

The Other Side of the Story

By Lucas McInnis

Campus was buzzing with excitement the past couple of months as workers bombarded the campus with shovels and the sound of engines swept the university with more energy than any party The Wave could ever throw.

It was obvious what brouhaha in the vicinity of the soccer fields was. In anticipation of the 2009 Canada Games it was deemed appropriate to build an arena to accommodate the myriad of competitors to walk onto the campus. A worthy cause, indeed. I'm no opponent to forking over some dollars to our deserving athletes. The Beijing Games showed that you can put a price on pride and by forking over a few extra bucks for our Canada Games it could prove beneficial in the grand scale of things.

One thought haunted me though. After building such an elaborate track and field stadium, what will its use be at the conclusion of the Games? Our fair university is without a track and field team, after all.

I began barraging whatever poor soul I could find

with questions. The natural answer from most was that UPEI would simply have to incorporate some form of team in order for the building to be made worth while. Glorious. Problem solved.

Everybody's happy. Except me, of course.

Not that I was particularly unhappy, just not completely finished with my questioning.

It wasn't the stadium I was now inquiring into, but rather the work on campus that began on account of the Games.

Our quaint school campus was being torn up to make it eventually more appealing to the eye, as it would seem.

Now, I know this doesn't seem exactly like a sin. There's no reason to impeach or fire anyone over a simple sprucing up of our

school, but with the redoing of our entire grounds I couldn't help wonder how much money this was costing us students.

True, the money must be spent somewhere, I guess. And what better place should the provincial university spend its funds than representing the province on the whole? My question was, is it all entirely necessary?

I could be wrong. Maybe the expense is worth it. But it's the numbers that plague me. I never thought the campus looked poorly. I'll concede the new grounds look nice. But I wonder if it was worth it. What does it get us when the games finish? Will I really feel better walking class to class with the new-and-improved campus than I had with the old style? Is all this work and money really worth two

weeks of glory?

I'm sure there was nothing but good intentions in the decision to do these renovations. But when the Games come to a close, will we still even be talking about it?

It's also entirely possible

I'm simply slightly bitter. You see, I've taken a couple summer courses and it's proven to be quite the nuisance to get to my class. No matter which way I went, it would seem, was the wrong way. And what would be right one day was no longer correct the next.

I know it's all for good reason. It may even prove to be the best thing to happen to the school all year. I just want to make sure whatever happens, it's nothing less than a step forward.

Lucas McInnis is the editor-in-chief of the UPEI Cadre

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