

# VIEW From The Better (?) Seats

By Mark Savoie

If you didn't see "Savoie #2: Savoie Slammed (Again. . .)" in last week's Blood and Thunder, then I advise you to get last week's paper out of the cat's litter box and give this letter a read. The two women signing the letter (Stacy Wood and Susan BeLong) raise some excellent arguments that warrant a response. Unfortunately, their arguments occasionally get lost amongst the hostility and insults of their letter, but no matter. In answer to a question asked in their letter: No, I do not think that boxing (except in case of a knockout), karate (although I'll need to know more about the point system to be sure), or mogul skiing are sports. I also do not think that aerial skiing, dressage, or ballroom dancing are sports. As for the attack on my comments about synchronised swimming judging, my only defence is that I relied upon a radio interview with Carolyn Waldo and the synchronised swimming commentators at the Seoul Olympics. If their comments were inaccurate or if I simply misinterpreted them, I apologise. You are right, I should have done my homework.

The impression I get when I read Ms Wood and BeLong's letter, and also when I field verbal criticism of a similar nature, is that they believe that because I do not consider these activities to be a sport, that I also do not respect these activities. This is quite simply not true. I have a tremendous amount of respect for the physical conditioning and dedication that are required to excel at figure skating, gymnastics, synchronised swimming, etc. That these are not sports does not change the fact that those who excel are exceptional athletes. The training regimen required by these sports is probably longer and more intense than most of us can imagine. At times the descriptions of these training programs and the sacrifices inherent therein strike me as being borderline sadistic (or masochistic). The fact that most of this training at the elite level is done under the solitary eye of a single coach adds to the difficulty. There is little opportunity to get strength from your teammates - as is done in team sports such as hockey - when you practice alone. Canadian figure skaters at this month's Olympic Games such as Josée Chouinard, Elvis Stojko, Kurt Browning, and Lloyd Eisler and Isabelle Brasseur are extraordinary athletes with amazing capabilities, who have worked very hard to be at the top ranks of their art. My argument is that a requirement for athleticism does not imply that the activity is a sport. The converse is also true. Bowling and baseball are both sports, but it is not always necessary to be an accomplished athlete in order to excel at these sports; check out Cecil Fielder of the Detroit Tigers sometime.

Stating that the activities of figure skating and synchronised swimming are not sports does not downgrade or trivialise either activity. In fact, it is possible that by calling them art - rather than sport - we elevate their status. Professional basketball has long tried to identify itself as an art form. Note the commercials during their skills competition last Saturday paralleling basketball with ballet. And what is the slam dunk contest other than a hoops version of artistic expression? It is not sport. Being recognised as a sport does not provide instant legitimacy. Both dog and cock fighting are sports, but they are in no means legitimate activities in a civilised society. Dwarf tossing (popular in Australian bars) is a sport, but it is by no means acceptable. Ballet, ballroom dancing, figure skating, synchronised swimming, mogul skiing, and gymnastics are not sport, but they are in every way legitimate activities. Without these arts the world would be a poorer place.

Sport is merely a word. It is a term which in and of itself does not carry a value component. An activity is not somehow better because it may be called a sport. Neither is it any worse. What I have offered is a definition. It is admittedly narrow, as Ms Wood and BeLong point out before a particularly irrelevant sarcastic insult, but it is also defensible. It may prove to be too narrow a definition, but in turn to call an activity a sport merely because the Olympic Games or anybody else says so is much to broad a definition. Should either Ms Wood or Ms BeLong care to discuss this issue at greater length, I place myself at their disposal. I can be found at *The Brunswickian's* offices virtually all of the time, and am always willing to discuss what I have written and listen to other's opinions of it.

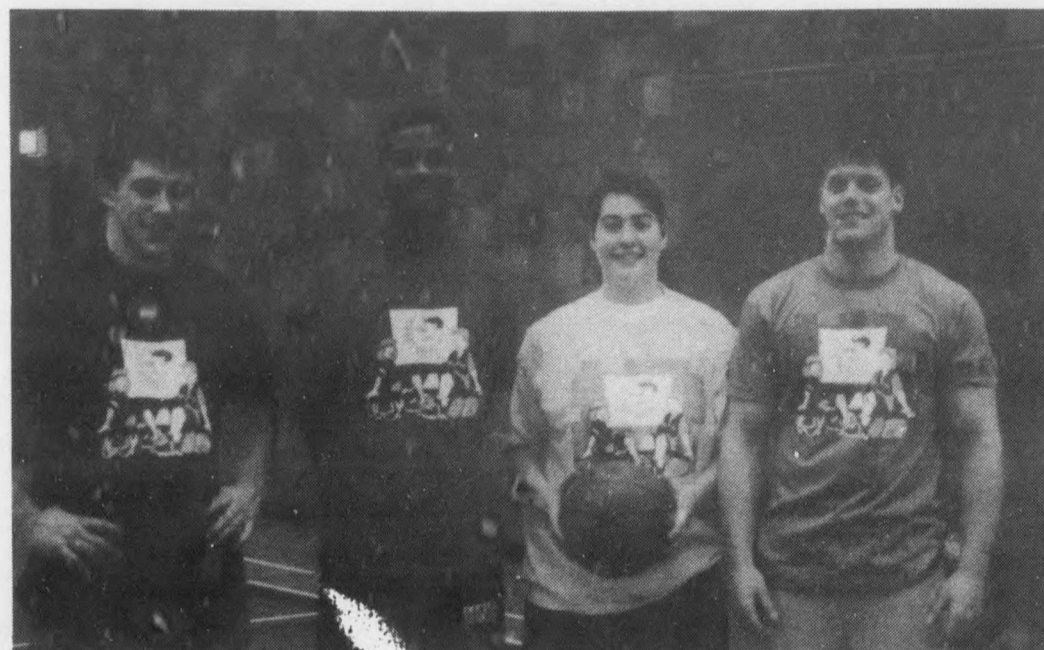
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Congratulations to the UNB Black Bears for copping yet another AUAA wrestling crown. I really enjoyed their trophy dance at the Social Club afterwards. After all, what kind of wrestling trophy would it be if it couldn't handle being dropped on the dance floor a couple of times. Besides, I'm told that they caught it on the first bounce.

## CAMPUS RECREATION

### INTRAMURAL SPORTS:

In an effort to promote an atmosphere of sportsmanship, the Campus Recreation Program will be selecting a team in each sport this term who displays qualities of fair play. Teams selected will be given Campus Recreation T-shirts. Here is an example of our awesome T-shirts fashioned by our fabulous models in the photo below. (Our models consist of the following: Joel Gillis (black shirt), Dave Reid (green shirt), Jackie Flieger (yellow shirt) and Greg Mapp (red shirt).



Awesome Campus Rec models: (l-r) Joel Gillis, Greg Mapp, Jackie Flieger and Dave Reid.

### OFFICIALS NEEDED

Officials are currently being hired for :

- Basketball
- Ball Hockey
- Volleyball

All those interested in applying should fill out an application form in the Recreation Office Rm A121 LB Gym between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm Mondays through Fridays.

### WINTER SPORTS

Registration packages are available at the L.B. Gym for the following sports:

### CO-ED

Basketball Monday, March 14 - Tues. March 22  
Play: March 26 (Saturday)

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Saqmaqwi'jk (Little Chiefs) for winning the women's competitive ball hockey tournament. Saqmaqwi'jk won by default in the final. En route to becoming the champions, the Saqmaqwi'jk defeated the LDH Ball Sockets and the Tibbits Hot Shots. The following players were on the Saqmaqwi'jk roster: Johanna Martin, Helen Ward, Gail Thibault, Marlene Paul, Karen Martin, Jeannie Taylor, Candace Sacobie, Charity Augustine, Shelia Pelkey, Lisa Jerome, Crystal Savard, and Audrey Ward.

### CLUB NEWS

#### Budokai Ju Jitsu Club

Ju Jitsu is a Japanese martial art which is commonly taught to the military and police. It is a system of in-fighting techniques designed to swiftly defeat an attacker. It uses skill rather than strength to subdue an attacker, using joint locks, pressure points, throws, arm-bars, chokes and pain as a deterrent.

This martial art is easy to learn and is practiced in an enjoyable atmosphere. Ju Jitsu is a practical and effective method of self-defense.

"The most effective method of fighting ever designed"

Mondays and Wednesdays  
7:00 PM 3rd Floor, South Gym  
All welcome  
Try a few "free" classes  
For more information contact Randy Breau 457-3009 Coordinator.

#### Tips From The Wellness Coordinator

by Tim Randall

Sleeping on your stomach can be bad if you tend to have back problems. It may result in back strain for two reasons: it puts increased stress on your lower back and increases the curvature of the spine in the lower back. Sleeping on your side with your knees bent may be easier on your back, since this position helps maintain the natural curves of your neck and spine.

If you often have back pain and can not break the habit of sleeping on your stomach, try putting a small pillow under your stomach to reduce excessive curvature of your lower back. To keep you neck, shoulders and head better aligned, try putting your regular pillow under your shoulders and head.

If you like to sleep on your back, putting a pillow under your knees will help to reduce the stress on the lower back and maintain the natural curves of the spine. Choosing a firm mattress will also help.

For more wellness information at-

tend the Student Wellness Conference "The First Wealth is Health" on February 26, for more information call the Campus Recreation office in the L.B. Gym. 453-4579.

#### The First Wealth is Health Wellness Conference for students



I HAVE ONE NERVE LEFT AND YOU'RE GETTING ON IT!

**Saturday, Feb 26**  
Pre-registration \$12.00  
Conference day \$15.00  
Pre-register at the campus recreation office, or for more info call 453-4579