



## From Centre Field

# They call it heroic??

by Alex Shetsen

Been to a good old-fashioned hockey brawl lately?

So just how hypocritical is the North American hockey establishment?

All right, so our fine upstanding young Canadian men and those dirty Commie Russkies engaged in a forty-minute display of fisticuffs on the ice in Europe last Sunday. That made a mockery of the very words "hockey", "game", and "sport". Both teams were justly disqualified . . . And now, ultra-patriotically, Canada is mourning

the lost gold medal denied our boys by the (Commie) International Ice Hockey Federation.

The hockey poo-bahs, meanwhile, are decrying the brawl as "a black mark on all of hockey". Sorry boys, but ice hockey, North American version, is already so deeply coloured that one more black mark will scarcely be seen on its battered body.

How many bench-clearing brawls have there been throughout NHL history, including this season? An NHL slugfest is usually dismissed as nothing more than a minor inci-

dent in which all parties involved are fined a couple of thousand dollars each, an insignificant fraction of their annual income.

In fact, the whole North American game depends on intimidation (if you're losing, hit 'em harder! forecheck, backcheck, paycheck! and if necessary, fight!!). Aside from Wayne Gretzky goals, the loudest cheers of the fans are reserved for the heroes who bloodily fight at centre ice. And if everybody should get involved . . . like, wow, awesome, eh?

But if the Russkies dare touch our time-honoured tactics (we all know how devious Commies can be) . . . watch out! Our poor young heroes, losing their precious medal . . .

That's the stupidest thing about the whole affair. The Canadians aren't heroes, they're stupid. They had a medal just about wrapped up.

Fine, they were provoked by the Russians, who were the first to jump of the bench. And here, the stupid code of so-called manhood the Canadians play under made itself obvious.

We all know that the Russians had nothing to lose, and the Canadians, everything. So then, why did our boys fight back, naturally losing everything? So typical of North American hockey.

All Team Canada had to do was . . . NOTHING. The Russians would have been disqualified, and we would have had the medal.

But that's the essence of North American hockey . . . a stupid, hypocritical, bloody game. Its ultimate player is Mark Messier, a.k.a. Mr. "Reckless Abandon". (That about says it all).

C'mon . . . would we cheer Wayne Gretzky if he didn't play here?

## It types! It talks!

**VANCOUVER (CUP)** — Michael Beddoes, a University of British Columbia electrical engineer, is wrapping up the software for a talking typewriter he hopes will make essay-typing easier for blind students.

A small speaker, TRS-80 or compatible computing unit display, and a printer if desired, are required to make Beddoes's software work. Each keystroke is immediately answered by the computer with an intelligible pronunciation.

Machines that talk are already available, but "this machine can read faster than others," Beddoes

said. He did admit, however, "some distortion occurs, at fast typing speeds".

The whole unit with printer costs slightly more than \$1,000.

Beddoes does not know when his machine may be available for blind students to purchase. He said a previous marketing attempt failed when the sponsor went bankrupt.

"Besides blind students, this machine has possible use for the brain handicapped," Beddoes said. "For those people, learning to spell would be easier because the students hear the letters and words as they press them on the keyboard."

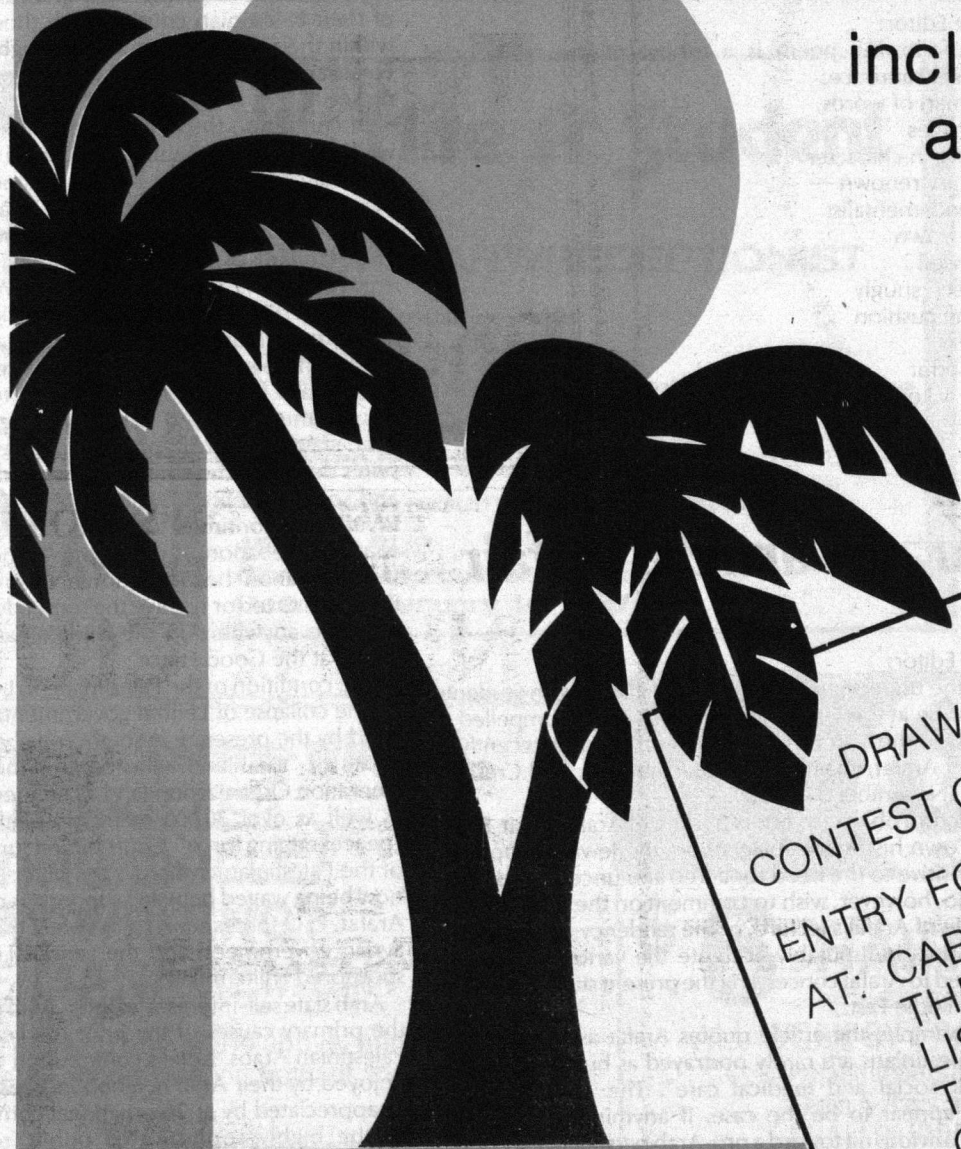
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