# VIEW From The Cheap Seats

By Mark Savoie

As I was glancing through this city's fine local daily recently, I was struck by a brief, two paragraph story about a high school student in California who was being denied an opportunity to play volleyball on the school team. The reason was because this student is male, and the volleyball team and league in question is for females. The story did not make it clear, but it was implied that there is no boy's volleyball team for which he can play, so he is forced to try and play on the girl's volleyball team if he is to participate in this sport.

Under California law, schools are required to allow girls to compete on boy's team if no equivalent girl's team exists. If this law were to be applied to UNB, spots would not have to be made on our men's basketball team for any qualified women because we have a women's basketball team. However, if Manon Rheaume were to ever enter UNB and achieve her amateur status, then we would be forced to open a spot on our hockey team's roster for her, or be prepared to explain why she's good enough for the Las Vegas Thunder but not for the UNB Varsity Reds. We would have to do this because UNB's women's hockey team does not have varsity status; status which our men's hockey team does enjoy.

It can be said, with some degree of accuracy, that allowing men to compete on women's teams will result in women becoming the exception on teams which were ostensibly established for them. The fact is that men are physiologically superior to women (on average, and especially at the élite level) for the attributes which are most in demand for the popular team sports; that is, strength and power are more required for sports such as hockey, soccer, volleyball, football, and basketball than are endurance and limberness. As such, with only very very rare exceptions, a school's men's team will be able to beat its women's team at any of these sports.

Of the team sports, UNB has two in which both men and women compete: basketball and volleyball. There are two sports in which only men compete at the varsity level: hockey and soccer. The same argument that was made for hockey above could just as easily be applied to soccer. There is one sport at which only women compete at the varsity level: field hockey. This begs the question: Should men be allowed to try out for, and compete for, UNB's women's field hockey team?

All but a very few dinosaurs lost in the Mesolithic would agree that a qualified woman should be allowed to play for our men's hockey and soccer teams. Unfortunately, the evolution of women's participation on men's teams elsewhere indicates that there is a good probability that many of the powers that be at this institution may well be trapped in the Mesolithic. For some reason, past scenarios have frequently required the authority of the court to force institutions (both academic and non–academic) to allow females equal opportunity to participate.

Separate leagues have proven to be an imperfect answer. Separate but equal did not work with segregation in the Deep South, and it has not worked as Title IX legislation in the NCAA. Even in situations where a men's and women's team co–exist, the women's team is almost invariably underfunded in comparison to the men's team. To be fair, UNB has done well in this regard. I have not been able to discern any large discrepancies in the funding and facilities given to our men's and women's basketball and volleyball teams. Perhaps someone closer to the situation than I might see the situation differently. So, even if a separate but equal league has been established, and especially if no such equivalent league exists, it is obvious that any woman with the required ability should be permitted to play on an otherwise men's team.

But what about field hockey? I have no doubt that with the proper training and background men could entirely supplant our women's field hockey team. Were field hockey to become a popular boy's sport in junior high and high school, as it is for girls, then it would only be a matter of time before our field hockey team was composed entirely of men.

At present this is a moot point; I know of no men with the interest or the skills necessary to join our field hockey team. However, if a male exchange student were to come here from either Pakistan or India, where men's field hockey is part of the culture, then that student may well have both the skills and the inclination to play varsity field hockey. It is undeniably sexist to deny him that right. Therefore, calling our field hockey team a **women's** field hockey team is a misnomer. Any and all UNB students should be allowed to compete for this team (and the hockey and soccer teams) based solely upon ability. Gender should not—can not!—be a determinant.

Should women's teams then be abolished? No, they should not. Women's sports do need protection, otherwise there would be little or no outlet for women's sports participation at all. A suggestion is to have a men's team, a women's team, and an open team. The last of these would be the truly élite squad. However, this option is economically unfeasible. The university simply cannot afford to field three teams in each sport. Therefore, I suggest that UNB field two teams in each sport at which we currently compete at the varsity level. One of these teams would be the women's team; the other would be the open team. This solution would be affordable, as most of the difficulty would be in establishing teams that should have been established long ago: women's ice hockey and soccer. (We would also have to establish a women's wrestling team. More on that later.) The biggest difficulty is that until other universities see the light, our open field hockey team would have no one to compete against.

UNB
**Red Blazers**
**Competive Tryouts**
**October 3 at 7:15pm in the Aitken Center**
***For more information call 455-2044***

# CAMPUS RECREATION

**OFFICIALS NEEDED FOR:**
Soccer Basketball Softball
Volleyball Hockey Ball Hockey
All those interested in applying should fill out an application form in the Rec Office Rm A121 LB Gym between 9am - 4pm Mondays to Fridays. Referee-in-chief's are also being hired for basketball, softball, football, and ball hockey. Anyone interested please inquire ASAP.

**FALL SPORTS**
Registration materials are available from the Rec Office about 10 days before the entry deadlines. Start planning your intramural activities now!

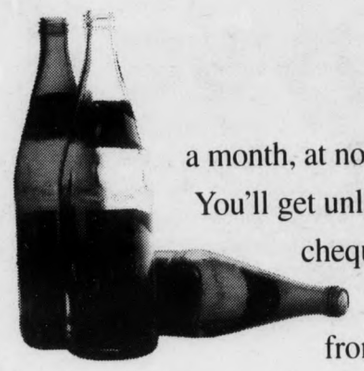
| Sport | Registration Dates |
|---|---|
| **CO-ED** | |
| Softball | Tues, Sept. 13 - Tues, Sept. 27 |
| | Play: October 1&2 weekend |
| Broomball | Tues., Sept.20 - Tues., Oct.4 |
| | Play: Sundays |
| **MEN'S** | |
| Ice Hockey | Tues, Sept. 20 - Tues, Oct. 4 |

**LADDER TOURNAMENTS**
Are you a Racquetball or Squash player interested in testing your skills, finding new opponents, meeting others, and having a good time. Why not join the Squash or Racquetball Ladder? Information and registration forms are available from the Rec Office. Entries are being accepted right now. Players will be placed on the ladder in the order in which they register.

**SPORT CLUBS**
The Rec Office is in process of compiling a list of current addresses and phone numbers for contact persons for all sport clubs. If your club has not yet submitted this information, please contact the Rec Office immediately. Anyone interested in joining a particular club or in getting information about clubs should contact the Rec Office.

SAVE UP TO 70%

# ....Does fabulous wealth mean taking the empties back?



Trying to stretch every dollar? You can save up to 70% on typical day-to-day banking services with our Student Plan. It's only $2.75 a month.

Use our InstaBank® machines as often as you want, and other Interac℠ banking machines two times a month, at no extra charge. You'll get unlimited free cheque writing and withdrawals from your Bank of Montreal accounts, and more.

For full details, just drop by your nearest branch. Ask about our special Student Loans too. (Sorry – we don't take empties.)

Campus Branch **453-0260**
Prospect St. Branch **453-0250**

Available to full-time students. ®Registered trade mark of Bank of Montreal. ®℠Interac and design are registered trade marks of Interac Inc. Bank of Montreal is a registered user. ™Trade mark of Bank of Montreal.

Bank of Montreal
IT *is* POSSIBLE™