

SPECTRUM

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Sports rituals *This week, columnist D.J. Eckenrode delves into the sports-world*

Sports — Sooner or later, anybody who writes one of these columns, writes about sports. This usually happens for two reasons. One, men generally like sports so they write about sports. There's lots of sports-type activities. Most of them are played with a ball of some shape. Canadians, even though it's not their national sport (lacrosse is) came up with a good one that uses a puck. But we'll get back to the puck sport. From time to time, these little talks are intended to be centred on the true meaning of sports. So we'll talk about major sports first and in particular, those of us that watch them. This lesson will be on football.

Football is really popular in the USA and here in Canada. It is played in by amateurs in high

school (except in Florida), semi-pros in universities (except UNB who doesn't play it at all), Florida high schools, and in the CFL.

Professionals play it in the NFL, thus they can afford all the drugs. It is known as the "intellectual sport". This is because they run a play and then those of us watching can comment and evaluate the play. Because we are so much smarter than most of the highly paid coaches, after a big pass completion, we can say things like,

"WOW!!! George, did you see the arm on that QB? That must have been the fly pattern they've been setting up with the fake to the running back and by bringing

"Well, this is what I think" with D.J. Eckenrode

the flanker around?"

George then says, "Is anybody going to eat this cold, left-over spaghetti?"

We then retort, "Louie, watch after they get the ball back. They're going to bring in Billy Joe Littenenleegs because he's off the IR and they won't expect him on the quintuple end around reverse!!!!!!"

Louie says, "Where's the washroom?"

After this we know that the interior offensive linemen (these are humans so big they have their own postal codes), in trying to stop defensive linemen (humans with their own area codes), are having to "hold" because they must keep these behemoths from getting to the quarterback. They "hold" because most quarterbacks get paid more than Irving Oil's non-salaried payroll. This may seem like a lot of money, but wait 'til we have our lessons on basketball and baseball. Naturally, we point out this act of holding to George and Louie, as there's supposed to be a penalty for this heinous act.

George says, "Where's the peanut butter?" And Louie belches.

Frustrated by the fact that our team has failed to score any

touchdowns but has managed to have six field goals kicked by some midget whose name is spelled without the use of a single vowel, we decry the stupid officials and the fact the cheerleaders have missed the plane and thus haven't appeared on the screen. We turn to our fellow intellectuals and notice that Louie has passed out with his face in the chip dip and George has tipped over the refrigerator onto himself. Calmly, the erudite individuals that we are, we flip the channel for the next game, which is the second of five in a row. We then proceed to tear the remaining skin from the tip of our thumb and the inside of the first joint of our forefinger getting the "swift-off" cap from a bottle.

Orienting ourselves : *John Valk discusses the ramification of orientation rituals*

A rather significant event took place last Sunday evening in the Alumni Memorial Lounge. Its importance went far beyond the customary format in which the event took place. What occurred was a dedication. No, it was an orientation.

Orientation at university is intended to give students not only an initiation but more importantly a foretaste of what lies in store for them. In that vein it is also to give them direction for the sojourn ahead.

It was not coincidental that the Sunday evening event fell on the last day of the Orientation schedule. After two weeks of social activities and celebrations one must finally come to grips with some larger questions which still linger. What is really the purpose of being at university? The fun and games, parties, concerts, etc., would not, it is hoped, supply all the answers.

The event on Sunday evening specifically sought to give answers to those questions. It held out a direction that was specific, rooted, lasting and meaningful. What was said and done addressed the meaning and purpose of education, at least for this group. It stated that education is not specifically for job training, although it is to prepare us for important work. Nor is education and work primarily for the purpose of making money, though one can rightly expect to be paid a fair and just, but not exorbitant salary. Education rather is to prepare the student to face the challenges and demands of tomorrow.

But what challenges, what demands? The Sunday event spelled that out, though in general terms. It basically stated that those challenges and demands, in order to be genuine, authentic, fulfilling and long-

lasting, must be related to God and the purposes God has for humanity.

Furthermore, education must meet the needs of the whole person; the need to belong, to be loved, to feel secure, and to gain self-worth. Those gathered dedicated their whole work and study at UNB to God.

Of course, not everyone would identify or agree with this. Some would vehemently oppose it. Some might find it abhorrent. But my suspicion is that most

Metanoia with John Valk

would be indifferent.

Opposition would be expected. After all, there are many different views, opinions and approaches to life. Values and perspectives are simply not the same for everyone. Indifference, however, is another thing. All the more so because educating ourselves does not come cheap. It is done at great personal as

well as economic costs. Again, are we conscious of the reasons why we educate ourselves?

It would be a shame if we merely ignore or "bracket" out these concerns. The result would, in effect, be an orientation or dedication by default. Through our silent actions it would become clear to whom we dedicate our efforts, and the glorious feats we have or hope to accomplish. It would be a worshipping of ourselves, something many of us are good at.

It is interesting that such an arrogant outlook is most com-

mon among Westerners: atheists, agnostics and lapsed or secularized Christians. Not many of the world's religious or spiritual traditions look at it this way. Native, Creation, Muslim and Feminist Spiritualities, for example, all acknowledge the importance and involvement of the Creator (however he/she/it is to be conceived) in life's matters and concerns. One would think education is also included.

The event on Sunday was important. But few came. It is hoped that others also oriented themselves meaningfully at the beginning of the new academic year.

Student Lawyer Consultation Service

In the fall of 1989 the UNB Student Union initiated the Student/Lawyer Consultation Service to enable UNB students who have legal problems to consult a professional lawyer at no cost to the students. This service has been well utilized by the UNB student population. Due to the apparent success of this serviced the Student Union will again be running the program.

For the past two years the law firm of Graser, Smith and Townsend has been retained by the Student Union and they have again agreed to provide their legal services. The firm will provide regular "office" hours each Wednesday night from 7:00 - 9:00 in Room 26 of Ludlow Hall which houses the Law Faculty. Fraser, Smith and Townsend will provide experienced lawyers to discuss the student's problem.

If you wish to use the service, you should make an appointment by calling or dropping into the

LEGAL EASE

Student Union Office in Room 126 of the SUB telephone 453-4955. You will be scheduled for a 20 minute meeting with a lawyer at the earliest possible time. All information is held in the strictest confidentiality.

You should be aware that the lawyer is not there to provide a complete solution to your

problem or to take up your case. The lawyer will merely tell you whether you have a legal problem or not, and if so where

you might get help. Your time with the lawyer will be limited to 20 minutes so you should be prepared to make the most of your time. To prepare, you should have your problem sorted out, consult Campus to Courtroom to get an outline of your rights and obligations on the matter and write out any specific

questions you may have. The better prepared you are, the easier it will be for the lawyer to identify your legal problem and suggest someone who will help you. In some cases it may be as simple as having a letter written by a lawyer.

You should not hesitate to use the Student/Lawyer Consultation Service if you think you have a legal problem. The service is there to assist you. The strictest confidentiality will be kept in your dealings with the lawyer. The Student Union hopes that you will take full advantage of this service over the next year.

SPECTRUM IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD WRITERS WITH STRONG OPINIONS. IF INTERESTED CONTACT THE EDITOR IN CHIEF OF THE BRUNSWICKAN.

453-4983