

Comment

Comment is an opinion column open to members of the university community who wish to present an informed opinion on a topic of their selection.

'Goodbye to sportsmanship...

by Kevin Doyle

Let us lament the condition that university athletics has reached when individual players suffer because of the insensitivity of the governing bureaucracy and the doubtful practices of unethical rivals. Neither I, nor Phil Boyle will be allowed to play soccer for Dalhousie this season. We have been declared ineligible, though no protest has been filed against us.

The circumstances surrounding this unfortunate situation are these. On Sunday Sept. 19th both Phil and I played the final game for our summer team, Halifax Privateers. It was the championship game, the most important of the season; and it would have been unfair to our teammates to not play. (Incidentally, Privateers won the game, with Phil Boyle scoring three goals). At this time the Dalhousie soccer team had not opened its regular league, and was not to do so until the following Friday, Sept. 24th.

On Monday evening at our scheduled practice, both Phil and I were informed by coach Tony

Richards that the Head Coach of St. Mary's (who had seen us play in an exhibition game on the previous Saturday, and whose minions were at the league final on the Sunday), had questioned our eligibility because of our appearance in the game on Sunday. Somewhere, apparently, a rule exists that states that players can only play for their university side and no other. Fine, we thought, our university league had not begun yet. Unfortunately, the rule referred to the university league in general; namely, the A.U.A.A. soccer league. Upon closer investigation we discovered that the A.U.A.A. league had officially opened two days before our championship final. Competition is the essence of sport but to try and gain an advantage by such means is pathetic. Dalhousie and St. Mary's are great rivals, but to resort to this is indeed a sad comment upon the game.

The Dal coach decided not to play us and to appeal to the governing body for an opinion as to what the outcome of a protest would be. At

Letters To the Gazette must be typed if over 100 words. Letters must be less than 600 words. They will not be edited for brevity, coherency, or other reasons. Letters will be published as soon as possible.

Persons submitting letters must provide their name and a telephone number, or some other method of reaching them, should there be some question about their identity. The use of pseudonyms will be considered in some cases.

Letters

To the Gazette:

This letter is in response to the letter co-authored by M. Lawrence and C. Graham, residents of Ardmore Hall, which was published in last week's Gazette. Their letter dealt with the over-abundant security in the female residences of Dal, relative to the more relaxed security of Howe Hall.

Specifically, their letter dealt with the lack of freedom to come and go at any time with whomever they wish, and that the "gentlemen-?? at Howe Hall" do not face this huge inconvenience.

Evidence was given to support the point of view that restrictions involving the young ladies (???) should be lifted, to wit that the walls in Howe Hall are bashed in, that drunken parties abound, etc. Lawrence and Graham then claim that this evidence proves that the male residents of Howe Hall are unsuited for the responsibilities involved with rights. The inference is that, as shown by the lack of destructions in the female residences, the ladies are better at handling freedom and responsibility.

To my mind, it would seem fairly obvious to everyone that the females living on campus or in Ardmore, are very much a part of these drunken parties, but that they have pleasant, quiet, uncrowded (no triples) quarters in which to recuperate from their naughtiness. But when Howe Hall's residents want to recuperate at 2 a.m. after a party, they continue to hear the sounds of male/female revelry going on into the late hours of the morning.

As to the bashed-in walls, I believe that these are a direct result of the lax security prevalent at Howe Hall, and the impeccable facilities at Shirreff and Ardmore would tend to support this theory.

The point of this letter is that after lengthy discussions with Dean Irvine (Dean of Women), Dean Chanter (Dean of Men), and con-

versations with the Dalhousie Student Aid Services, the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission, and other interested parties, it is more than apparent that the problems at Shirreff, Ardmore, and, for that matter, Howe Hall, can be solved if the majority wish it so.

If you are more interested in getting things changed for the better than in just seeing your names in our "free" newspaper (as some people have suggested) then get in touch with me at CKDU, Dal Radio News, or my private number, 429-7309.

In short, I enjoy the freedom at Howe Hall, and appreciate the responsibilities involved. But if YOU aren't willing to help make things better than they are, quit bitching. We all have better things to do than waste time listening to another person suffering under self-induced martyrdom.

Rory Waite

To the Gazette:

To any active member of the Student's Council.

I am only one of many first year students who find the age restriction on social functions very unfair. I realize that the sale of liquor to people 19 and over boosts your intake of money, however, as members of Dalhousie University, we have also paid 50 dollars (&) in Student Union fees. What does that do for us? As far as we can see; not too much. All week we do school-work only to greet a barren and dull weekend. Fortunately for us there are wet and dry functions at other universities and we may attend these. In the future we will be the ones responsible for school spirit and voting for representatives. I think you are losing a lot of support from us, so think it over!

Sincerely,
18 and dry
Anonymous

and all that...'

this time we were confident of a liberal interpretation of the rule. We were wrong.

What of the rule that we are supposed to have contravened. Namely, that a player may only play for the team. It is a rule which many of the university soccer coaches in the Maritimes dislike. It covers all varsity sports, for example, ice hockey and football. Originally, it was introduced for the benefit of the athletes to protect their academic standards by making it impossible to play for both a university and an outside team at the same time. For ice hockey and football it may be a good rule but it has little relevance for soccer in the Maritimes, where the seasons run back to back and not concurrently. In our particular case, the overlap was but two days. The spirit of the law, it would appear, is benevolent. We have been penalized by an interpretation of the letter of the law in the strictest sense possible.

To be effective a governing body must have the respect of its members. By its attitude, however, the board has prostituted its authority. Through its opinion it has condoned the dubious practice of one team to gain an advantage over another, and will, therefore, encourage such questionable practices in others. If, as I am lead to

believe, many of the university soccer coaches in the Maritimes disdain this sort of behaviour, then for the good of the game let them speak out now. Have the courage to demand recognition of the unique characteristics of soccer and to legislate for it separately and meaningfully.

What is the result of all this? Both Phil and I are deprived of the pleasure of playing and representing the university; Dalhousie is deprived of two players and consequently the team is not as strong as it might be. It is both a personal loss and a club loss. More importantly, however, the fact that such action was taken and approved reduces the credibility of the governing body. I sincerely hope that out of our misfortune some good will emerge; that the rules that govern will be reviewed, and that the body that governs will be more sensitive to the needs of soccer; and that the discreditable behaviour that has put us out will in future be allowed no sanction.

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