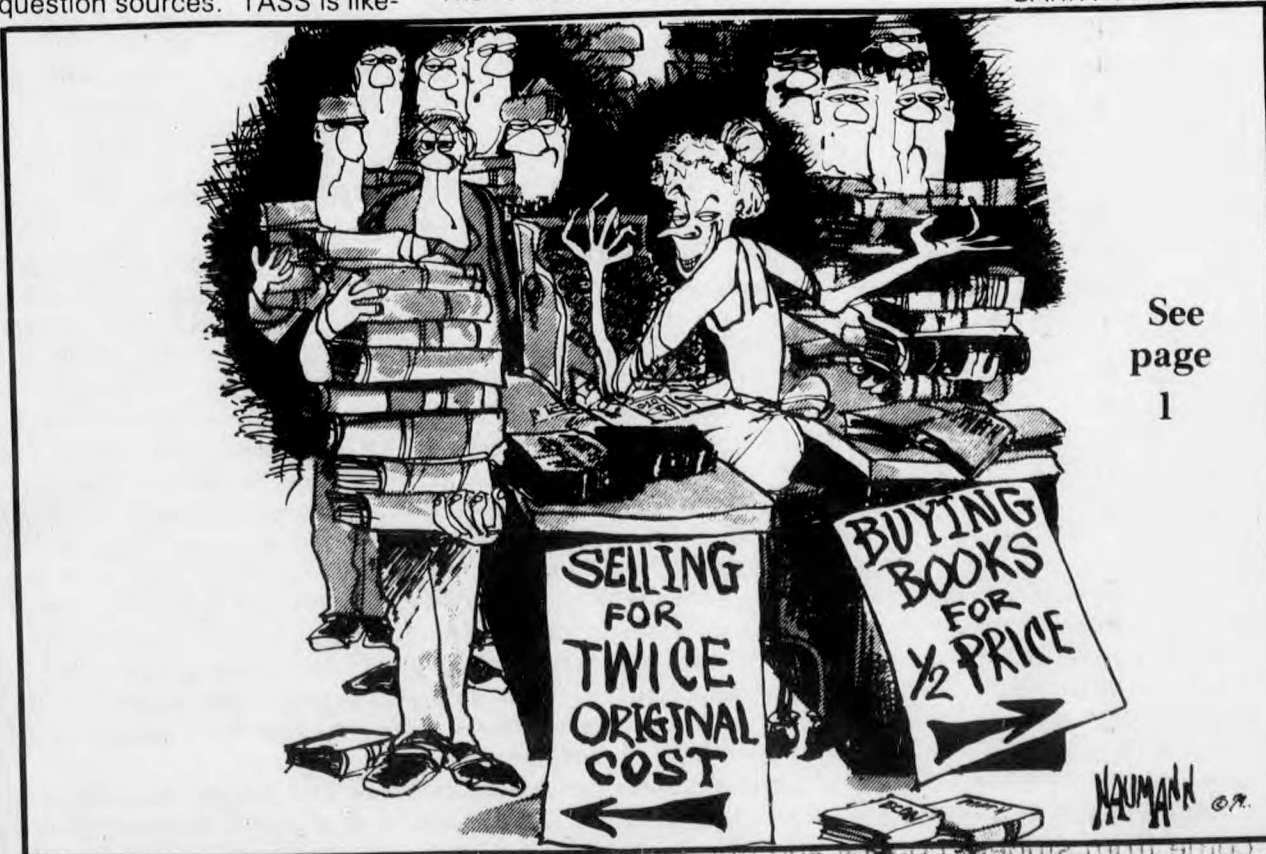
And I guess a campus paper is supposed to be able to at least take a shot at interesting writing, original ideas, maybe the odd 'expose'. Individual writers are on no-one's payroll. That should be a good sign.

But writing does take time and energy. And the more research, the more of those two precious commodities is expended. The kickbacks can seem insignificant. Give it a try for a year or two and see what I mean. It is no wonder that a fair number of perpetual students-and this is not meant as an insult-can be found in university newspaper offices.

Myself, I'm running ahead of schedule. But then, I'm writing this column, typically when I should be sleeping. And the result is hack-writing in its least productive form. No formal research has gone into this-you're not getting any news. It's just me and a reflection of the music, beer, and bad feelings that I've surrounded myself with tonight.

You wonder why you're reading this? I'm wondering why I'm writing this.

BARRY PARKINSON



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