

Seeing yellow: Tiger Patrol gets new jackets

BY LILLI JU

The school year may be drawing to a close, but it's never too late for a new look.

The Tiger Patrol program, which offers a safe walking escort service and a shuttle bus service to Dalhousie students, has recently acquired twelve new, bright yellow jackets. The jackets will replace the old orange and yellow vests — some of which have been around since 1991 when the Tiger Patrol program was started as a walk-home service by the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU).

"The vests are bright and serve their purpose," said Dean Naugler, co-ordinator of Tiger Patrol. "But the jackets will give Tiger Patrol a new fresh and professional look."

According to Bridgette McCaig, DSU executive vice-president, the issue of Tiger Patrol's visibility on campus was brought up at a council meeting this past October. Walk-home services at University

of King's College and Saint Mary's University already have jackets that are believed to give them a more professional and visible look.

"One of the councillors asked if there was anything we could do about it," said McCaig. "So I contacted Dean and Sandy MacDonald [Dalhousie chief of security], and we decided that the best thing to do would be to call around and try to get the best deal for purchasing jackets."

To this end, Mark's Work Wearhouse has been secured as a sponsor and has donated the jackets. Currently, Tiger Patrol is run by the DSU and the university with the support of a number of businesses that provide everything from the van right down to the new jackets.

"These jackets, which will come in a number of sizes, will be bright yellow, with reflector tape on the hood and collar, and around the cuffs of each sleeve," described MacDonald. "They will be clearly

marked 'Tiger Patrol'."

For their part, Mark's Work Wearhouse will be the sole sponsor of outer wear for Tiger Patrol and will have its logos added along with other business supporters on the Tiger Patrol shuttle bus and pamphlets.

Trevor Carroll, store manager at the Mark's Work Wearhouse in Bayers Road Shopping Centre, is excited about the new jackets for Tiger Patrol.

"We get so many offers to sponsor this and that," explained Carroll. "When Dean approached me and told me about the Tiger Patrol program, it made sense to support this project. We want to be involved in community service, and that's exactly how we see Tiger Patrol — a service to students and I think that's great."

"It's so nice to find a company that is generous to students, and who sees this project as a worthwhile one to which to donate," said McCaig.



Naugler, for his part, is pleased that he will end the year knowing that he helped change the look of Tiger Patrol.

"Having heard concerns from the staff about the vests, I'm really happy that I was able to do something about

it," he said.

Although the Tiger Patrol services will be ended later this month, students should expect to see Tiger Patrolers in their new jackets until then, and in September when the next academic year begins.

CIAU scholarships

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successful completion of the academic year.

"The student-athlete must be in good standing as defined by the university, or have a 65 per cent academic average," explained Jennifer Brenning, CIAU Director of Operations.

The draft policy, in addition to addressing gender equity to support both men's and women's programs, recommends that caps be placed on the number of awards available in each sport and the numbers of first-year, out-of-province students that can receive an award. These caps will be based on the "CIAU allowable team complement".

For example, in women's basketball, the maximum team complement is 12, so a maximum of \$36,000 would be available for athletic awards from an institution per annum in the sport of women's basketball.

However, restrictions to out-of-province awards have added significance in Atlantic Canada.

"This [restrictions on awards to out-of-province students] is a concern to our region because we have so many universities in this province and not a large population base," said Karen Moore, acting athletic director at Dalhousie.

"Dal has a diverse population. We should be allowed to recruit whatever percentage of Ontario students as there already are here, which is pretty high."

Ian Reade at the University of Alberta agrees that restrictions on the number of awards to out-of-province students is unfair.

"It's ridiculous. It's completely unfair to a place like the Maritimes that has 15 universities in a small population. It's completely weighted in favour of Ontario where there's millions of people," Reade said. "I think that cap was put there so that Ontario would like the policy better, but I don't think the CIAU was set

up to serve Ontario.

"Would you rather lose your athletes East or West to other provinces, or North or South?" asked Reade, referring to the recruitment of young Canadian athletes by American universities, which is what he is afraid will happen if changes to the policy are not made.

However, Moore is also concerned that the caps on the number of awards that can be offered in each sport are too high.

"I really thought [the Awards Review Committee] would come back with something more like [offering] two scholarships per sport at a maximum of \$3,000 each," says Moore. "It's going to be really expensive."

At the same time, Moore recognizes that some changes need to be made to the current policy.

"The main reason we got into this [discussion] is to help student-athletes who can't work during the summer or part-time during the year because of training," said Moore, referring to the current maximum of \$1,500 that a student-athlete is eligible for.

Frank Butler, athletic director at Memorial University of Newfoundland and president of the Atlantic Universities Athletic Association (AUAA), says the changes are long-coming.

"I think it was 1980 when we first approached this topic. Pure hell would hit the fan when everyone would be talking about doing these kinds of things [athletic awards]. The same arguments are coming out today," said Butler.

"Oh, it's going to be quite a debate. But this is reality. We have to face the facts... If we want to keep our brilliant athletes on this side of the 49th parallel, we have to make some concessions."

Although the association sees a need for change, Reade is not optimistic that the new policy will be passed by CIAU members.

"I'm pessimistic that this will pass because it's progressive, and we don't vote for anything progressive. I'm just a cynic," said Reade. "We're so Canadian."

"We don't have a million dollars to give away, but you have to start with something. If what you want to do is have your nice administrative, bureaucratic job and sit on your ass, and not have to raise money, then that's why you vote against doing progressive things."

According to Peter Barnsley, executive administrator for the Ontario University Athletics, the CIAU may have trouble drumming up support for the policy in that province.

"Ontario has traditionally been opposed to what they call first-part scholarships," said Barnsley. "They would rather put money into facilities, coaching, and towards the sports program, as opposed to directly to the athletes. That's been the traditional stance."

The AUAA and the four other conferences will be discussing this draft policy at their respective conference general meetings in May. The policy may undergo other revisions before it reaches the CIAU's June 1998 annual general meeting. If accepted by a two-thirds vote, the policy will be implemented in the 1999-2000 years.

"It'll be interesting to see if this passes. It won't pass if Ontario blocks it. And if it does pass, I think it will lead to tiering," says Moore. "There will be some schools who can't afford to do it, and they'll be in one tier. And the ones who can afford it will be in another tier."

Reade says despite imperfections, the changes are needed.

"The bottom line is that this is important to student-athletes and it's important for Canada as a country to be competitive and keep kids at home — competing in the CIAU."

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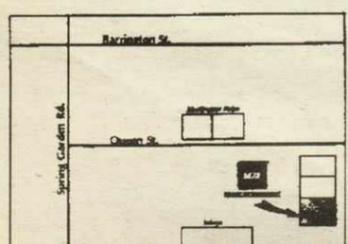
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