

# M.U.S.-icology 101



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Lecture  
No. 2  
Topic: *The  
M.U.S. Blues*

In the '90s,  
exercise is  
something  
you go and do.

People "work out" to keep their cardiovascular system operating. In the early '80s, if you went to a fitness club, it was because you wanted to "pump iron" to build muscle. (The *20 Minute Workout* was still a couple of years away.) So if most people didn't "work out" back then, how did they stay in shape?

### Participation.

Yes, that famous slogan urged a generation of Canadians to better the fitness of a 70-year-old Swede by walking, jogging, biking, hiking, and doing other sporting activities that people enjoyed. (Apparently, most of your parents thought that list included sex, otherwise you wouldn't be here to read this.)

U. of C. Music students of that era chose Campus Rec Intramurals and "pick up" games within the Department. It was so intrinsic to undergrad life that I can't imagine my years here without it.

First and foremost were the M.U.S. Blues hockey teams. We always had at least one team during my years as an undergrad, but at one point, we had three: a Men's team, a Women's team (way before it became hip), and a Men's Alumni team.

These games were a social event. People would come out at all hours just to cheer on our side, mostly at Foothills Arena (now Father David Bauer) and Norma Bush Arena.

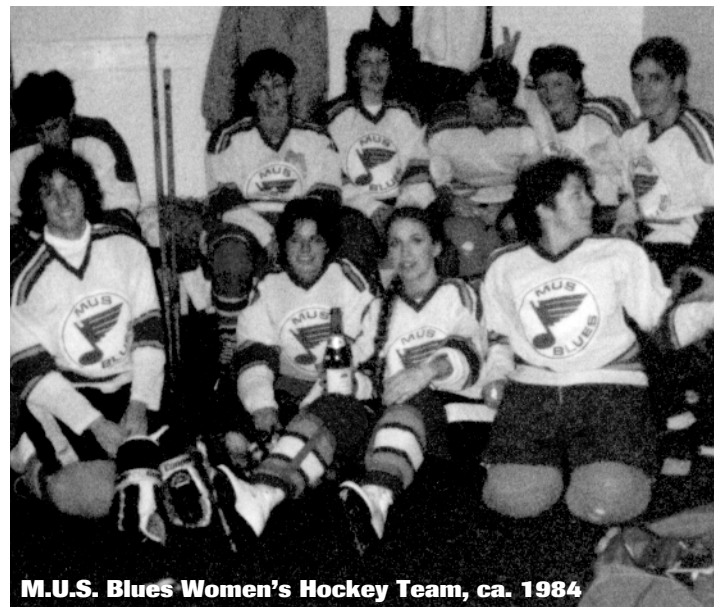
And yes, spirits were high and plentiful (*that* hasn't changed). Notices for games went up on the glass doors just like recital notices do now.

The men's games were the most competitive, but the women's games were just plain *fun!* I still remember Rhonda Stewardson trying to

clear an opponent out from in front of the net by giving her a stick between the legs. (That was the day I learned about Jill straps.)

Of course, whenever the women played the Red Army (the #1 Phys. Ed. team), the slightly drunken men supporting our team would question the gender of the Red Army players. Who could forget Allen Melling yelling, "she's a guy!" Or some other persons (who shall remain nameless) requesting a "cock check." (Sorry, that was vulgar. But true.)

But if you didn't play hockey, you could still participate in M.U.S. sports. Over my time as an undergrad, we tried co-ed volleyball, men's ball



M.U.S. Blues Women's Hockey Team, ca. 1984

M.U.S. Blues Hockey Teams SCHEDULE		FEBRUARY		MARCH	
Friday	Sunday	Friday	Sunday	Friday	Sunday
11	13	1	3	1	3
M/ 11:45 p.m. @ Norma Bush vs. Strick Bags	M/ 12:25 p.m. @ Norma Bush vs. Paladins	M/ 9:20 a.m. @ Norma Bush vs. Disperseds	M/ 11:50 a.m. @ Norma Bush vs. North Strick	M/ 10:20 a.m. @ Foothills vs. Fleming Hockey	M/ 10:20 a.m. @ Foothills vs. Iron Kings
18	20	8	10	8	10
		M/ 10:20 a.m. @ Foothills vs. Red Army	M/ 11:30 p.m. @ Foothills vs. B.R.C.	M/ 10:20 p.m. @ Foothills vs. Res Express	M/ 10:30 a.m. @ Norma Bush vs. Team Mandala
25	27	15	17	15	17
M/ 9:20 a.m. @ Norma Bush vs. Fog Deckers	M/ 11:20 a.m. @ Foothills vs. Res Express	M/ 7:00 a.m. @ Foothills vs. The Original Purple Helmets	M/ 12:30 p.m. @ Foothills vs. Strick Bags	M/ 12:10 a.m. @ Foothills vs. The Six	M/ 8:20 a.m. @ Norma Bush vs. The Six
		22	24	Playoffs: Sun. March 31	
		M/ 1:10 p.m. @ Foothills vs. Queen's Council		M/ - Men's Team Game	M/ - Women's Team Game
				* Will be rescheduled if the events will not be held	

hockey (we wore bow ties the night our game followed a Symphonic Band concert), and flag football. That football team also included a then-recent addition to our professorial staff—one Allan Bell. (Ask him to tell you the story about how he got ejected from one game.)

And every so often, we booked a field and got together as a department and played co-ed touch football, or slow pitch, or even soccer. Sometimes, these formal and informal sporting events spilled over into the summer as well.

It saddens me to see that this fine tradition has not been maintained. Certainly society has changed in this regard. You might even note the parallel in music history, where everyone used to play or sing at gatherings as an accepted (and enjoyable) part of life.

At least we still go Christmas caroling....

See more hockey pictures (including one where Anthony gets a smooth sandwich), plus other '80s alumni snapshots at <http://www.jazzace.ca/music/lucalumni/pix80s.html>