

UBC Football coach offers to resign after bar brawl

BY DOUGLAS QUAN

VANCOUVER (CUP)—The head football coach at the University of British Columbia has offered to resign after an early-morning brawl involving two of his assistants last week.

Dave Johnson, 33, handed a letter of resignation to UBC's athletics department after last Thursday's altercation, said athletics director Bob Philip.

While the department hasn't officially responded to Johnson's letter, Philip said he guesses "that the leaning would be towards

accepting it". He said an announcement about Johnson's future is expected later this week.

Last Thursday's incident left assistant coach Noel Thorpe with two broken ribs, a broken nose and two black eyes. Stu Masi, acting offensive line coach, also received minor injuries in the fight at a campus pizzeria.

Employees at the eatery refused to comment about the altercation, which occurred around 1am, or explain why the men were still in the restaurant when it normally closes at 11pm.

Last week, Philip suspended Johnson indefinitely with pay, preventing the head coach from participating in the rest of training camp, which ended this weekend.

Johnson, who recently signed a three-year contract with UBC, did not return calls Monday. Philip said Johnson was out of town.

The RCMP is investigating the incident and will decide whether to lay charges within a week, Staff Sgt. Lloyd Plante said Monday.

Thorpe declined to discuss the incident other than to say "there was no fight", and Masi did not return

calls either.

Meanwhile, athletics officials and team members said a change in coaching staff could hamper ongoing recruitment efforts.

"It's certainly not the time of the year that we'd choose to make a coaching change," said Philip.

Quarterback Shawn Olson agrees, saying uncertainty surrounding the coaching staff will make it difficult for some recruits to decide whether they want to attend UBC.

But he said current team members will be calling recruits over the next few weeks to tell them

"it will still be very much the same team, with some good veteran leadership".

Still, Olson said he regrets the prospect of losing Johnson as a coach.

"Under coach Johnson we were definitely headed in the right direction."

Johnson was hired as UBC football's defensive co-ordinator prior to the 1997 season. When then-head coach Casey Smith was diagnosed with liver cancer last June, he chose Johnson to take the reins as interim head coach for the 1998 season.

Men's Centre at UofR

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are seen to be feminine if they talk about their problems [but] it actually strengthens their masculinity to realize that they do have problems," he added.

The centre would also be open to women so that both sexes could work together to improve gender relations, Schmidt said.

"One of the big things we'd support is men and women actively working to achieve equality," said Schmidt. "The real vision that we have is to convert the Women's Centre into a university centre."

But while Schmidt espouses equality between the sexes, he also insists women are taking away rights from men.

"The feminists of this age have gotten pretty much all that they've asked for politically, now when they fight for things all they are [doing] is taking away more rights from men," he said.

Education issues co-ordinator Jaime Reban disagrees,

and says she doesn't see a need for a men's centre on campus.

"It kind of degrades the many reasons why we need a women's centre," Reban said. "It diminishes the problem, the specific issues that women have to deal with as women."

"Men aren't fighting for things like pay equity and men on the whole don't have to deal with being victims of domestic violence or issues like body image," she added.

Reban says men, not women, are in a dominant position in society.

"It is the white males who have all the power — they still earn the most money, it's women who are in poverty, it's women who have to suffer all the different kinds of violence against them. A men's centre kind of spits in the face of all those issues and demeans them."

Schmidt says this is not his intent.

"I'm not woman-bashing in any way," said Schmidt. "The last thing I want to do is hurt women's rights, I just want it to be equal."

20 years ago this week

RCMP raided Dal computer centre

The Halifax detachment of the RCMP raided Dalhousie's computer centre and seized computer tapes belonging to a fisheries consultation firm, using what was later revealed to be an invalid search warrant.

The tapes, which allegedly contained information belonging to the federal fisheries department, were later admitted into court regardless of the ill-gotten warrant. The information was said to be public information, but charges were to be laid against Marine

Resource Analysts Ltd., the owner of the tapes. The RCMP did not comment on the nature of the tapes.

Female law grads suffered

According to a study done by an University of Toronto student, women law graduates were subject to job discrimination. The study said that in 1973, 78 percent of UofT law students were able to find work immediately after graduation, but by 1976, only 43 percent of women were able to find work after graduation, compared to 84 percent of males. The reason for this, cited by law firms, was that firms were reluctant to give female graduates articling jobs out of fear that they would become pregnant and have to leave the job.

Canadian Nuclear safety questioned

The threat of nuclear power and its financial burden finally revealed itself to Canadians.

The costs of maintaining nuclear power plants became apparent to the Canadian Government, as the expense of repairing power plants proved to be just as expensive as initial start up costs, and production of the CANDU reactors in Canada had generated no economic gain after almost 30 years of development.

As the icing on the cake, what was referred to as "Canada's sacred cow" finally showed the disastrous effects that nuclear energy can have. Uranium miners who had inhaled the radioactive dust became highly susceptible to lung cancer, and the problem of disposing properly of nuclear waste also became painfully obvious.

"For a 100 Megawatt plant over 30 years, just counting the tailings of uranium mined for that plant, the associated hazard will, in the long future, kill 12,000 people, but that's a conservative estimate," Dr. Fred Knelman of Concordia University said.

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