

editorial

Last week the UPEI Athletic Board, having worked for the past year, released its recommendations. The eight member board, chaired by J. Joseph Revell, came up with a mixture of suggestions. Most of what they had to say was good, some of it was bad, and all of it reflected a good deal of thought on the part of the board.

Happily enough, the board has not advised a cut in athletic funding. In fact, a healthy increase has been recommended from the \$219,171 of last year to something in the range of \$265,000 to \$295,000. This is fitting recognition of the importance of athletics in the life of any university. Not everyone participates in intercollegiate sports or even in intramurals, but all of us are glad these things exist. As a consequence we should not begrudge athletics the funding it justly deserves.

The board is also in favor of keeping UPEI's athletic program basically intact. UPEI is to remain intercollegiately active in football, field hockey, soccer, basketball, and hockey. The board's report even provides for a most welcome new program, namely an intercollegiate women's volleyball team. This suggestion is made because volleyball is inexpensive to play and because the UPEI population is rapidly moving toward equality of the sexes. With roughly an equal number of males and females on campus, the board feels that more female athletic involvement is advisable.

The Athletic Board has made other worthwhile suggestions too, so many that I have neither time nor space to list them all. What I can tell you, however, are several things the board

GOOD
RECOMMENDATIONS
AND
BAD ONES

From
The
Editor



did wrong. First is their statement that UPEI should engage in tournament sports only where there is an intramural or club program in the same sport. This jeopardizes our participation in badminton, golf, and curling, the areas in which UPEI has achieved the most fame, and which deserve further pursuit.

A second problem is the board's attitude toward intercollegiate football. It recommends that our team play a minimum of two more years while a formal review of the program is conducted. If adopted, this will doom our squad to a losing record because what player will represent UPEI when our team has such an uncertain life expectancy. Football recruiting will be difficult with winning close to impossible.

Even worse, reviewing the football program for two years is merely sitting on the fence. The problem should be handled decisively. To put it bluntly, we should withdraw from intercollegiate football now. You know the old saying. It is true that we shouldn't put off for tomorrow what we have to do today. The simple fact is that football is our most costly sport. The 1980 budget, for example, allots it \$20,600. This compares to a \$17,442 total which supports soccer, men's basketball, and women's basketball put together. In addition, football gives us only three, or at most four, home games per season. In effect, then, we pay \$5,000 to \$7,000 for each. Now I hardly call that sustained sports entertainment, or good budgeting, and even the games we do have aren't always well attended. In times of financial restraint football just isn't worth the money, and an athletic review board should admit that.

Remember, though, the UPEI Athletic Board made more good recommendations than bad ones, and for that it should be commended. I just hope that when the decisions are finally made that only the good advice will be accepted.

John Cairns

UPEI SUN

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Deadline for all submissions is Monday noon.

The staff meeting is every Monday at 7 PM in The SUN's office, fourth floor Main, East end.

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the staff

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RESIDENCE FOR SENIOR WEEK

NOTICE TO ALL SENIOR RESIDENCE STUDENTS:

Senior residence students who wish to live in Marian during Senior Week must

register with Mary Ross before Friday, March 14. After March 14, any rooms unclaimed will be made available to non-residence students.