

Money doesn't matter - Bring back my slapstick!

Kyle West

Staff Writer

Of all the evils in the world, greed is the worst. It has destroyed people, torn families, but worst of all, it has ended the NHL. Well, for this year at least.

The National Hockey League has been interested in instituting a salary cap for the teams in the league, some of which are Canadian. The union of teams has been adamantly against such a measure, and has "remained united in its stance, even if it means the loss of an entire season or more," Trevor Linden of the Vancouver Canucks said last week after a meeting with the league's head honchos.

The season, which consists of 688 regular season games plus the All-Star Game has been going on for over 100 days, without a single game played. The many players not being able to play here in the States have decided to head

to Europe, where they received honorable welcomes from countries like Russia and Slovakia where hockey is huge.

So far, the meetings between the Union and the League have merely been the same rehash, with both sides bickering over money. The League wants a salary cap, the teams don't. The League offered half of its total \$2 billion revenue to return to the teams, but they want more. Despite the Union's staunch defense of its stand on salary caps, something must be done.

It's hard to imagine the harsh life one would lead when paid an average of \$1.3 million a year. Yet that is just what the League is proposing to pay its players, on average. Hockey might be one the most physically demanding sports, but that doesn't justify a salary of over \$2 million.

The NFL has proven the effectiveness of a salary cap, yet the players aren't con-

vinced. And in a sport where 20 out of the 30 clubs lost money in the last season, something definitive needs to be done. The solution increasingly seems to be farther and farther away, as the weekly talks end with nothing done. With the end of the Jan. 27 talks in New York City, no future talks are scheduled according to NHL.com.

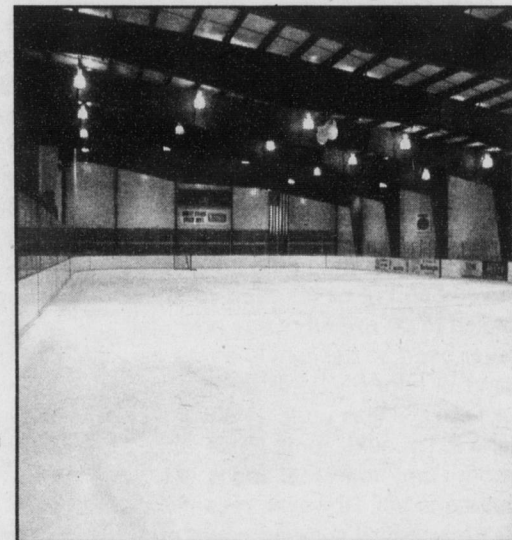
The only other option available to those starving for hockey is either the Canadian Hockey League, or college hockey, yet neither has found a spot on TV. With all these problems in the League, there seems to be no end in sight and no professional future for those college players across the nation looking to become a professional athlete in the sport they love.

Hockey, as most people in the Northeast see it, isn't about the money, the rivalries, or the ticket prices. Hockey is about the teams, the love of the game. It's about looking forward to winter, to the frozen

lakes and ponds where locals play for fun, the rinks across my home state gearing up for high school hockey.

I grew up watching Paul Kariya play for University of Maine Black Bears, I've been to the crazy rivalry games between UMaine and UNH, and I've watched our high school Red Riots maintain a near fifteen year dominance only to lose it my senior year to Greeley. It's sickening to see that such a great sport has been humbled by greed.

Yes, the players do need to be compensated for their ability, but there shouldn't be a problem with salary caps. The teams just need to get their



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Empty National Hockey League rink

heads out from the snow, realize they are losing money, and get something going. The owners are at fault too, they need to stop looking at it from behind the dollar bill, and start to see the love of the fans a little more. But from where I am, it doesn't look like either will do what it takes to save a most likely unsalvageable season.⌘

Two trees, one college: Which Guilford is real?

Charlie McAlpin

Staff Writer

Picture a tree. Better yet, let's picture the same tree. That huge one on the edge of campus at the corner of Friendly and College comes to mind. Let's think about that one.

Imagine you and I both standing in front of that tree, beating our hands warm. Let's say we are standing there, peering through the fog of our breath to describe that tree.

Suppose I say, "That tree is dark and powerful. Its roots are firm and its trunk is strong. The crags in the bark run like powerful fissures up into its sturdy limbs."

That sounds like a tree that means business.

But let's say that you, you my pal who stands in the cold to describe trees with me; let's say you look at that tree and say, "It is young and vulnerable. The tree's delicate limbs reach far out, grasping for love in the world. That tree's life has only just begun, and it still has a lot of rich growing to do."

What a happy, hippy little tree.

And both perspectives are valid. But suppose someone intercepted and divided us on our way to the tree, trying to convince us, separately, of two different realities of the tree.

That's not cool. But that is exactly what Guilford is doing.

On Guilford's website you can click on Future Students and then select your category. Two are particularly interesting: high school and adult.

For high school students we see the usual spiel about "spiritual growth," "free society," "commitment to society," and so on. Yes, if you come to Guilford your limbs will reach out and cradle the world.

But the adult section is something totally different. Bullet points! WHAM - class size! POW - scholarships! "Easy application ... free resources ... services specifically for adults." Wow, this school has powerful fissures galore and we mean business.

The college's intentions are obvious; they are advertising the points that the two demographics are most interested in. And, if you are an open-minded, peace-loving sucker like me, you might think there is

nothing wrong with that - at first.

But then it will hit you, or I'll hit you with it: Guilford is selling itself as two different schools -two different trees - entirely.

For traditional students we are an institution of nurture and growth. That sounds like just the place for you and your tree, my frostbitten friend. How fortunate.

For CCE students we are hardened and firm, a school that cares only about the business of getting that degree fast. My tree and I will do quite well here.

Unfortunately you and I were misled. We are shocked to find that we are actually attending the same school.

But my description was so totally different from yours.

When someone dichotomizes a thing so completely we should always be suspicious. When Guilford tries to be one thing for one group and something else for another, it lies to both.

When prospective students come to Guilford they are surprised with the reality. Traditional and CCE students co-exist equally in the class-

rooms. This leaves a bitter taste in our mouths, as if we are expected to make the best of things, given the sad reality.

What's really sad is that the college administration feels the need to advertise a mythical segregation of our community. Incoming students should not be forced into the reality of a fragmented student body.

Guilford is not a college of either spiritual growth or two-nights-a-week classes; it is both. And we should be proud of that, because that is what this school is and what it is trying to be.

I want to see that advertised to every person who looks at this college.

Let's go back to our tree. Let's jog in place a little to get the blood flowing and think about that tree. If you call it vulnerable and I call it strong then I say "great," because we can both see the tree and appreciate each other's interpretation.

But I ask you, my cherry-nosed friend: what good is the tree to either of us if the man comes along and cuts it in half, one for each of us? Not much.⌘