

STUDENT ATHLETES GET GRANTS

The Department of National Health and Welfare is again this year offering a series of grants-in-aid to student athletes who wish to pursue both educational and competitive careers. The \$1-million program, announced recently by Mr. John Munro, Minister of National Health and Welfare, is part of the Federal Government's summer program for students.

Mr. Munro said that the grants, some of which reach \$2,000 in value, will assist students whose training and competitive schedules during the summer months do not allow them to seek employment and raise funds for educational purposes. Through last year's program, more than 800 athletes were able to benefit from the Government's assistance.

After March 22, national sports-governing bodies will rate the applicants in their respective sports. A national selection committee chaired by Dr. Robert Hindmarch, University of British Columbia, and Pierre Charbonneau, co-ordinator of the Olympic Games, Montreal, will review the applications and recommend the names of recipients to the Minister.

Except in special circumstances, recipients will be expected to attend Canadian educational institutions. All must be Canadian citizens or have made official applications for Canadian citizenship. Those receiving grants must continue training and competition in their respective sport and verify that such a grant does not jeopardize their amateur status. Sports-governing bodies will give guidance on this matter.

It is expected that a number of sports associations will use recipients when not in training or competition for special projects such as teaching clinics and travelling sports demonstrations. One such proposal is the staging of a clinic for student athletes in the Atlantic Provinces. This clinic will provide concentrated training in several sports for a four-to-six week period.

TIRED DRIVER, TIRED BLOOD

The preliminary results of a study commissioned by the Traffic Injury Research Foundation of Canada (TIRF) show that automobile drivers who spend long hours behind the wheel develop high blood pressure.

The tests of drivers were conducted during the seven-day, 5,000-mile British Columbia Centennial '71 Car Rally by Dr. Patricia Goodhall of Toronto

and Joan Beckett of Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario.

Only 22 of the 74 starters finished the gruelling rally - five periods of driving averaging 26 hours and 1,000 miles, and four 14-hour rest periods. Stops of two hours were taken in the middle of each driving period.

Blood pressure tests taken during the rally indicated a persistently high diastolic blood pressure beginning with the first 12 hours of driving.

"This rise is of concern in a group of healthy people," Dr. Goodhall said. Changes in other physiological tests were not considered significant.

PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS

On the psychological side, Miss Beckett concluded that if speed was maintained by the drivers, then accuracy suffered and the drivers would probably not be as good as normal.

Her tests included visual-motor co-ordination, visual search, tracking and mirror drawing, reaction time and performance on a driving course.

"In general, the ability of the drivers to handle information at fast speeds seems to be affected," Miss Beckett reported.

A psychological sidelight of interest was the tendency for drivers of cars in poor repair to pay more attention to the vehicle than to their driving, making them doubly dangerous.

TIRF director Dr. Arthur Peart said the results showed that continued study of these factors was warranted and may eventually lead to a better understanding of the causes of traffic accidents, particularly in long-distance driving.

BIG NEW ONTARIO AIRPORT

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provide better feeder service from a variety of centres in Ontario to the two major airports in the Toronto region, and I have asked Air Canada to consult with the Government of Ontario and other interested parties with a view to initiating services to this end. We will also, in conjunction with Air Canada, take into account the latest technologies including STOL, which has important significance for the Canadian aerospace industry.

Finally, I shall ask Air Canada to look into the initiation of improved services to and from Toronto to northern Ontario centres, including Sudbury and Timmins....