

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

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Saturday April 18

Dear Owen:

Many thanks for sending me the bibliography of Kalven's writings and the copy of your memorial address. When classes are over at the end of next week I hope to read some of his essays listed that I haven't gotten to yet. I have until the end of May to revise the lecture (a copy enclosed) for publication in the Tanner volume. A lot needs to be done on it, although I feel better about it than I did around March 1st when I was having trouble deciding how to give a useful example or two and bring the thing to a close. Here especially Kalven's writings were most ~~help~~ helpful. I look forward to seeing the MS should that be possible.

It is curious that although I only saw Kalven once to talk to, and that was in the summer of 1961 (I think, otherwise 1962) at breakfast while attending a conference sponsored by the Encyclopedia Britannica at Santa Barbara at Hutchins's madhouse among the palms, we talked about the only subject that you never seem to ^{have} gotten around to in your conversations with him, namely baseball. I distinctly recall the conversation because he brought out to me many splendid features of the games which, though obvious, require his sort of brilliance to see the significance of. For example, he gave these reasons for why baseball is the best of all games. First: the rules of the game are in equilibrium: that is, from the start the diamond was made just the right size; the pitcher's mound just the right distance from home plate etc, and this makes possible the marvelous plays, such as the double play. The physical layout of the game is perfectly adjusted to the human skills it is meant to display and to call into graceful exercise. Whereas, basketball eg, is constantly (or was then) adjusting its rules to get them in balance. Second: the game does not give unusual preference or advantage to special physical types, eg., to tall men as in basketball. All sorts of abilities can find a place somewhere,

the tall and the short etc can enjoy the game together in different positions. Third: the game uses all parts of the body: the arms to throw, the legs to run, and to swing the bat, etc; per contra soccer where you can't touch the ball. It calls upon speed, accuracy of throw, gifts of sight for batting, shrewdness for pitchers and catchers, etc. And there are all kinds of strategies. Fourth: all plays of the game are open to view: the spectators and the players can see what is going on. Per contra football where it is hard to know what is happening in the battlefront along the line. Even the umpires can't see it all, so there is lots of cheating etc. And in basketball, it is hard to know when to call a foul. There are close calls in baseball too, but the umps do very well on the whole, and these close calls arise from the marvelous timing built into the game and not from trying to police cheaters, etc. Fifth: baseball is the only game where scoring is not done with the ball; and this has the remarkable effect of concentrating the excitement of plays at different points of the field at the same time. Will the runner cross the plate before the fielder gets to the ball and throws it to home plate, and so on. Finally, there is the factor of time, the use of which is a central part of any game. Baseball shares with tennis the idea that time never runs out, as it does in basketball and football and soccer. This means that there is always time for the losing side to make a comeback. The last of the ninth inning becomes one of the most potentially exciting parts of the game. And while the same sometimes happens in tennis also, it seems to happen less often. Cricket, much like baseball (and indeed I must correct my remark above that baseball is the only game where scoring is not done with the ball) does have a time limit.

Such as I recall was the substance of the conversation one morning with Kalven as I and several others had breakfast with him. And having played baseball some I tried to draw him out a bit. I'm sure there were many more things I've forgotten; and I'm also sure he could have gone on forever, if we hadn't ^{had} to stop.

Again many thanks for sending me the things. They are will be most helpful to me.

Best

Jack