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SRC Levy or Sports Levy?

Now that this year's S.R.C. has made a fair mess of its budgeting, the time is again here to elect a new council. If former procedures follow through, the present council will pass all the headaches on to the future one, and so on, ad infinitum.

The sports question in budgeting has been hedged around and shelved long enough, and it is time that someone realized it. This university cannot afford to support the number of Varsity sports being played at present to the extent that it has been trying. That is obvious, but when is the S.R.C. going to do something about it? Two years ago a plebiscite was taken to determine which of the two footballs the students wanted to support, and they clearly showed, both in this vote and their attendance at the games, that they preferred Canadian Football. In spite of this we continue to struggle to support both, spreading our number of players and our finances over two teams instead of building one strong team. This is just one example of the procrastination that the S.R.C. seems to have adopted for its policy.

Some are of the opinion that minor Varsity sports should be cut from the budget. They seem to forget the fact that everyone pays the levy and therefore the greatest number of students should benefit from it. Why concentrate it on a few Varsity sports, and therefore on a small number of students? The S.R.C. clearly does not support this view, for this term, in trying to remedy a sports heavy budget, the measures they took were ones that reduced the overall benefit of the student from his levy. These measures effected the Year Book, Con and Brunswickan, while sports, which constitute 65% of the budget, received the smallest cuts.

When six of the nine dollars paid by each student already goes for sports, why should he pay more to support them? Everyone cannot play Varsity sports, nor is everyone interested in them, as the attendance at the games show. These people receive little enough from their levy, without being forced to pay for their dances. It would seem much more logical to charge admission to Varsity games, so the increased expenses caused by the Varsity budgets would be borne by the people who enjoy them and want them supported.

In addition, the practice of definite commitments should be dropped. The sports teams are committed to intercollegiate games at the M.I.A.U. meetings, and agree to play exhibition games even before the budget is considered. The council then considers its hands tied when it comes to cutting games.

The S.R.C. has a tendency to forget that the R stands for representative. How accurately they represent can be judged from the petition to be presented against their last move to charge for the Con.

With nominations open for a new S.R.C., some thought should be taken towards the selection of candidates. The S.R.C. needs members who are interested in the opinions of the people they are supposed to represent, and who will take the trouble to find out what these opinions are before they attend a meeting. It should be realized that prominent sports figures do not necessarily make good representatives, and a council composed of a majority of such members will be only too apparent in its budgets. Let us make sure that the future members of the council will be elected by their possibilities or abilities as such, and not by a brilliant sports record.

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JIM CURRIE . . . THE INQUIRING REPORTER

What measures do you suggest the S.R.C. adopt in order to balance their budget in the future?

John Kelly, Senior Arts: "Raise the levy. Then, to guard against a deficit in the spring term, make a preliminary budget for the whole year early in the fall."

Bill Reddin, Freshman Electrical: "The S.R.C. preliminary budget showed \$6,000 for sport and hardly anything for other campus clubs. If sports are so important, and as some people say, bring credit to the university, couldn't the university make some additional grant to their support?"

Also, the Year Book should be self-supporting. I am sure that more advertising could be found.

Ron Pond, Intermediate Forester: "We could save a lot of money by cutting down on exhibition games in sports like hockey."

Azor Nason, Senior Civil: "We've got to cut out some sports. A good place to start would be with the fall sports."

Frank Walton, Sophomore Arts: "Perhaps the whole difficulty lies in the fact that S.R.C. reps may be elected without first having been required to undergo any form of a qualification test. A better quality of reps would be obtained if the prospective candidate had to pass a Nomination Board, say composed of two senior members of the council, with access to university records."



Who Dug This Hole We're In?

Letters to the Editor . . .

10th Feb., 1952.

To The Editor;
 The Brunswickan.

Dr. Pacey has expressed the view, (in last week's Brunswickan) that the Drama Society should adopt the policy of "alternating the performance of a classic with that of a modern play". Implying that since the modern play has had its turn this year next year a classic play should be put on; one which has "stood the test of time."

While I would agree to a certain extent with the above view I would ask Dr. Pacey what he believes to be suitable plays for the Society, as constituted at present, to put on. Lear, Othello, Macbeth are all classics. They have all "stood the test of time", but could they stand up to a student performance; complete with dyed-underwear for costumes, hurried and irregular rehearsals and production on that primitive stage at Teacher's College. Decidedly, no! Even if some slight artistic success was obtained, it would be, I am sure, a financial failure.

Ambition, and a love of Shakespeare is not enough. Talent! and the necessary impedimenta of production must be there. To have a Shakespearean production, would be equivalent musically to putting on "Eugene Onegin" with the principle part filled by some silly besom who didn't know B flat from her backside.

It is quite pointless to argue that the Globe was a barn, and to discourse on Shakespearean production in the sixteenth century, we have our privy purse to consider. We cannot offer bad theatre to audiences accustomed to good movies. Shoddy or tawdry Shakespeare is a good deal worse than no Shakespeare at all, so let us for the moment discard him.

Costuming difficulties would also apply to Restoration plays, and here also the stylised acting necessary would be outside our present range. One might also add that the Sodom and Gomorrah subject-matter would probably be offensive to Fredericton audiences.

But all this does not limit the field of choice. From Ibsen to Fry there exists a whole body of plays suitable for production, superb artistically, and having the saving grace of adaptability. "Pillars of Society" for instance would be a good Norwegian tonic for Fredericton, or Maugham's "Loaves and Fishes" or "The Circle."

Anyhow, on the principle that one swallow does not make a summer, I suggest that the society has two major productions next year. One in the fall and one in the spring, and, for reasons that were apparent to all who went this year to St. Stephen I suggest that the society does not waste its time and money by entering the Provincial Drama Festival. May I suggest, as an alternative, that they rent a theatre in Saint John and play for two evenings. This would enable them to make money instead of losing it. After all, drama is basically entertainment, and every fifty cents dropped into the Society's coffers is, in itself, an adjudication. **W. Barwick.**

Write Words

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