

VIEW From The Cheap Seats

By Mark Savoie

Twelve years ago, a naive 17-year-old joined the staff of *The Brunswickan*. Now, two degrees later, he's not nearly so naive, but he's still not a whole lot wiser. It was Dean of Arts Peter Kent that started this youth on the journalistic path, advising him that his interest in writing could best be served if he were to join the student newspaper.

The first story he wrote was about the effect of the Fredericton Express upon the UNB Red Devils. Later that year, he was given a regular column to write: a rather pathetic effort entitled "Express-ions". He did manage to stir up a little bit of controversy with that column, Randy McKean of CIHI taking the time to disagree with him on air about his column that the Québec

Nordiques were not supplying the Express with the same quality of players as were the Vancouver Canucks. He also managed to anger several people by calling the previous year's star player—Richard David—a cherry picker.

After that initial year, he became less involved with writing for the newspaper, having brief flurries of writing followed by long periods of inactivity. Finally, four years ago, he was named co-Sports Editor with Tim Lynch. These two both wanted the opportunity to ramble on about sports, and so elected to each write a column on alternate weeks. This column was entitled "View From the Cheap Seats", and ever since Tim's graduation to medical school it has been written solely by yours truly. Now, however, I have finished my thesis and have gained employment—temporary, but a job nevertheless—so it's time to call it a game.

In this column I have tried to write humorous and informative articles about sports. Hopefully, I have managed to influence some people's perceptions about the sporting world, and to have caused people to think seriously about how the world of sports is run. At the very least, I hope that I have entertained a few people. I know that I have angered and offended many of the readers of this column, and to them I apologise. However, I do still stand behind everything that I have written.

Over the year's the sports scene at UNB has been interesting. Some

years have been almost disastrous sports-wise for this university, with only the wrestling Black Bears consistently winning AUSA championship pennants. In 1983-84 the Red Devils shocked the Canadian university hockey world by making it to the semi-finals, only to lose a thriller to the University of Toronto Varsity Blues. It is fitting that our greatest success at hockey saw an ending at the hands of this team, since it is their name that we have copied in becoming the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds. Since that eventful season, the Red Devils have fallen on hard times, but are now back among the best teams in the country. Now if only they could beat Acadia. The Red Bloomers have been the dominant team in AUSA women's basketball. UPEI had their years in the sun, but Pauline Lordon's success as the rookie coach of a supposedly weak team shows that the Bloomers remain the cream of the crop. The Red Shirts used to dominate soccer in the AUSA, but have slipped of late to the status of also-rans. The Lady Reds have emerged from anonymity to an 18-0 record against AUSA competition this season. The Red Raiders are now finally earning some respect under the tutelage of Clint Hamilton, after years of deserved embarrassment as the Don Nelson-Phil Wright era came to a close. The Beavers have been a consistently powerful entry, as built by first Bruce Fisher and now Andrew Cole, and many swimmers have managed to capture individual national titles. The Rebels have

failed to make a dent into the armour of Dalhousie juggernaut over the years. The Red Harriers and Lady Harriers have both managed to be place well in the AUSA, and when Rorrie Currie was running, the Red Harriers had a serious threat at the national level. And of course the Red Sticks have now twice come just one game away from coping the national title in field hockey.

This has been one of the best year's for varsity sports at UNB in my memory, and it has all come under the auspices of the name Varsity Reds, a name that I detest. However, my year long protest is now over. Hopefully, the Varsity Reds will be able to build on the successes of this year, and Varsity Reds will become a name we all hear often when TSN deigns to cover university sports.

Finally, during my years at *The Brunswickan* I have met a number of people who have become truly special to me. Please indulge me if I mention just a few of the most important of these. To Karen Burgess, Allan Carter, Kwame Dawes, Frank Denis, Jennifer Duncan, Kirsten Godwin, Alastair Johnstone, Heather Labreque-Havens, Lisa LeBlanc, Chris Lohr, Tim and Kelly MacKinnon, Dwayne McLaughlin, Aime Phillips, Susan Reed, and Bill Traer I give my thanks and my love. (Hopefully the proof reader didn't gag too much at this overt sentimentality.) Some more than others and others in different ways than some, but I have loved you all. Anyway... that's a wrap. It's been a good run. Goodbye.

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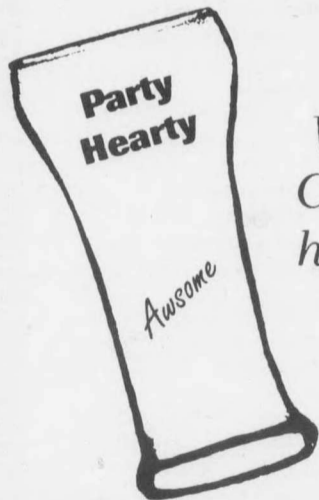
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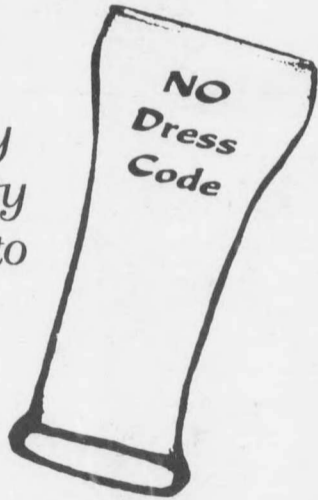
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