

Letters

Food for thought

by K.L. POGUE

It is my opinion that too many people are needlessly harassed by inconsiderate individuals. Have you ever had this happen to you?

Q. How do you like my new car?

A. I would rather walk that drive that thing. *Consequences:* End of a perfectly good relationship.

People should never ask another's opinion unless they are prepared to deal with criticism.

Another example: You have worked hard all day. You leave your place of employment at 5 p.m. hoping for a relaxing evening with your

family. No such luck! Too many inconsiderate individuals. You get calls at home that truly could have waited until the following morning after 9 a.m. Worse yet - even your weekend cannot be called your own. You need this time to collect yourself so you can be as productive in your future endeavours as you (hopefully) have been in the past.

One more example: We can all complain endlessly about one thing or another but when a handful of hard working people organize a meeting to discuss solutions to these problems of utmost import-

ance, where are the complainers? Certainly not at the meeting. Some may make it to the meeting only to sit there and listen. This in my opinion is only eavesdropping openly.

Get out to these meetings! Stand up! Be heard! If someone objects, so what! They are entitled to speak also. This is only one of the many terrific claims to being a Canadian.

We are all guilty of being selfish or inconsiderate, even lackadaisical at one time or another so perhaps we should all have a piece of this "food for thought!"

Bon Appetite.

Bickering and Dissention vs. "Team Play"

Dear Editor:

This is partially a response to Lynne Badger's "Opinion" published in the Terrace Bay - Schreiber News, February 1, 1984. However, I expect to exceed the boundaries of her comments, and present a perspective on recent events in local Minor Hockey which I hope will be useful to concerned parents. My letter will consist of considered opinions as well as facts. The latter will be clearly identified.

While it may certainly be advantageous for hockey spectators to have warmer seating areas, what is not needed in Minor Hockey in Terrace Bay at this time is the further promotion of a "Hot Seat". Since I have lived in Terrace Bay, I have become increasingly aware that the greater arena of Minor Hockey has been one of ferocious disputes, sundered friendships and political maneuvering which would be more worthy of such serious issues as nuclear disarmament and the preservation of the ecological balance. All this turmoil is justified on the grounds that "It's for the kids." Each side in an issue firmly, and probably genuinely, believes it is labouring on behalf of the children, and more often than not, accuses opponents of proposing policies which will be detrimental to the majority of the players while favouring only a few children (usually their own). This is a no-win situation for everyone - the issue is not really the policy under discussion, but rather becomes a battle between "those who are for the children" and "those who are not." Not policy decision, but personality clashes are at the heart of dissension in Minor Hockey in Terrace Bay. Let's call a spade a spade! Whatever happened to consensus and the democratic process?

I see no benefit to players in the constant "warfare" which feeds greedily on one "hot seat" issue after another. We expect our children to learn good sportsmanship, to engage in team play, to be good winners and losers - and indeed, we chastise coaches if we do not perceive them to be working towards these goals. (The coaches do have these goals in mind, and are to be commended for their efforts). Unfortunately, the players are presented with some inappropriate role models: they see individuals (adults and players) being maliciously criticized and undercut instead of a display of good sportsmanship on the part of some adults; they witness bickering and division instead of "team play" among adults who govern Minor Hockey, and in some cases they observe irreconcilable differences instead of graceful winning or losing among "factions." It should be understood that all adults involved in Minor Hockey engage in inappropriate behaviours, however well-intentioned, but it only takes a few to create and promote the "hot seat" issues.

Most adults act sensibly on behalf of their own children and the teams. I sometimes wonder how the children manage to maintain such amicable relationships in the face of such great obstacles. The worst of it is that it has become difficult for adults to escape from this "vicious circle" - either they are drawn into the fracas, or they remain aloof, abdicating responsibility for events. It is not possible to become actively involved with Minor Hockey as coach, convenor, manager, etc. without being drawn into the political fray. Neutrality is not an option. You are either for a certain faction or against it and therefore

be discussing this conclusion later on. In addition, as a result of the ballot, there is a danger that parents who have not been to many hockey games will infer that there are children who actually warm a bench for a whole game. This has not been happening at the Pee Wee level, and I would suspect this to be the case for all our teams. Pee Wee players are all played up to the maximum allowed by the rules of the Tournament or League in which the team is participating. This is fact.

In a desire to be victorious on this issue, the factions seem to have given little thought to the consequences of a serious rift between parents and players who support either "for" or "against". Such a rift could cause a serious setback to Minor Hockey in Terrace Bay. Giving each player a fair opportunity for development is a real and important issue. By all means, let the various arguments be presented, and based on the evidence and an open airing of views, let a rational decision be made. This decision should not, however, be made on faulty premises. The whole argument for the two and three minute rules as presented in the ballot rests on three assumptions: 1) that the two and three minute rules per se guarantee equal time; 2) that equal time is impossible without the two and three minute rules and, 3) that equal time is always possible and always the best procedure. Since this letter is lengthy, I would like to continue this discussion next week, at which time I will include some facts about the North Shore and the actual implementation of the two and three minute rules. Yours truly,

Betty Hanley

3 minute rule needs clarification

Dear Ms. Park:

The "Opinion" column in last week's paper, referring to the two and three minute rule, needs to be clarified. The Pee Wees, last year, did not play the 3 minute rule. The League games were straight time. The only occasion where the 3 minute rule came in, was during two or three exhibition games with the Schreiber Pee Wees, at their

insistence. This practice was dropped after numerous complaints from the players, who did not appreciate the rule, and the parents and coaches who felt it took away from the game. I will point out that a couple of parents wanted the rule but last year the majority did not, and the practice was dropped.

If the "winning" causes problems, then

we should not attend any playoffs or tournaments, or keep scores. Last year the losing teams didn't receive awards or recognition as such.

All of the tournaments last year were played straight time as laid out by the rules of the governing hockey body. The balance of the exhibition games were also straight time.

Sincerely,
Russ Phillips

Will 3 minute play destroy the league?

Dear Karen:

I am upset and confused.

A collection of adults who constitute the North Shore Minor Hockey Executive have recently made a decision of far-reaching and disturbing implications. The decision to eliminate the 3 minute playing rule from regular season Pee Wee and Atom North Shore Hockey games will in due time destroy the very thing these adults represent and govern; the North Shore

Minor Hockey League. How is it possible for any Minor Hockey Executive to even contemplate eliminating a rule which advocates the basic fibre of Minor Hockey, "participation"?

The North Shore League is merely a House League within a large geographical area. In larger municipalities, Minor Hockey Associations have been enforcing 3 minute playing rules (and with unquestionable success)

for all divisions. Consequently their programs continue to attract young players and their parents because everyone has an equal chance to participate.

But North Shore Executive is blinded by competition. Without the 3 minute rule a number of young hockey players will sit disgruntled, cold and rightfully upset on the player bench. These adults have the opportunity of winning at any Invitational

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11 - 12 and Longlac Feb. 18-19
Midgets - Hornepayne Feb. 11-12
Other Minor Hockey News

Readers recently may have noticed an ad (ballot) re: the Atoms and Pee Wees playing games using the 2 minute (Atoms) and the 3 minute (Pee Wees) rule system. To avoid any confusion, this ad was not sponsored by either the Terrace Bay or Schreiber Minor Hockey Associations. It was placed by two concerned hockey parents to see how other parents feel about this rule being used in N.S.M.H.L. games. The underlying principle of this rule is that it guarantees playing time for all players, regardless of ability, in this house league organization. The Terrace Bay Minor Hockey Association unanimously adopted a motion

this rule earlier in the season. The ad however, was also placed in response to a decision made by five people in attendance at a N.S.M.H.L. meeting in Marathon on Jan. 7, to drop the 2 and 3 minute rules for the balance of the season. Neither the Terrace Bay nor the Schreiber Minor Hockey Association (who also favour the rule) were represented at this meeting due to lack of information about the meeting date. It is the feeling of the T.B.M.H.A. that this ruling made by three people from Marathon and one each from Manitowadge and Terrace Bay will have an adverse effect on the development of minor hockey in this area. A protest based on the illegality of this decision was filed by the T.B.M.H.A. It was refused at a special meeting

held two weeks ago.

The T.B.M.H.A. supports the concern being expressed by these two parents and it is hoped that all Atom and Pee Wee parents will respond to this ballot or that they will inform their respective Associations of their feelings. Minor hockey, remember, is for the kids.

Note to Mite Parents:

Due to the loss of a number of Sunday ice times the Mites will have an extra hour on the following Tuesdays courtesy of the Atoms and Pee Wees: Tuesday Feb. 14 from 6 to 7, Feb. 21 from 5 to 6 and Feb. 28 from 6 to 7. The Atoms and Pee Wees will not be practising at these times. The regular ice schedule will resume in March.

Lastly, a reminder of the regular monthly executive meeting of the T.B.M.H.A. to be held on Wednesday Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Multipurpose room at the Rec

Devenez conseiller régional!

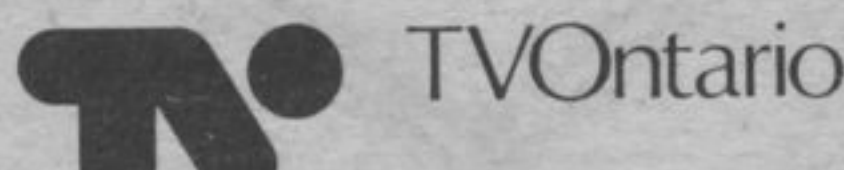
TVOntario recherche des personnes pour siéger au Conseil régional du Nord-Ouest.

Les cinq conseils régionaux de TVOntario - un pour chaque grande région de l'Ontario - sont composés de 15 membres bénévoles qui se réunissent à intervalles réguliers. Dans le cadre de leur mandat, les conseillers régionaux représentent les intérêts de leur région auprès de TVOntario et tiennent leurs communautés au courant des activités, émissions et services du réseau. Ils font des recommandations au Conseil d'administration et assurent une liaison essentielle entre la télévision éducative et son public.

Les candidatures, accompagnées d'un curriculum vitae, pour une nomination au Conseil régional du Nord-Ouest doivent être reçues avant le 20 février 1984.

Si vous désirez servir votre communauté, ou connaissez quelqu'un que cela intéresserait, veuillez entrer en contact avec nous.

Dr. Larry Korteweg
Directeur, Comité de nomination
Conseil régional du Nord-Ouest de TVOntario
94 Pine Street
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7A 5X2
(807) 345-2121, poste 682



Become a Regional Councillor

The Northwestern Regional Council of TVOntario is looking for applicants for nomination to a council seat.

TVOntario has five regional councils, each composed of 15 members who meet regularly to advise the network on policy relating to the educational television service in their region.

The regional councillors, all volunteers, are also active in creating awareness in their own communities of the many services available from TVOntario. In addition, they help organize community workshops and meetings on utilization of the educational television service.

Members of the regional councils are appointed for terms of up to three years, renewable once.

Applications for nomination to the Northwestern Regional Council, along with résumés, should be received by 20 February 1984.

If you wish to volunteer, or would like to nominate someone, please contact:

Dr. Larry Korteweg
Chairman, Nominating Committee
TVOntario Northwestern Regional Council
94 Pine Street
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7A 5X2
(807) 345-2121 (Ext. 682)

