

Sports comment

# Women in sports

by Greg Zed

With the school year just about ready for its annual Christmas break, I thought it would be fitting to examine an area of Athletics that I feel has been neglected, in terms of publicity, here at Dalhousie. It is not my intention to resolve the problem of publicity, but, I am about to examine women in Athletics at Dalhousie just to shed some light on their position. Furthermore, it is not intended to be chauvanistic, but rather, the way it is.

There are according to Nancy Buzzell, "four league Varsity Sports open to women on campus, namely, swimming, basketball, volleyball, and field hockey. In a category referred to as Extra-mural there are teams in tennis, track, badminton, curling, and gymnastics." In terms of fan support one could say that there is moderate support, but certainly the seating capacity isn't being stretched to the limits. What has added to the fan participation is the fact that a number of teams travel with the male squad and play

back to back games. In fact according to Buzzell, there is a move on the national level to integrate not only travel arrangements but scheduling of games and constitutional issues."

The issue that I would like to address at this point is the success of the female athlete at Dalhousie.

To date according to Buzzell, "tennis, track, and field hockey have won the Atlantic titles in their respective fields of competition. To add to that successful start, the Women's Field Hockey Varsity club wrapped up the National title. This latter feat was certainly one of the greatest boosts to the Dalhousie Athletic program. To put it in clearer terms the Women's Field Hockey Team are Number One in the country...something that we should all be proud of.

The success story of the Women's Athletic Program does not stop there. The volleyball squad under the more than able direction of Lois MacGregor is off to a rather competitive start. Their opening bid against U.N.B. ended on a sour note

in terms of a 3-0 loss but their presence in the Quebec Open, where they ended with a record of 3-5 was good enough for opposing teams to ask the Dal club to the Ontario and Quebec Spring Opens. The volleyballers captured the Greenwood Open as well as the Acadia Open. In essence, winning has been a part of MacGregor's club, and without a doubt, it is inevitable that success in terms of silverware will be part of the competition when league play ends.

In basketball, Debbie Phelan's hoopsters have just returned from a rather successful trip to Thunderbay. The Tigerettes placed second in the Lakehead University Tournament. So it is quite clear that the success story goes on. When looking to the future, Buzzell, who has been the Director of Women's Athletics is forecasting a success in all the Varsity sports. In terms of success she says it means "that all the teams should place first or second". It was, I must add to hear the success with such confidence, as opposed to the contender story so often heard when we speak of the high spectator sports of hockey, basketball, and, well, football as it once existed. In reality the female story at Dalhousie is a rather pleasant story to hear...it makes one feel proud that we are Number One in something. I suppose it does appeal to the winning feeling which we all have in us.

The winning ways at Dalhousie is not just at the female level. I am certain that the Inter-mural program as well as a number of other varsity sports are successful, not only in promoting participation, but also in league play as well, as community involvement. It cannot and should not be argued that

Dalhousie Athletics has taken a backward step as a result of dropping football. The opposite is true. It has been my aim just to examine one segment of Athletics at Dalhousie, namely, Women's Varsity Athletics...and it is clear that Ms. Nancy Buzzell has developed a rather successful story on the Varsity level through a group of eager and professional coaching staff that has left the program nothing short of excellence.

Our hats go off to the Buzzell Administration to a job well done.

# Dal swimmers double Moncton

Dal swimmers and divers completed a double in dual meet action over newcomer University of Moncton over the weekend. The Blue Eagle team in its first year of A.U.A.A. swimming provided some competition for the Dal Women's squad partially in the form of C.W.I.A.U. Breaststroke champion Darlene Baxter. However, Dalhousie's depth earned them a 64-44 decision. In Men's action Dal's water Tigers completely dominated drowning the Blue Eagles 91-8. Dalhousie won 19 of the 26 event meet.

Top performer was freshman Donald Pooley who became the first man in the A.U.A.A. conference this season to secure a trip to Toronto for the 1977 C.I.A.U. championships. In the Men's 200 yard backstroke Pooley went inside the C.I.A.U. standard of 2:08.7 with a 2:08.11 clocking.

With the Men's meet never in doubt Coach Nigel Kemp used the opportunity to blood his swimmers in a variety of events. Freshman Geoff Camp again displayed the

hallmark of his versatility with a fine victory in the 200 Individual Medley event with a very respectable 2:09.43 electronically timed clocking following his first place finish in the 1000 yard freestyle event. Dal's other double winner was freshman diving stand-out Ray Kelley who was in control from both one and three metre boards. Sprinters John Cuthbertson and Chris Porter clocked lifetime bests over the 100 yard distance and should move into the reckoning as the season progresses. Freshman all rounder Donnie MacLeod stroked to a victorious and venerable clocking in the Men's 200 breaststroke event. Other Dal winners were Gail Stewart, Martha March, Margie Barrow, Andrea Gillespie, Jean Mason, and Richard Hall-Jones.

Dalhousie next faces a strong Acadia team, Saturday, at Centennial Pool, Halifax. Swimming action commences at 1:00 p.m. while diving preliminaries get underway at noon.

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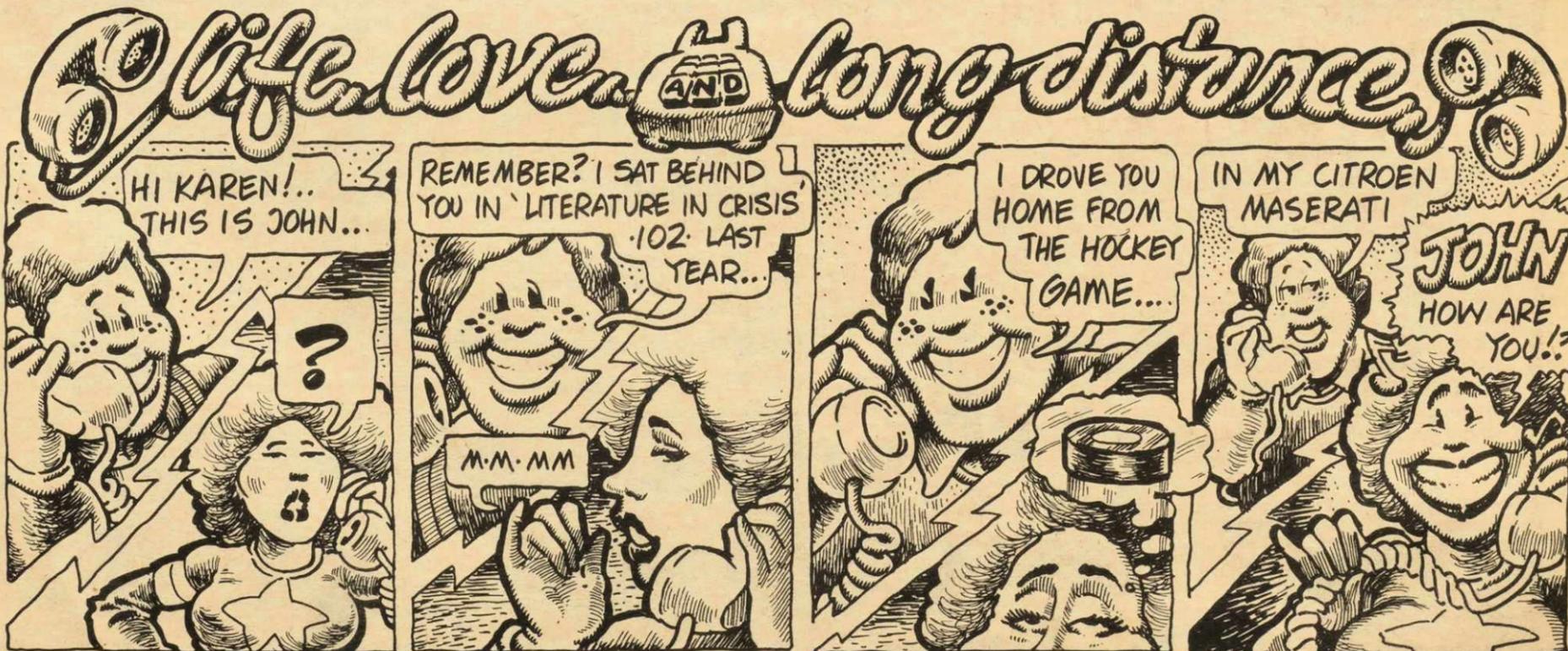
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