

# ARGUMENT

A sportswriter says: We need athletic scholarships at our universities; otherwise all the whiz kids will go south to school

LIKE IT OR NOT, athletic scholarships soon must become an integral part of Canadian university life. Once started, they will do much to lower our athletic dropout rate. Sports officials are concerned about the number of kids who quit competition in their mid-teens with years of potential competition ahead of them.

Few of our youngsters take more than one swing at the international triple crown of sports—the British Empire Games, the Pan-American Games and the Olympics—because at 18 or 19 they must get on with the task of building a future. You can imagine the effect these dropouts have on coaches—who themselves get little more than a pittance for the hours they give (true, it's a labor of love) to grooming our whiz kids.

Howard Firby and Lloyd Swindells of Vancouver, Nick Thierry and Fred Foot of Toronto—four of Canada's most successful coaches—agree Canada needs journeymen competitors who can handle the pressure at international meets if Canada is to improve its showing.

Canadian athletes are not quitting because they are overmatched. Rather, it's the spartan existence needed for top-flight competition that's too demanding once adulthood is reached. And with adulthood comes a maze of financial problems that must be tackled. Few of our athletes come from wealthy families. Even those from middle-class groups feel the financial pinch during the long years

of training and meets en route to international games. Sports today is an international measure of a nation's stature, whether rightly or wrongly.

It's fine to note help given by the Canada Fitness Council and the trips paid by our national games committees. But would you suggest that our armed forces personnel look after all costs involved in becoming a soldier, sailor or airman and then have the government assume responsibility only when they are sent to some distant land to meet a threat to peace?

I do not advocate the wild or preposterous scholarship system in use in many areas of the United States. (In fact many Americans are worried about ridiculous payments to athletes who hardly would qualify for our high schools. Even they are considering steps to ensure that scholarships are used as originally intended—to help an athlete obtain a university education he would otherwise miss because of its interference with athletic competitions.)

But why should dozens of our athletes attend American schools on scholarships only because aid toward higher education is being denied them at home? I suggest that if the same modest aid had been offered them in Canada there is little doubt they would remain here. For one thing the academic quality of our schools is generally better than in the U. S. But the list of athletes attending American schools on scholarships is growing. It's estimated about 1,000

Canadians—enough potential to develop two Olympic teams—now go south each fall.

If proof is needed to show the value of aid to athletes, look at the progress made in recent years by our national hockey team and our national skiing team. And when talking about athletes, remember the skill, courage and leadership displayed on the playing field is what will be needed later in private life—witness Prime Minister Pearson, a former semi-pro baseball player, and John F. Kennedy, once a member of a Harvard swimming team.

There is some hope for a change. Simon Fraser University in British Columbia now is offering athletic scholarships—the first school to do so in Canada. SFU officials take pains to explain that no athlete is offered aid unless he first meets educational requirements. The aid is cancelled if he fails to maintain such standards and his athletic competence during the life of the scholarship.

Unless other Canadian universities follow suit, a new danger will appear in the form of an unwanted concentration of top Canadian stars in one area, hurting growth and interest in sports elsewhere. Sports is already too concentrated in BC and Ontario and any scattering of this power would be beneficial.

Paul Savage, SFU swimming coach, says if a student wants top educational and sports experience, he can and will get it at Simon Fraser. But if he wants to parlay athletic ability into a free college ride and money, he's told to try elsewhere. And SFU will not raid other schools. Student athletes who transfer to Simon Fraser are not eligible for SFU help for one year.

The Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Association will take up the athletic scholarship question later this year. Unless it comes up with a concrete plan comparable to SFU's, it will discover:

□ SFU within several years will collar most of Canada's top athletes.  
□ Athletes who don't go to SFU will continue to head in increasing numbers to the U. S.

□ Canada will face the real danger of losing future athletic leaders and this in turn will hurt the base of our athletic development program.

The last point is something the fitness council should seriously study. Maybe it should allocate money to a special scholarship fund, offering athletes who meet high competitive and educational standards aid to attend a Canadian university of his or her choice.

A greater university emphasis on sports will not be too heavy a financial burden because most campuses now have outstanding facilities—possibly the best in Canada. Why not give our top coaches and prospects a chance to use these facilities on a regular basis? Universities—now the weak link in our athletic program—must remember that to limit education to books, the classroom and the laboratories is to give too narrow a meaning to education in the 20th century.

BOB TRIMBEE



## CHECKLISTINGS

### TELEVISION

- ✓ *Banff Conference: Canada and the Pacific:* A report on the fourth annual Banff Conference on World Affairs, August 22-27, at the Banff School of Fine Arts. It features prominent speakers from Canada and around the world. Host and interviewer: Donald Gordon of the University of Waterloo's political science department. (CBC, Sun., Aug. 28, 10 p.m. EDT).
- ✓ *McClure of India:* The first CBC-TV production in color shows Canadian missionary surgeon Dr. Robert McClure at work in the poverty-stricken Ratlam district of central India. (CBC, Thurs., Sept. 1, 10 p.m. EDT).
- ✓ *A Go Go '66:* Ike Isaacs of Toronto, Chantal Francois of Montreal, and The King Beez and Barry Allen, all

from Edmonton, join Robbie Lane and his Disciples and the A Go Go Girls for a half hour of music and song. (CTV, Fri., Sept. 2, 8.30 p.m., EDT).

✓ *The Nature of Things: Galapagos:* a five-part series in color, resulting from a scientific expedition last spring to the Galapagos Islands, where in 1835 Charles Darwin began to formulate his theory of natural selection through evolution. This episode is a biography of Darwin written by Lister Sinclair. (CBC, Sun., Sept. 4, 10 p.m., EDT).

### MOVIES

- ✓ *The Torn Curtain:* In Alfred Hitchcock's hand the most ordinary events turn into nightmares, but this cold war spy story is only routinely entertaining

apart from one classic Hitchcock scene: the murder of a bulldog bodyguard with only kitchen tools for weapons. Paul Newman and Julie Andrews star but do not shine.

✓ *The Happy Life of Leopold Z:* A modest gag comedy about a Montreal snowplow operator who tries to do his Christmas shopping in the middle of the winter's biggest storm. This French-Canadian movie won last year's Montreal Film Festival feature award and is due for release in English starting September 17.

### BOOKS

- ✓ *My Turn:* All 53 of John O'Hara's now discontinued syndicated newspaper columns. Crotchety, opinionated, illiberal, yet often amusing and sense-making. Random House of Canada, \$6.50.
- ✓ *The Gates of the Forest,* by Elie Wiesel, translated from the French. A novel of Jewish life and death under

the Nazis, written with searing force and a kind of mystical beauty. Holt, Rinehart and Winston of Canada, \$5.70.

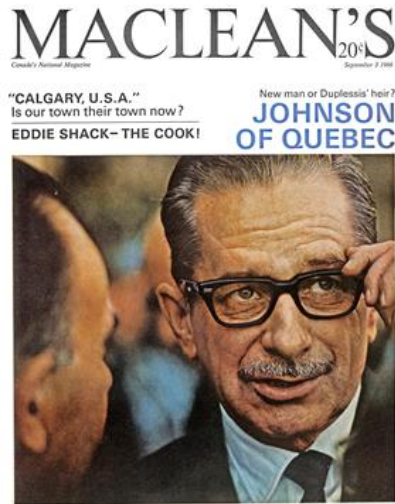
✓ *Roethke: Collected Poems.* Magnificently vigorous and evocative verse by the late Theodore Roethke, a major American poet who can be appreciated even by those who don't ordinarily like poetry. Doubleday, \$6.95.

### RECORDS

- ✓ *The Baroque Oboe:* Toronto symphony conductor Seiji Ozawa leads the Columbia Chamber orchestra in this showpiece for the brilliant oboe of Harold Gomberg. Columbia's luxurious sound perhaps overemphasizes the oboe, but in this case with good reason. Works by Vivaldi, Georg Philipp Telemann and Handel are done to a graceful turn as Ozawa willingly subdues the orchestral sound for the soloist's sake. (Columbia MS 6832)

# ARGUMENT

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