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THE STANE AND THE BROOM

by Jim McAdam

Although the game of curling was incorporated into Canadian sports by Scottish soldiers two and a half centuries ago, there are many Canadians who have not yet been introduced to the roaring game. Nevertheless it is rapidly becoming one of our most popular sports for young and old alike. Since the invention by the West of the "Roaring" style of play and the "sliding delivery" curling has won many devotees until now there are upwards of 175,000 members across the continent.

For those who have never seen or played the game it is best described as having a combination of the best features of chess, shuffleboard, lawn bowling and billiards. The object of the game is to curl a 42 pound granite stone 114 feet from the hack or footstool to the target—the skip's broom. As in shuffleboard you hope, and some even pray, that the "rock" will stop at a particular position within the bullseye as designated by your skip or field general. It is the duty of this skip to plan the team's strategy and to make the right moves—as we must in chess. The curler in order to throw his stone properly employs the in-turn and out-turn of the lawn-bowler. He aims his rock for the skip's broom and it rotates in a sweeping curve from the target to its goal. The two remaining teammates sweep the path of the rock free of debris

and lengthens the distance it travels. How and why these two physical phenomena occur should encourage the curiosity of our engineers. And finally like the billiard addict, the curler employs caroms and banks, but calls them "raises" and "in wicks". The game itself is difficult to explain on paper and must like a beautiful woman be seen to be appreciated.

The western provinces with their accent on speed and style have revolutionized the game for the younger men. The "square" that thinks curling is "an old man's game" is about ten years behind his times. Companionship rinks are now composed of men who are old in experience but young in years. It takes a rugged constitution to stand the gaff which Bonspiel or tournament curling provides. Any student of the game who has swept countless miles of rock can say truthfully that it is one of the most exerting in athletics. The physical strain on the skip, if he has his heart in the job, often leaves him feeling like a wet dish-rag at the end of the day's play. But don't get me wrong, you don't have to be Charles Atlas to play, size and strength is not nearly as important as co-ordination and the ability to relax.

Another important feature of curling is its value as a team sport. Probably in no other game is unit co-operation as important as in

curling. You stand or fall, not as a player, but as a team. Each player has two stones to throw and there are four players to a team. The stone nearest to the center wins and it is the team's object to put stones in the bull and protect them with guards. We realize therefore that no team can afford to waste its rocks. They aren't the lead's stones or the mate's, they are the team's. There is no place for the "Prima Donna" on a curling team no matter how good he may be. If he can't co-operate, in the finest sense of the word, he might as well stick to pole-vaulting or some other individual sport. Nowhere is the old adage—"a chain is as strong as its weakest link" so clearly illustrated as in the sliding game.

"Curling is something more than a game. In fact, it is fraternal fellowship which stands unique and unrivaled in the history of sport." This is quoted from the Curler's Bible and illustrates the friendly fellowship which the sport is so proud of. A good sportsman is respected as much as a good curler. He learns the meaning of Forgiveness and Patience when his teammate wastes both rocks or a lucky shot ruins his "full house". This fellowship slogan has made curling a respected sport by men from all walks of life and a man can take pride in saying that he belongs to the curling fraternity.

Now what does all this mean to you as college students who might perhaps be interested in the game? Well just this. The Fredericton Curling Club has agreed to grant those ice time for the purpose of learning how to curl. The dues and

Plumbers' Prattle . . .

By Slipstick Sam

Fraternities—the very fact that they seem to encourage racial and religious discrimination is an excellent reason for banning them from the campus. U.N.B. has always maintained a high standard of tolerance and we hope always will. However, as was pointed out to the junior engineers not long ago, where does tolerance stop and compliance with wrong begin? This philosophical puzzle is left with the individual. It seems to us (Oswald agrees too) that respecting tolerance of race and, to an extent, of religion there can be no compliance with wrong. Ultimate racial tolerance (not necessarily including the bad points of the races—all races have them and should eliminate them) seems to us to be the ideal situation. But to force ourselves off this tangent and back on to the path we insist that discrimination is the only valid reason for excluding fraternities. Such college clubs help to encourage cliques, but what the heck, they exist already anyway. Consequently this reason is void.

Another slight reason this time from the engineers and not just your columnists. As the meeting concerning fraternities held at the Lord Beaverbrook not a single (or married for that matter) engineer was present. Since the engineers comprise roughly forty percent of the students up the hill it is rather absurd to state that a good representation of students was present. Yet this statement was made on page 1 of the Brunswickan, November 28th issue. It could be that there are no engineers interested in frats. Nevertheless a good representation wasn't present.

Too Soon, too soon come the exams and tests for we (the engineers) are still slaving at labs—

playing time have not yet been decided, but by the next issue of the Brunswickan the details will be known. So if you are interested in the "roarin' game" peruse these worthy pages for the latest news.

most of which are yet foreign to us—and have no hope of completing the required quota before the fatal hours. (All the rhetoric is for Oswald . . . he likes it). To those senior electricals, who always seem to be hopelessly puzzled about their various labs, may we offer our deepest sympathy. But to be truthful we too are often puzzled. Without the calm help of our lab partner, who always grins when we begin tearing our hair out, no doubt we would be completely bald. And so it goes with the sophomores who find themselves in the same quandary. But do not despair. Ultimately you will reach the top of the platform one way or another and will be handed that hunk of sheepskin that helps so many people get a good job . . . (especially if they are engineers. . . Our roommate will love us for that).

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