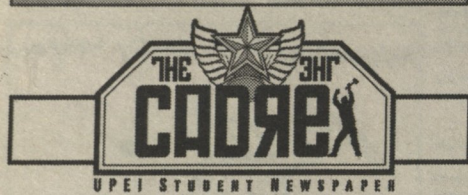


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An Ultimate Summer

Editorial by Sean Brady • Editor in Chief

It became clear to me this past weekend as I dropped over \$300 on hockey equipment (and that's only for a few pieces) how much I appreciated my summer season of Ultimate Frisbee. A \$150 pair of skates brings \$30 frisbees and \$40 cleats into perspective pretty quickly.

That's one of the things I love most about Ultimate; have disc, will play. Shoes are definitely optional. Most recommend cleats, unless you're playing on the beach that is, but for some purists, footwear seem to defy the nature of the game (Ultimate players have often been seen as 'hippies' too, I'll get into that shortly).

The root of the game is sportsmanship. Competition is encouraged, but 'spirit' as it's simply known, is highly stressed. Unless we're talking championship game scenario, you're more likely to see people tripping over themselves being 'all-good' on any contested call, rather than try to get it to go their own way.

More directly, in most leagues and tournaments, spirit is implicitly built into the game through a 'spirit-chant' or 'spirit-game'; an impromptu cheer/song made up about the other team (I have heard rumours about one nitwit team doing a complete 'Bohemian Rhapsody' parody), or a small/short crazy, nutty, fun game, often in teams and/or involving drinking something.

This may be the cause of the 'hippie' stereotype that sometimes gets attached to Ultimate players (less often as time passes). Alternatively, it could be because you sometimes see grown men playing in dresses - not, kilts, dresses and/or skirts - or, depending on venue, the odd player spark a J at half-time. Such things aren't regular in Island games, but rumours of the man-in-dress barrier being broken next year have begun to circulate.

The rules of the game are simple and the concept is pretty quick to catch. Considering that most people have the ability to run, and have at one point or another in life, learned to throw a frisbee, even true rookies usually have at least one or two of the basics down pat before they begin.

Ultimate Frisbee is a massive draw at many

campuses across Canada (as well as the United States, and many other countries in the world) but has seen limited play at UPEI or on PEI in general. It has had a number of small followings interspersed throughout Charlottetown (as it is amongst other Island communities), however nothing was ever organized.

This summer saw that trend broken in Charlottetown, as for the first time a (somewhat) official league was formed, also spawning two tournament road teams and the first ever PEI hosted Ultimate Frisbee tournament (Sat. Sept. 5, Potato Pull 2004). This followed last winter's initial run at indoor Ultimate hosted here at UPEI.

After finally truly learning how to throw a 'flick' (forehand throw) and

strongly improving my all around game in this my third summer of play, I'm already looking forward to next summer's Ultimate Frisbee. If you'd like to learn more about the sport, check out the Ultimate Players Association website at <http://www2.upa.org/>. For more information about the Island Ultimate schedule, plans for indoor Ultimate and next summer's outdoor league, contact Joe R. at jr@alumni.sfu.ca.



Previous Article Correction

In the previous issue of "The Cadre", in a MAPUS-related article called "Students Over 60 Reduced to One Course Per Semester?" an error was made. The correct information is that the administration's plans are to reduce centennial students to one course per year, not one per semester as was previously reported. "The Cadre" and reporter Jon Smith apologize for the error; but come on, if "The Guardian" can regularly get away with it, what's a little mistake here and there?