

Speaking on Sports

By DON MOREN

Alex Hardy simply outdid himself in bringing to us a commentary about an intramural fight involving a referee two Mondays ago at Varsity Arena.

Hardy, a journalist in his own right, superbly constructed his little documentary, drawing lively, colorful quotes and articulate, well-constructed sentences.

The commentary centered around a skirmish between an intramural hockey player and a referee. A Dutch Club "star" (as Hardy called him) protested a penalty and was subsequently awarded a misconduct.

According to the commentary the "star" verbally protested and "appeared" to give the official a shove. The referee "lost his head" and threw a punch. Apparently Hardy thought the punch was more obvious.

Mr. Hardy goes on to pass judgement on the event: "Most who witnessed the incident (including this agent) were somewhat less than willing to let the blame fall completely on Cantelon's brawny shoulders."

Hardy adds quotes from observers, which reported to include one learned observer. He fails to identify any of them. Chances are quite good some of the people who attended the game were cheering for the "star".

Hardy's bright little anecdotes aroused my curiosity so I went to see Bob Brown, intramural director.

Intramural director displeased

Mr. Brown was far from pleased with the story. He felt there were two sides to the story and was disappointed Hardy had not come to the Intramural Office before submitting the article: "Alex had assured me he would come and discuss the matter before turning in the story."

Brown's primary concern was the bad image the story gives to the intramural program and refereeing in particular. He called Hardy's story "bad reporting".

Brown said there were additional factors in the story excluded from the story. Not mentioned was the fact that the trouble occurred in the first thirty seconds of the game, and that the "star" apparently skated right at the referee in an attempt to intimidate him. The verbal garbage that the player threw at the referee in his protest was described by Brown as "filth" and to complicate the issue was audible throughout the entire arena.

Mr. Brown said there was some truth to the story but strongly disapproved of the biased and overly dramatic nature in which it was presented.

Curiosity satisfied

My curiosity was satisfied. I didn't observe the incident myself, but it does appear from seeing the article and talking to Mr. Brown that both the referee and the player were guilty of misdemeanors.

As far as I was concerned Mr. Hardy was also guilty of a misdemeanor. To begin with, he has little trouble determining the importance of an event as far as newsworthiness goes. His overdramatization of a relatively insignificant event is unnecessary.

Whether the said player is a star for Dutch Club or has brawny shoulders is quite beside the significance of the issue at hand.

Mr. Hardy is quite obviously trying to give the story an effect. Found throughout his story are numerous interjections which appear to be trying to solicit some sort of public consensus. Among them: "The combatants were a hockey player and (shudder) . . . a referee."

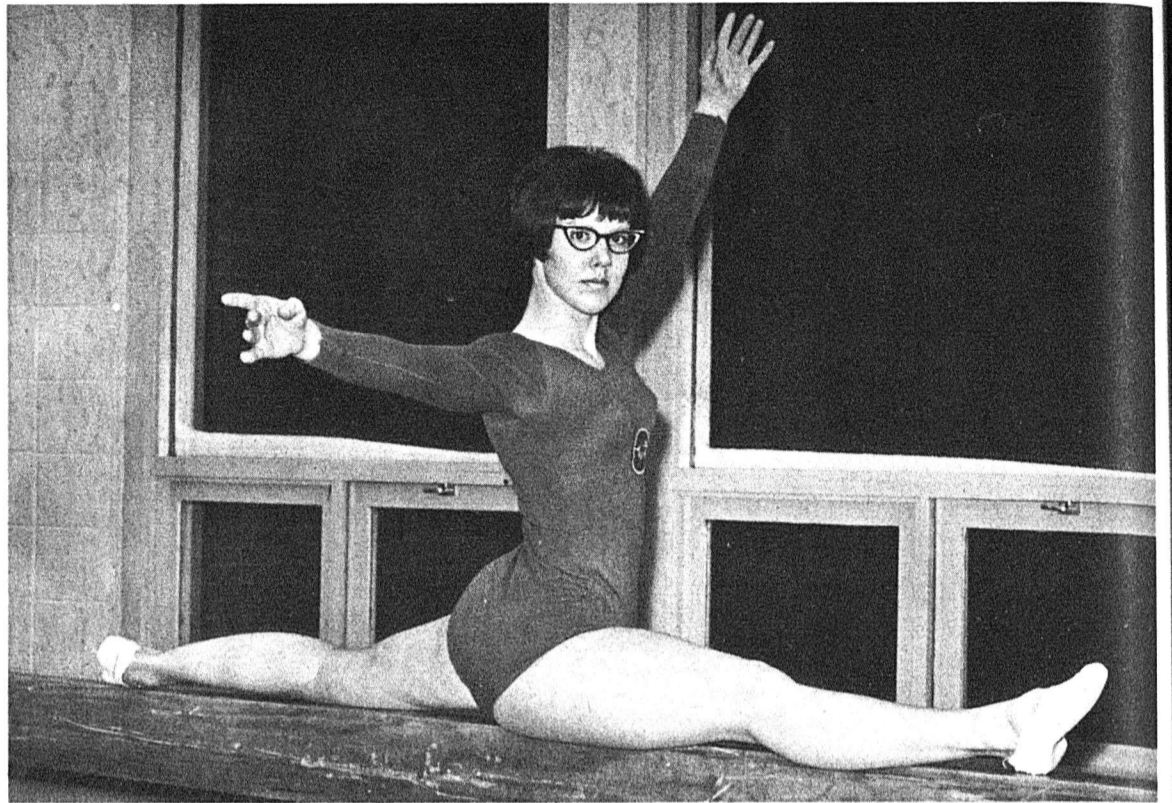
The air of the story seems to be one of light-heartedness. Most good reporters and columnists treat a serious subject in a serious light. Perhaps Mr. Hardy wasn't aware that the image of the intramural program was at stake.

In construing his irresponsible article Hardy neglected to bring all the factors into the story as Brown previously stated. He would have done well to have consulted both the intramural office and the referee at the said game.

Hardy also failed to mention the "star's" past behavior record in intramural activities.

Hardy made a big mistake in failing to identify the source of his quotes. It's hard to believe that these people are so articulate.

It seems to me that Mr. Hardy could have a good future in other types of journalism. The Police Gazette needs writers. Channel your sensationalism into the right area, Mr. Hardy.



—Dave Applewhite photo

THE WASHROOMS? THEY'RE OVER THERE—A member of the U of A gymnastic team points the way for visiting gymnasts participating in the women's WCIAA gymnastics final held in the phys ed building today and Saturday.

Rec students hosts at conference

The University of Alberta recreation students are hosts for this year's Recreation Undergraduate Students Conference to be held in Edmonton on Feb. 3, 4 and 5.

Students from the University of British Columbia, University of Calgary, and the University of Saskatchewan make up the out-of-town delegation.

Conference topics discussed will be centered around the general theme, "The Recreation Student—Today and Tomorrow".

The conference gets underway on Feb. 3 at 8 p.m. with an introductory coffee party at Lister Hall, sponsored by the Alberta Recreation Association.

It resumes again on Saturday morning in Wauneita Lounge where a group of resource personnel and students will concentrate on two topics, "Job Opportunities and Specialization in Recreation" and "Will Your Degree Stand the Test of Time?".

In the afternoon a bus tour conducted on behalf of the City of Edmonton will familiarize the students with recreational facilities and winter sport areas around the city.

The big event of the day is the semi-formal banquet to be held at the Macdonald Hotel, sponsored by the Province of Alberta. Dr. Ramsay of UBC and Elsie McFarland of the provincial Department of Youth will be the guest speakers.

The conference concludes on Sunday at the YMCA with a smorgasbord at 1 p.m., followed by the final guest speaker, Reverend Don Brown, whose topic will be, "The Role of Recreation in the Search for Meaning."

ZORBA'S NIGHTTIME

Friday, Feb. 3—
LINDA & THE REBOUNDS

Saturday, Feb. 4—
THE NOCTURNS

Sunday, Feb. 5—
FOLK NITE

After Hour Jazz with the
Dave MacLagan Quartet
Fri. and Sat. from 12:30 to 2:30

Avoid Last minute Study Panic

GET YOUR COLES NOTES
& FACT FINDERS

at

THE TUCK SHOP

8821-112 Street

Edmonton

ESTATE PLANNERS

for Head Office in Toronto

Business and Personal
Estate Analysts

Opportunities for Arts &
Commerce Graduates

CONTACT STUDENT PLACEMENT SERVICE
REGARDING INTERVIEWS FEBRUARY 2 & 3

The EXCELSIOR LIFE Insurance Company

IN MEMORIAM—Gateway staffer Helene Chomiak today left the ranks of the living, and joined the ranks of the old-marrieds. Congratulations anyway from all the staff, and best wishes to her and Don.