

MEDIA

# From the rink to the ink

The NHL is back this week. Coinciding with this fall tradition, a new book arrives that shows how newspaper cartoonists and illustrators have drawn a bead on the sport over the years

**DON WEEKES**  
AUTHOR OF PICTURING THE GAME

Hockey has a curious connection to editorial cartooning and sports illustration, as old and storied as the game itself. As I discovered in "Picturing the Game: An Illustrated Story of Hockey," once seen, that collective work — part documentary, part fine art — is not only a great storyteller of hockey history and our shared place in it, but works as a satirical interpreter of events that has on occasion shaped daily life in Canada.

Perhaps the most compelling hockey cartoon to touch the public consciousness recently came from

Bruce MacKinnon, who captured Canada's grief following the Humboldt Broncos' fatal bus crash in 2018. "Everyone has seen an injured player being carried off the ice," said MacKinnon of the haunting metaphor of Humboldt. Tragedies have a way of bringing people together, as injuries do with teammates.

The women's game has a rich history in illustration, dating to when hockey was considered a "sweaty" sport and had none of the genteel qualities of the more socially acceptable activities for women.

Vance Rodewalt portrayed how little has changed in his modern-day comparison between men and

women's play in Olympic competition in 1998.

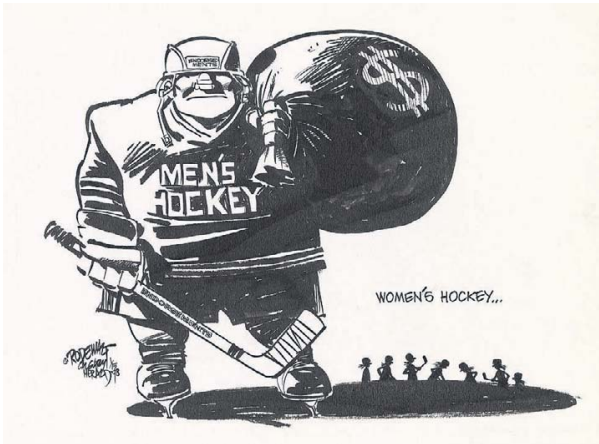
Little context is needed to understand Duncan Macpherson's cartoon. Canada got "shafted" after a disputed Russian goal allowed by a biased referee cost Canada the 1967 World Championship. As a purely visual joke "it has high value in terms of impact," said MacKinnon. It's a quick study, one that pokes fun at the truth without the reader "having to register a word in their heads."

The same could be said of Anthony Jenkins's caricature of current superstar Auston Matthews, forever looking over his shoulder despite becoming Toronto's new four-year,

\$53-million man.

The game's rise from the ponds of Nova Scotia to a worldwide, multi-billion-dollar industry has been richly chronicled by countless writers, photographers and other artists. For whatever reason, however, the time-honoured drawers of caricature and the editorial cartoon have been mostly excluded from our national conversation on hockey. It's an unfortunate omission given that their storyworld, their "first rough draft of history," has endowed us with a uniquely unvarnished perspective of game play.

"PICTURING THE GAME" IS PUBLISHED BY MCGILL-QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY PRESS.



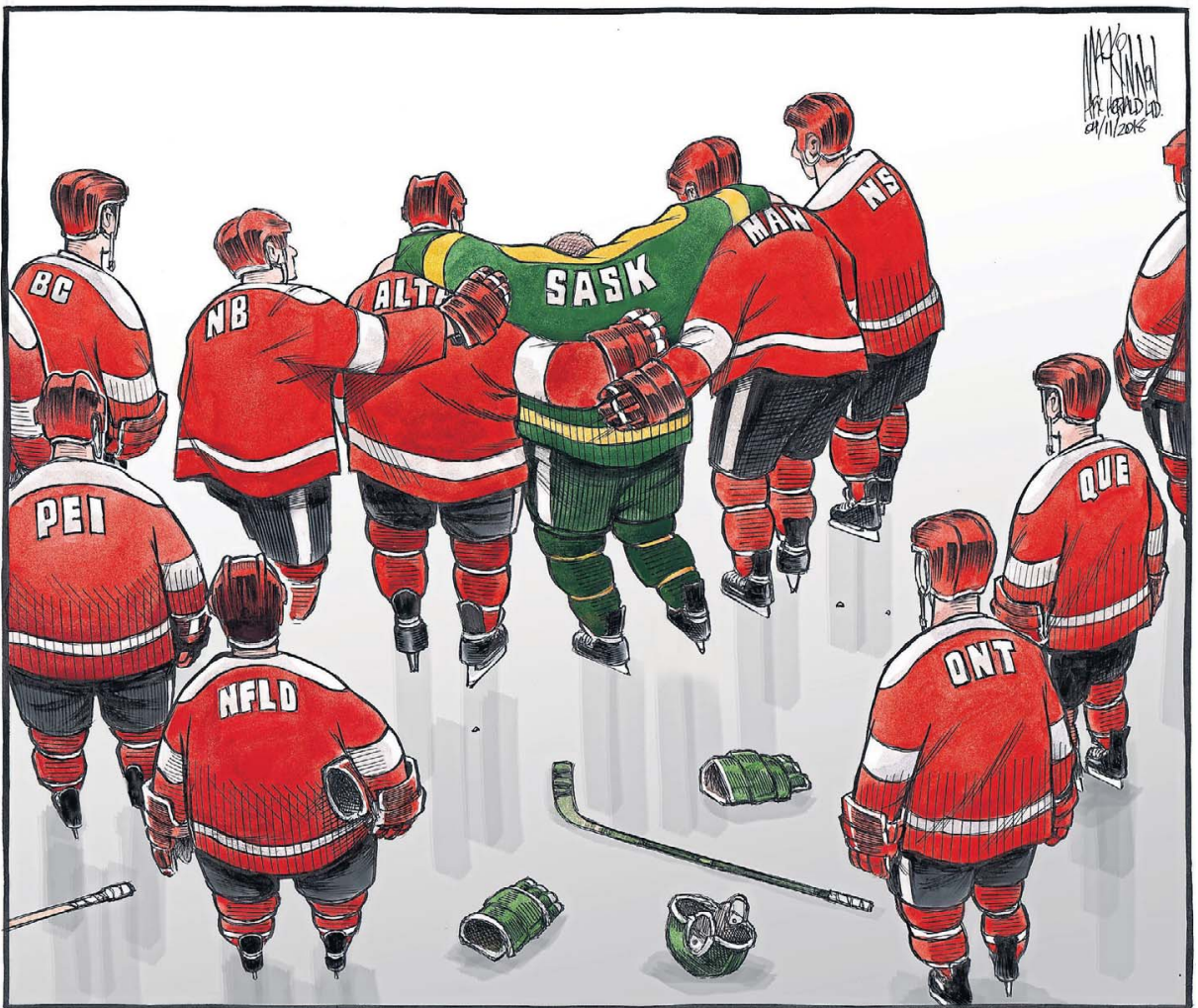
Vance Rodewalt on the 1998 Olympics.

VANCE RODEWALT AND GLENBOW ARCHIVES CALGARY HERALD



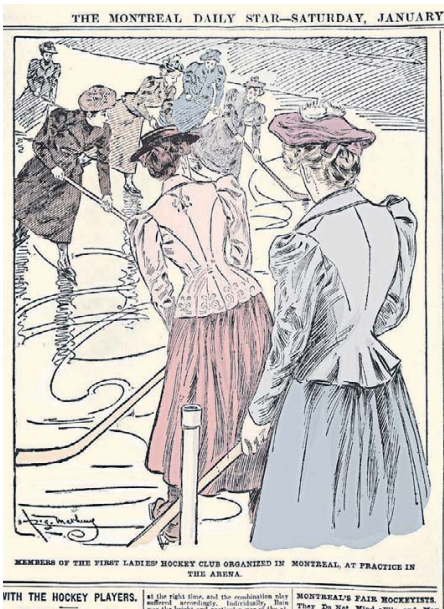
The Star's own Duncan Macpherson, on the 1967 World Championship.

DUNCAN MACPHERSON AND IAN MACPHERSON TORONTO STAR



Bruce MacKinnon on the Humboldt Broncos tragedy of 2018.

BRUCE MACKINNON THE CHRONICLE HERALD



Montreal Star, 1900, with caption reading: 'Members of the first ladies' hockey club organized in Montreal, at practice in the arena.'

MONTREAL STAR



Anthony Jenkins' take on Auston Matthews.

ANTHONY JENKINS