

Women athletes deserve equality

Women's Athletics are relegated to second class status in the minds of most people.

It is generally believed that men are better athletes than women, that their games are more entertaining and their accomplishments more deserving. This attitude is based on the all too common myth of male superiority.

The Dalhousie Women's Field Hockey Team won the National Championship this year and it looks as though the women's basketball team is a top contender for similar honours in their sport. However, who, outside the team and a few loyal fans, really cares? The campus would go wild with a male national championship, but a women's team with equal accomplishments means little to most people.

Women athletes are aware that a problem exists and that their status must improve. More publicity of women's sports is necessary before people realize the potential and accomplishments of female athletes. Women must develop a concerted effort in order to change people's attitudes.

It is hard to understand how a team that considers themselves to be of high calibre, could allow the name "Tigarette" to be used when referring to them. The men's teams at Dalhousie are the Tigers—a term with connotations of strength and toughness. Tigarettes implies something fragile and defenseless.

If a distinction was to be made, the term 'Tigress' is appropriate as a female tiger. A 'Tigarette' does not exist. It is merely a weakening of a forceful word, tiger. The Dalhousie Women Tigers serves the purpose without degrading the standards of the athletes concerned.

The oppression of women in sports is not unique. Women are oppressed in all sectors of our society. Oppression of women (as well as minorities) is institutionalized. In fact, our economic, social and political system rests on exploitation of women and minorities.

It's not only important to relate this exploitation to other forms of oppression, but to see that they are inextricably linked. To ultimately eliminate women's exploitation, one must fight against all exploitation.

by Valerie Mansour
Harvey MacKinnon



CHECKMATE

the dalhousie gazette

The Dalhousie Gazette is the weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union. The views expressed in the paper are not necessarily those of the Student Union, the editors, or staff. We reserve the right to edit material submitted for space or legal reasons.

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Racist fans

LETTERS

To the Gazette:

On Saturday, January 15, I travelled to Mt. Allison to see some of my friends. When I heard that Dalhousie was playing hockey that evening, I suggested that we take it in. After all, the Dal team has been playing a bit better since Christmas, and ...well we went to the game.

From the opening face-off I could see that it was going to be a good game. Dal obtained a 4-0 lead and in the third period, Dal's goal-tender played so superbly that it frustrated the Mt. A's team to the extent where they began to use rough-house tactics. Dalhousie players stood their ground, and, they didn't become intimidated... they even won all the fights.

Well, I figured that the fights were over and won BUT not at all. When the penalties were sorted out by the dumb referee, the Dal players were jeered at, and harassed by a number of fans. Some fans were directing their abusive racist language at specific individuals. Their immature action astounded me.

The harassment was so serious that Warren Lutes (Athletic Director at Mt. Allison and president of the league) was asked to come to the penalty box to quell the disturbance. A number of C.P.s

seemed to just sit around and actually take a blind eye to the harassment put on by those drunk-en fools.

I don't mind people drinking at games. In fact, some rinks are so cold that you need a "wine-skin" to keep from freezing, BUT when you interfere with a game or continually harass players on a racial nature I strongly feel that you should be escorted out of the rink.

I still can't understand why the C.P.s allowed the animals to stay nor can I understand why Warren Lutes didn't do something. I can fully understand enthusiastic fans but I cannot accept drunken idiots who do nothing for the game except pose problems for all concerned.

Thank God we at Dalhousie can attend a game, take part in cheering but yet still respect the opposition. Maybe, we, at Dalhousie should get more involved in supporting the team but if this means harassment of players, as was the case at Mt. Allison, no way. We are a bit too intelligent for that even though we'll still drink at the games. I think the Gazette should do a Sports Comment on this.

Sincerely yours,
A proud Dal fan

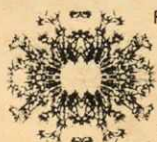
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Responsibilities include extensive travelling to university campuses in the four Atlantic provinces.

The salary is \$165 a week plus travel expenses. The job commences approximately the end of August to the end of March.

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