

SPORTS: BANE or BLESSING

There has been some discontent recently concerning the way sports are turning out at Dalhousie; both the Sports Department and the apathy of students have been blamed, but what might be the principle cause of the general discontent is lack of agreement of the objectives of sports at university. The disagreement has not really been a very intelligent one but helps camouflage the real issues in words such as 'college spirit' or 'student indifference'.

Judging from results, the mood generally prevailing on the faculty and among students is that sport is subordinate to the academic side of the university and that we may depend on our advocates of sport to wheedle as much time and money out of the students and administration as is healthy for us. Let the gym fight its own battles! — in short, this attitude is tantamount to indifference.

THE CONDITION OF THE BODY

The vehemence on the opposing side see sport as one of the mainstays of education, bolstering up the student with qualities of leadership and mental stamina for the rigours of the classroom.

They support the athletic scholarships on the grounds that academic standing can be improved by athletic participation.

They are the advocates of 'college spirit' who see in that euphoric but evasive state of mind the possibility of encouraging more students into sports. The idea is that there is a circle. If you can perk up the college spirit teams. The knack is getting the benevolent law of nature started in your favour.

The only objection to the theory is that the emphasis is on the inter-collegiate teams. Does college spirit necessarily effect the overall physical welfare of the student body? Perhaps enthusiasm for sports will siphon down to the meager levels of 'athletics' but most will associate college spirit with attending football games and not participating in something like badminton.

THE BALANCED SPORT PROGRAM

Part of the difficulty of assessing objectives of sports is probably the familiar Canadian one of compromising between European and American models. But surely the proper objective of a sports campus to enjoy the benefits of some form of sport. It shouldn't be to put attention on the college teams, or on the other hand to discourage the role of sports. A knowledgeable writer has stated, 'Taking part in an enjoyable game increases the zest for life, elim-

inates unwholesome moodiness for the time being, neutralizes the damaging effects of repetitive morbid ideas!'

A well balanced sports programme then should be one that enables students to practice a variety of sports that are readily available at convenient hours and that are well publicized.

IS THERE A BALANCED SPORT PROGRAM AT DAL?

Mr. Gowie, the director of athletics has opposed efforts to bring in athletes from the United States



"Once again into the breach, dear friends, once more... Overemphasized???"

on athletic scholarships to bolster the football team on the admirable grounds that the sports department is for the ordinary Dalhousie student and not athletic wonders from the south. He has encouraged 'informed voluntary' sports such as squash and student participation is increasing. Nevertheless there are many difficulties that remain.

INTER-FACULTY TEAMS

The main source of activity is in interfaculty teams. They have the advantage of being advised effectively by the individual faculties and students are not so hard pressed to turn out when the work presses as in inter-collegiate games. But the only really active inter-faculty teams at this time of year are in hockey and basketball, and not a very impressive proportion of students play.

INFORMAL VOLUNTARY SPORTS

Wider participation in basketball and hockey on a more casual basis and in squash, badminton and curling, could be attained by greater publicity and an organized agenda of available facilities. The initiative of a few students with the encouragement of the sports department, started the badminton club but it only meets once a week. Facilities on Thursday mornings do not appear to be provided since Christmas. Perhaps the difficulty is an organiz-

by Dougal Christie

ational one. The D.A.A.C. operated by the students can hardly be expected to run most of the 'informal voluntary sports' on the campus while the athletics department sees to the college teams.

CASUAL PARTICIPATION

The difficulties of promoting casual participation are not formidable. New buildings (though they are badly needed) are not the only solution. Greater use of the downstairs part of the gym could be made for volleyball. The gym could provide sneakers and pants, etc., for non-team players. More could be done to publicize curling and skiing.

SHOULD SPORT BE COMPULSORY?

Compulsory athletics has been proposed for first year but it has been given up at McGill and just recently at the University of Manitoba. Though it may familiarize students with sports they have not participated in before the effect often is to discourage them. Most of high-school students are quite familiar with compulsory sports systems. Whether Dalhousie could provide a better programme of compulsory athletics than the schools or the universities is another question. Maybe it could.

However, the answer in university is surely not through compulsion! Most students have the initiative to become interested in sports if actively encouraged by good publicity in the form of posters and announcements and available facilities.

LETTERS: Dance Profits (Continued from Page 4)

to work on the Dance Committee. (g) As a news story, especially the front page lead, "Dance Profits Seized", was abysmally bad. Points (1) The headline was incorrect (11) The lead paragraph was incorrect (11) The story contained opinions, was biased, and was written by one of the "employees" of the Dance Committee; these are hardly in the best tradition of news reporting. (1v) At no time was either myself or Miss Young, the principals involved, asked to comment on what happened at the Dance. If we had been then we could have cleared up the mistakes in the ensuing story. (v) As such, they story is not news, but the opinions of one person as to what went on, and pretty biased opinions at that! (h) If you think that this letter is sarcastic and unduly emotional, then please take comfort in the fact that I am only carrying on the tradition started by Messrs. Hennigar and Visman (News Editor).

Yours sincerely,
Don Brazier.

More Letters; con't. of view be a poor idea, I believe too, with Miss Hennessey, that it is better than nothing. However, no tutor can be of any help to a student who fails to appear to the remedial session. All too frequently, those informed of the availability of assistance (however unprofessional) ignore it. Almost as disconcerting, from the tutor's point of view, is the student who decides after one fifteen-minute session that nothing of value can come of this, and vanishes forever. When the professor begins to wonder aloud why his charges aren't responding, the tutor, alas, begins to feel decidedly rejected.

Yours sincerely,
David A. Giffen

P.S. I tutor English 2 students on an individual basis for Dr. Spratt.

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WATERLOO

a 'pressure group' the president stated that the foundation of this was in the RCMP issue which was misunderstood by the council.

Throughout the meeting observers felt that the council was on the defensive and that Mr. Jenkins had the upper hand in

THE LISTENING POST

By Andy White



"A House is not a Home"

One of the less pleasant aspects of Dalhousie life today is the fact that the University is still largely non-residential. Extensions, constructions and purchases to one side, the sad fact remains that the majority of Dalhousie students still must shift for themselves as far as shelter is concerned. Admittedly, the University expansion campaign is designed in part to rectify, or at least minimize this til-now chronic condition, but this promise of better things for the future student is of little help to the out-of-towner of today, who often has to make do with quarters that are, in some instances far from adequate.

ITCHING PALMS

Of course the attitude of all-too-many of the good burghers of Halifax is scarcely likely to bring smiles of glee and whoops of delight from those who are unfortunate enough to be thrown on their not-so-tender mercies. It is traditional that students are rarely wealthy; nay, the opposite is more often the case. It is also a known fact that the professional people of tomorrow, military medical, political, and industrial, are to be found on the campus of today. Bearing all this in mind, it is hardly too much to expect that some allowance be made by local landlords for the difficulties of the bona fide University student.

LOCAL RENTS HIGH

We are fully aware of the general condition of Halifax rents, and accept the system, that of supply demand, which has produced it. However, this is no way mitigates the fact that University students are indeed a special category, on the grounds outlined above, and deserve to be treated thus. It is not our contention that students should receive charity from private citizens, but the householders of this area could at least be fair about return on their investment.

But instead, what do we find? Cubbyholes which are not even worthy of being used as 'occasional use' or 'guest rooms' being flogged to the hapless student for prices of \$10.00 week. Rooms scarcely larger going to two or more for \$8.00 to \$10.00 per person. Rooms which are so inefficiently heated that the use of ski garments in one particular case, at least, was necessary before the student could settle down and study in comfort. Whole establishments, renting rooms to several students for the above-mentioned prices and under the stated conditions which frown on the habit of a daily bath, claiming that this is costing too much on account of the use of hot water.

both knowledge and eloquence.

Before he left for Ottawa Tuesday, Jenkins said that in order to shed more light on the issue, "we will not accept the withdrawal until council has had more time."

Archie McLean, council president, said that council would maintain its position until further discussion has taken place. He declined to offer his personal views.

Peter Bagnall, sophomore representative and an anti-CUS member from the outset of the current controversy last fall, stated, "Council made a good move last week to the extent that they shocked some of their own members as well as CUS."

Houses offering board whose inmates usually look as if they had been going on a rather poorly balanced reducing diet by the time Christmas rolls around.

Recently, there has been a fair amount of acrimony about "discrimination" in housing as far as the student is concerned. This is, indeed, a sorry matter. However, it is going a little far to dictate to a man who he shall accept as a roomer or a boarder. As recent laws on this matter have demonstrated, racial acceptance is a matter of the heart rather than the head, and that much time is necessary before this goal can be realised.

COUNCIL SHOULD ACT

However, there is something that can be done about this matter of the cynical exploitation of bona fide students, and it should be done as soon as possible after the students council elections this year. The incoming council should appoint a Commission to investigate houses offering accommodations to students as to location and to privileges. Then a scale should be drawn up bearing in mind the following important considerations; size of room, availability of basic facilities, i.e. bathing and the like; heating, tone of neighbourhood, and last but far from being least; in fairness this must rank equally with any of the others, the necessity of ensuring that the landlord makes a fair profit. These rates should be published next fall in the Gazette, so that Frosh and the others alike will have a better break and a chance to know just where they stand with "mine host" at the very beginning of the Fall term.

McGill University has featured a service very similar to the above suggestion, and it has worked very well for them. It is remarkable how certain individuals can remember their consciences when things such as the above are brought out of the shadows and into the glare of publicity.

NOT ALL LANDLORDS "BAD GUYS"

As a final remark, we do not begin to claim that all Halifax landlords who offer accommodation to students are in the category heretofore described. Many offer home-like surroundings at truly nominal fees, and more than just a few students at this University have waxed exceeding fat at the fare offered them in their homes away from home.

Howsoever this may be, there are, it is to be feared, more of the other type extant locally and these respectable vultures have had things their own way for just a few decades too many.

"I suggest that we take at least three or four weeks before rejoining. The idea of the organization is good, but the structure is poor," Bagnall added.

Mr. Jenkins returns to WUC next Monday to attend another meeting of council and "if necessary address the whole student body."

It is presently suggested that some council members are now drawing up a new resolution to possibly rescind the earlier motion of withdrawal.

As of this date, Waterloo considers themselves out of CUS; and the CUS considers Waterloo as still retaining its membership, since its letter of withdrawal was not accepted.

ON TUTORING

by Peter March

Some weeks ago I wrote a letter to this paper concerning the duty which I believed senior students have to give free tutoring to their fellow students in need of scholastic help.

Tutoring an Obligation:

I outlined two reasons for their obligation: the taxpayer has a right to demand as much in return for his support of this university and senior students out of allegiance to this college have an obligation to help their fellow students. Neither contention has been challenged by anyone; I assume therefore that I have the tacit agreement of the student body with my proposal.

Council Indifferent:

Having spoken to the council president on this matter, I realize that I skate on thin ice when I claim agreement of the student body for the council president had not even read my text and knew nothing at all of the matter. That the president is not in the habit of reading even the letters to the editor

is a disgrace to his position—that the student body took no cognizance of my letter is their own look-out — but that the student council took no note of my letter either to refute my reasoning or give cause for the unacceptability of my proposal is a disgrace to this college.

I'm not asking for their resignation but I am hoping that my proposal be discussed at the least.

Following my letter to the editor a few weeks ago I provided two boxes in which tutors (senior students), and students in need of help could place their names and I said that I would sort out the material and pair up the students and tutor. Within half an hour of placing the boxes at your disposal one of you decided to destroy those two boxes. I'm putting them up again and I hope council will have something to say about it. — If nothing else, I hope the council president will begin reading the newspaper of his own university.