

# VIEW From The Cheap Seats

By Mark Savoie

For once I will agree with all the self-serving scribes out there who say that the only real victims of a strike are the fans. The fans suffered cruelly during the strike, and we have only CBC and Hockey Night in Canada to blame. Those miserable scum, how do they expect us to return to watching Tie Domi and Adam Yates after being fed a diet which included Vladislav Tretiak, Guy Lafleur, Terry O'Reilly, Ken Dryden, Jacques Plante, and George Armstrong? There truly is no justice that the NHL Classics are going off the air just because the Toronto Maple Leafs are playing the Los Angeles Gretzky's tomorrow night.

I personally think that the players got screwed royally by the strike settlement. Harry Linden and some of the other owners may whine that the NHL is the only league without a salary cap or luxury tax—although this is premature, since the baseball strike is far from over—but it does not change the fact that players remain a bunch of high priced slaves until they reach the age of 32. I realise that many of you are too blinkered to realise that the curtailment of the fundamental right of freedom of movement constitutes a form of slavery. Instead, you look at high salaries for the playing of a game we grew up with, and you say that the players are simply greedy. What this reasoning is that the strike was only superficially about money, it was about the principle of free agency within the NHL.

It is also about the complete unwillingness of the owners to restrain themselves from paying the huge salaries. Instead, they are trying to insist that the players be responsible for this task. Doug Wilson, former star defenceman for both the Chicago Blackhawks and the San Jose Sharks, said it best when he said that all corporations throughout the world use a kind of salary cap. It's called a budget, and the corporation's management teams are expected to follow that budget. Is this so much to ask of the 26 corporations comprising the NHL?

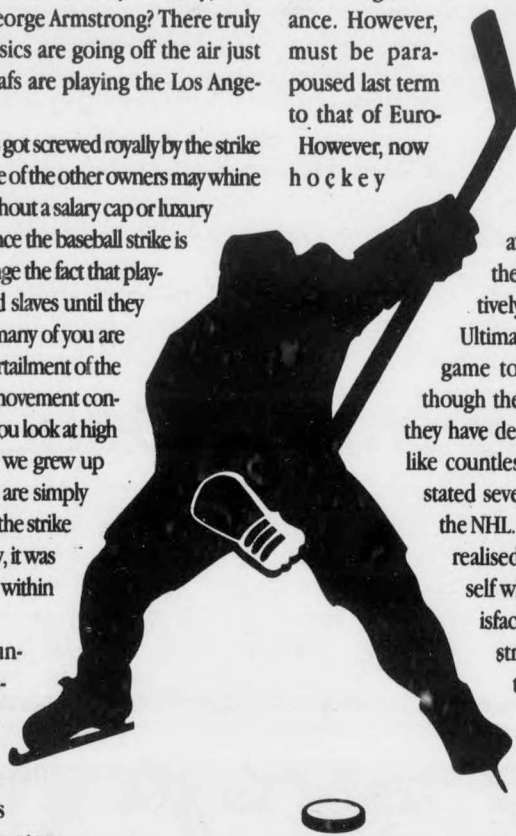
You can often hear these same people whining about how the lack of a salary cap or luxury tax will kill hockey in the small market franchises such as Ottawa, Winnipeg, and Hartford. So bloody what! None of these cities has an inherent right to have an NHL hockey franchise. I live in a small market city that does not have an NHL franchise. It's called Fredericton; and when I want to watch an NHL game I turn on the T.V. The only better claim that Winnipeg has to NHL team than does Fredericton is that that city is better able to support such a team. However, if the city of Winnipeg is unable to support an NHL team, then they should not, and the players should definitely not be forced to pick up the slack. There is a possibility that this could lead to the dominance of a few cities and teams, with only these realistically having a shot at the Stanley Cup. [I don't really believe this, since the countries of Canada and the

US are simply too big for any one city to establish a complete economic hegemony.] Even if it does happen, so what? Competitive balance is not the be all and end all of sports. It is certainly not more important than human rights. What needs to be done, if it is decided that competitive balance is desirable, is to determine within the confines of the players' human rights a method of sustaining competitive balance. However, must be parapoised last term to that of European football.

However, now hockey is the right of freedom of movement mount. A suggestion which I es is a tiered divisional system akin that the strike is over, I and all fans owe the players a debt of thanks. The players are very well aware that they have been screwed by the present settlement, but they collectively decided to play the season anyway. Ultimately, they decided that they love the game too much to kill the season, even though they were more than justified should they have decided to do so. I must admit that I, like countless other self-deluded hockey fans, stated several times that I did not really miss the NHL. I honestly believed this, but I quickly realised just how much I was kidding myself when I felt an immense feeling of satisfaction and relief upon hearing that the strike was over. God, I'm glad to have the NHL back.

Of course, the baseball strike is still running. The latest issues in the sordid scenario is the owners' unilateral imposition of a salary cap, and their threats to play next season with scabs. The role of the Ontario government in this is appalling. Ontario law says that scabs are illegal, but Bob Rae's NDP(?) government is saying that the Blue Jays can be an exception to this. Who's running the show here anyway, the Ontario Legislature or the Toronto Blue Jays?

The truly scary thing about all of this is that there are bound to be some wingnuts out there who will actually watch these games. To call a league full of AAA players the Major Leagues is to make a mockery of the league. The NL and AL comprise the best baseball league in the world, employing the best baseball players in the world. Once scabs are employed, both these claims will be voided. The best baseball league in the world will be Japan, and the best baseball players will be on strike. What the players should really do is call the owners' bluff by forming a league of their own. Fans will watch the best baseball available, just as they have always done before, and the best baseball available will be the players' league. Only this will show the owners — and, by extension, owners in other sports — just how inconsequential they really are.



## Taekwon-Do

The UNB/STU Taekwon-Do Club is again active and accepting new members. Memberships are \$50 for the term, new members can start with \$20 for the first month. The club is located in the LB Gym Dance Studio. Classes are held in the evening from 7-8:30 Monday and Wednesday and 4-6 on Saturday. For more information contact Shane Oats at 457-2060, Dale Roach at 457-3002 or visit the club in action.



Photo Mark Bray

## General Information Session

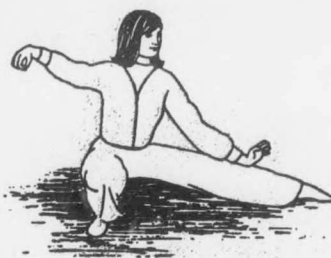
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UNB Residence Community

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For Full-time Students Interested in Being a Proctor or Academic Resource Person

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7:00p.m., Sunday, 22 January 1995  
Tilley 102

Application Forms will be distributed at the Information Session and will also be available from the Office of the Dean of Residence

## Tai' Chi Ch'uan Wu style form



Tai Chi is an ancient Chinese art form designed to improve one's health. Wu style involves 108 movements. This course will introduce the student to the first 30 moves.

Instructor: Martin Kennedy

Dates: Jan. 31 to April 13

Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays; 7:00 to 8:00pm

Registration: begins Wednesday, Jan. 11, at the UNB Business Office

Deadline: January 25 (minimum of 15 required, maximum of 25)

## STUDENT NOTICE

The deadline for returning textbooks purchased for 2nd term is today

**FRIDAY, January 20th**

Sales slips and ID's are required. No refunds will be given on textbooks purchased after January 20th.

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FA2 Accounting 2	BA 3235
FA3 Accounting 3	BA 3236
MA1 Management Accounting 1	BA 2223 & 3227
FN1 Finance 1	BA 2413 & 3424
MS1 Mgmt Info Systems 1	CS 1043
AU1 Auditing 1	BA 4238