

# Olympic Retrospective

continued from page 10

Only in 1984 was this trend reversed, with 11 women's events being added to the Olympic programme in comparison to six for men.

It is true that significant gains were made in the 1984 Olympics, with the addition of the women's marathon, as well as sports such as synchronized swimming and rhythmic gymnastics. However, an imbalance continues to be maintained.

Part of the problem is that many of the sports currently offered are open to men only, particularly combative sports such as wrestling, judo, and boxing. Comments have already been made to the effect that the Games are getting too big. Any movement to increase the number of women's events carries with it the attendant danger of further inflating the already-large number of events, or necessitating a paring down in the number of men-only events. Neither alternative is likely

to be greeted with much enthusiasm.

Another problem has been the tendency of society to stereotype activities, sport included, in terms of appropriateness on the basis of the gender of the participants. Not only has sport been traditionally been perceived as a "male" domain, but speculations regarding the femininity of women participating in sport, particularly sports involving strength or aggression, have been raised. Hence, the objections of some women to the need for the "gender test".

The surface intent of the gender test, which is administered to all female athletes at the Olympics, is to protect the competitors from having to compete against males disguised as females. However, there is also an underlying unspoken premise that if a woman is a good athlete, her sexuality is somehow suspect.

Some women feel that the whole concept of what constitutes sport needs to be challenged. Does the motto of "faster, higher, stronger" leave scope for all human sporting activities?

Where is the place of artistry, creativeness, and gracefulness in athletics? Should women create their own "ideals" of sport? Should both sexes begin to move toward a more humanistic sport model?

These are all questions which have been asked as women have struggled to define where they do/ought to fit into the sport mosaic.

Ultimately, says Baxter, the question of individual choice is crucial. It is the right of the individual, regardless of gender, to participate in the sport of his or her choice that ought to be upheld.

Only then will the Olympic ideal become more of a reality for both sexes.

*With acknowledgements to Betty Baxter and to the Olympic Academy of Canada.*

# Fencing

On December 1, the Fencing Association of Nova Scotia will hold its annual Senior Open Tournament. It will begin at 8 am at St. Andrews School on Bayers Road in Halifax.

Throughout the day competition will be held in all three weapons

used in fencing: foil, epee and sabre. For the first time in the tournament's history women will compete in epee and sabre. Traditionally women compete only in foil.

Fencers from across the province, and from out of province are invited to take part.

Spectators are encouraged. For more information call Ann Copeland at 422-2867.

# Swim team selling trip tickets

The Dalhousie swim teams were out in force recently but this time on dry land. They are looking for students and faculty to buy tickets on their draw for a free trip anywhere in the world.

The tickets are two dollars each, and with only 4,000 printed your chances are better than in your average lottery.

There are only two weeks left, so



if you're interested you'd better find your tickets soon.

# TEAC THE NAME IN TAPE DECKS BRINGS YOU 3 SUPERB CASSETTE DECKS just in time for Christmas gift giving!

## TEAC

### TEAC V-300

From this well known manufacturer, the V300 offers soft touch controls; Dolby noise reduction and LED meters in a distinctive style. All yours for only

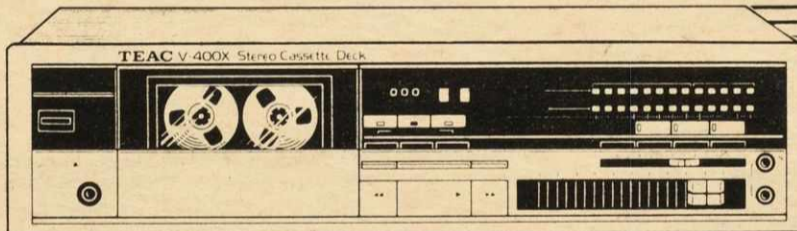
**\$179**



### TEAC V-400X

Solenoid switching for smooth tape control and DBX noise reduction for ultra quiet and dynamic tapes, featuring program skip to allow you to replay or skip a desired selection, the V400 is a sophisticated deck at a super price. Only

**\$299**



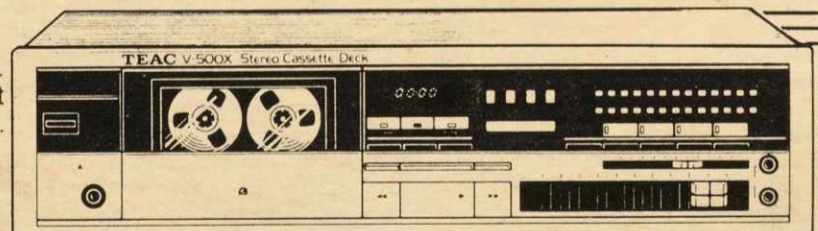
## TEAC

## TEAC

### TEAC V-500X

DBX, Dolby B & C noise reduction. Separate output controls, cobalt amorphous heads, digital readout. All for only

**\$389**



# LAYAWAY for Christmas NOW

159 WYSE RD  
DARTMOUTH  
463-8850

HALIFAX  
6065 CUNARD ST.  
422-1471

# MUSICSTOP Stereo Shop

