

THE BIG GAME



THE LAC LA MARTRE READER PROJECT

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Dedicated to the memory of Dennis Beaulieu 1957-1984

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THE BIG GAME

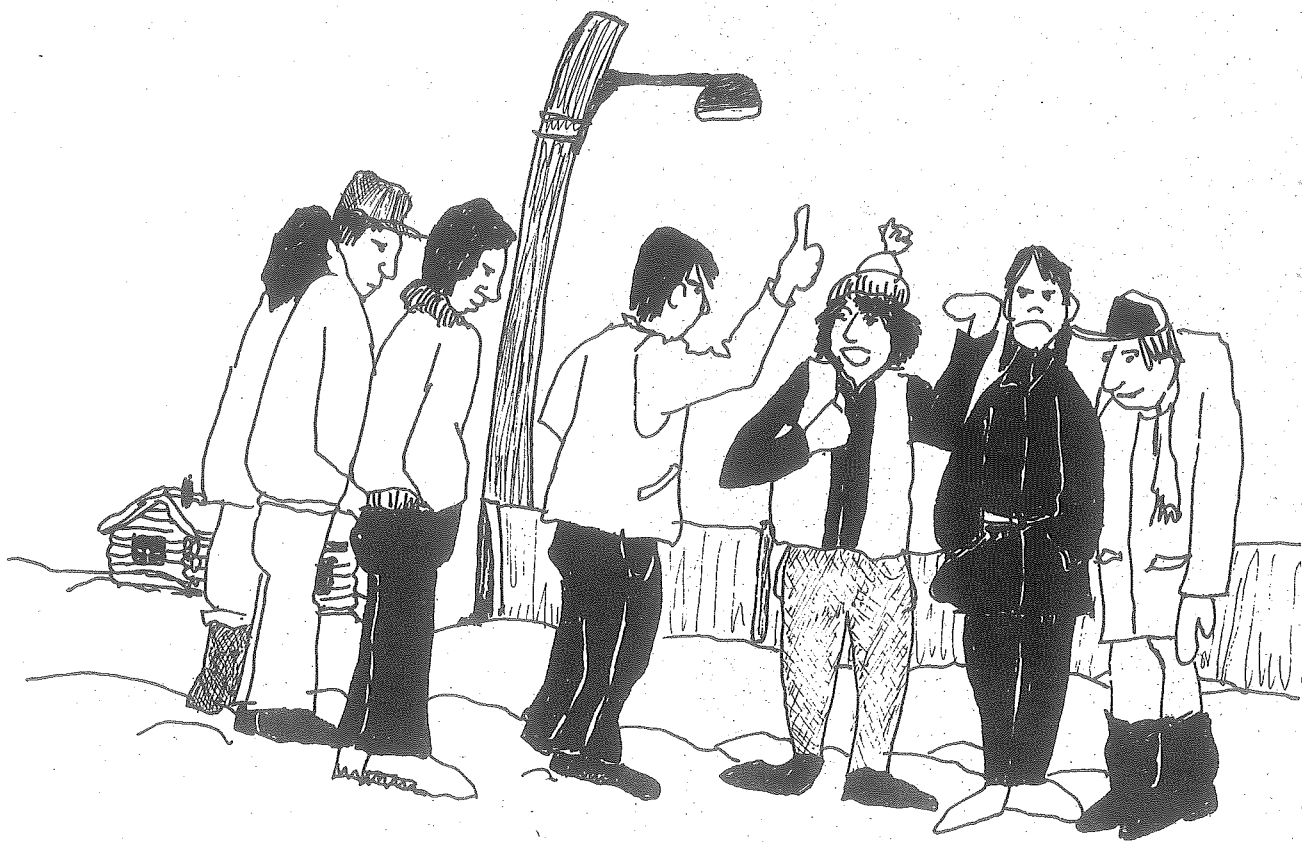
Written by Gordon Breen

Illustrated by Jim Martin

The people from Rae Lakes
come to Lac La Martre.

It is Caribou Carnival
time.

People come to play and
watch games.



Rae Lakes wins the dog sled
race.

The Rae Lakes people start
to brag about winning.

Soon the men from Lac La
Martre get mad.

"You stop bragging!" shout
the Lac La Martre men.

"You be quiet!" shout the
Rae Lakes men.

The men start pushing
and pulling.

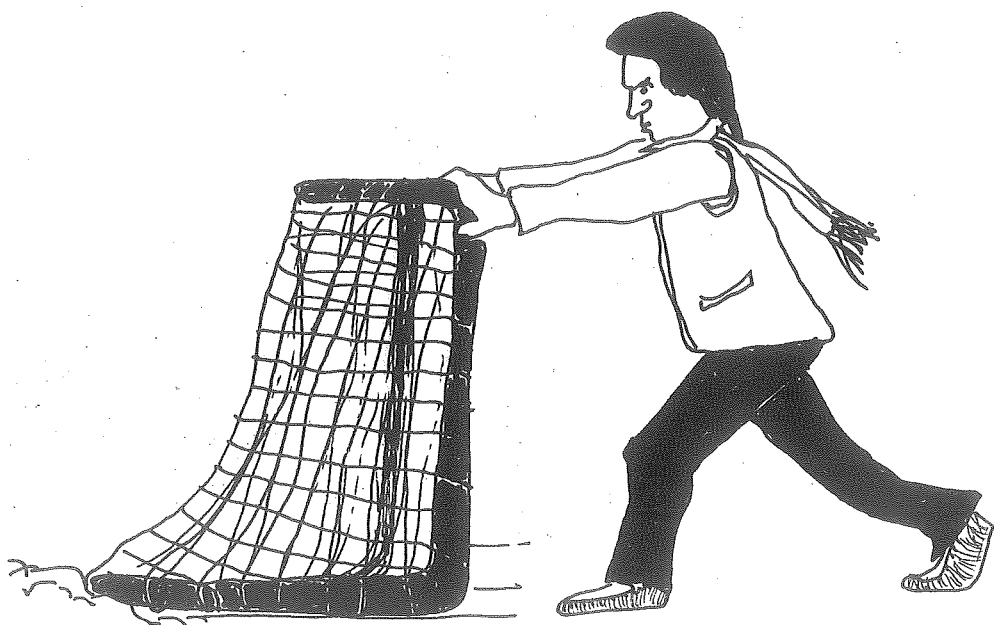
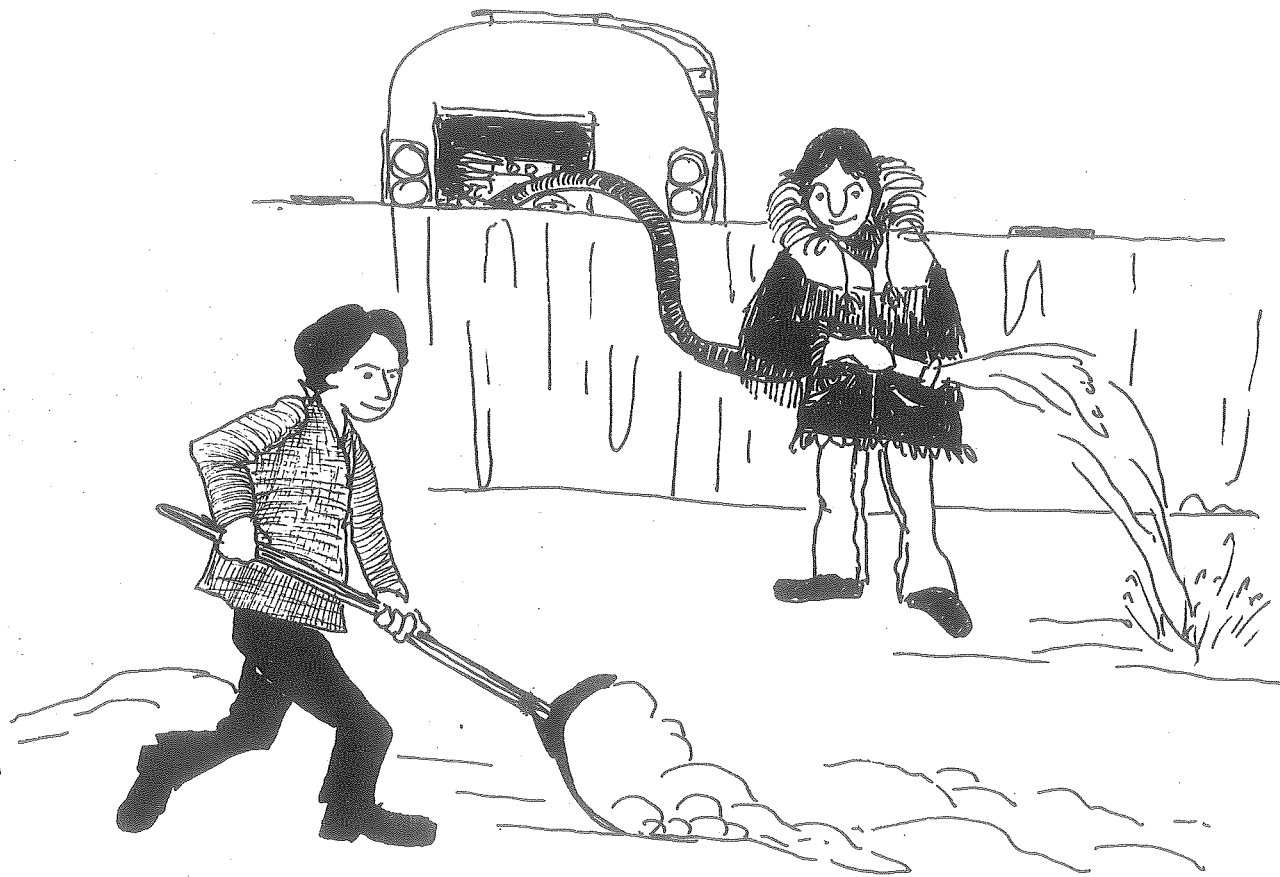
The chief shouts, "Stop!
We must not fight."

"But they are bragging!"
shout the men from Lac La
Martre.

"We are the best!" shout
the Rae Lakes men.

"We will see," says the
chief.

"One more game will be
played. The winner will
be the best. The game
will be hockey."



All the people come to
watch.

Fathers, mothers, sisters,
brothers, babies, grandmothers,
grandfathers, everyone!

It is a big game.

They shovel the snow.

They flood the ice.

They pull out the nets.

Soon the rink is ready.

"Time to start!" shouts
the chief.

The Lac La Martre boys
skate out.

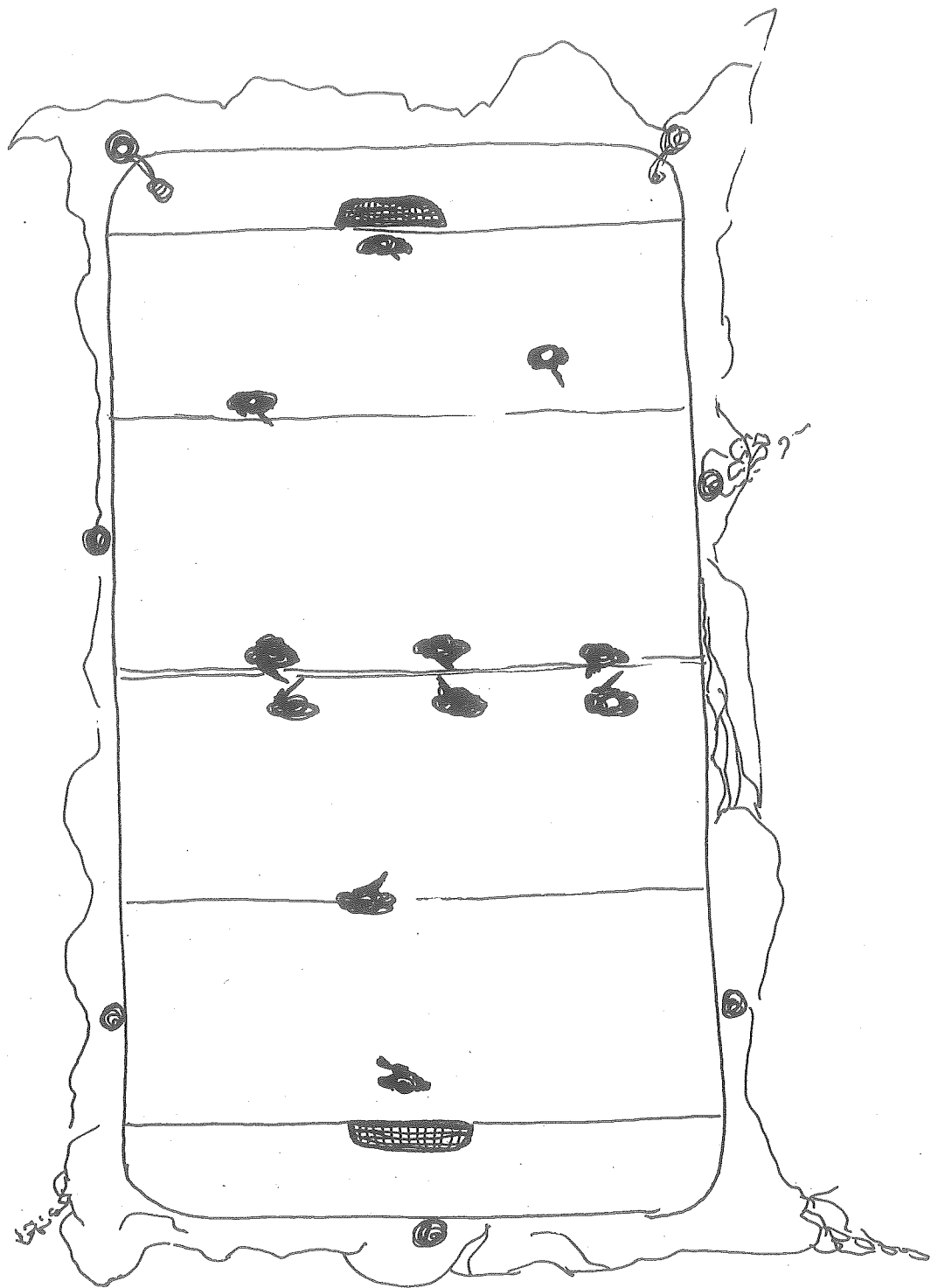
One man is the goalie.

Two men are defencemen.

Two men are forwards.

One man is the centreman.

Six men on the Lac La
Martre team.



"Here comes the Rae Lakes
team!"

One goalie skates on the ice.

Two forwards skate on.

One centreman.

One defenceman.

"Five men on the Rae Lakes
team!"

"What's this? Only one
defenceman?"

"Why not two defencemen?"

the chief asks.

"We have no more hockey
players," says the Rae Lakes
team.

"Can we use a player
that lives in the Barrenlands?"

The chief wants the game to
start. "Yes," he says.

"But we will start now!"

The chief drops the puck.

The game starts.

Soon Bobby gets the puck.

He passes it to Sam.

Sam passes it to Ed.

Ed shoots a slap shot.

The goalie stops it.

Bobby gets it.

He scores!



One to nothing for
Lac La Martre.

Soon Lac La Martre scores
again.

Two to nothing.

And again, three to
nothing.

Wow! This is a good
team!

But wait!

Rae Lakes has the player
from the Barrenlands here.

"What's the player's
name?" asks the chief.

"Mr. Bou," says Rae
Lakes.

"He plays defence."

"Let's play!" shouts
the chief.

The game starts again.

Lac La Martre has the puck.

Ed passes to Bobby.

Bobby skates around one
player.

Bang! He falls, hit by
Mr. Bou.



Mr. Bou gets the puck.

Mr. Bou skates around
one player.

He skates around
another.

He shoots!

He scores!

The Rae Lakes people
cheer.

"Who is that guy?"

asks Bobby.

"He is strong like

a moose."

"Let's play," shouts

the chief.

The chief drops the

puck.

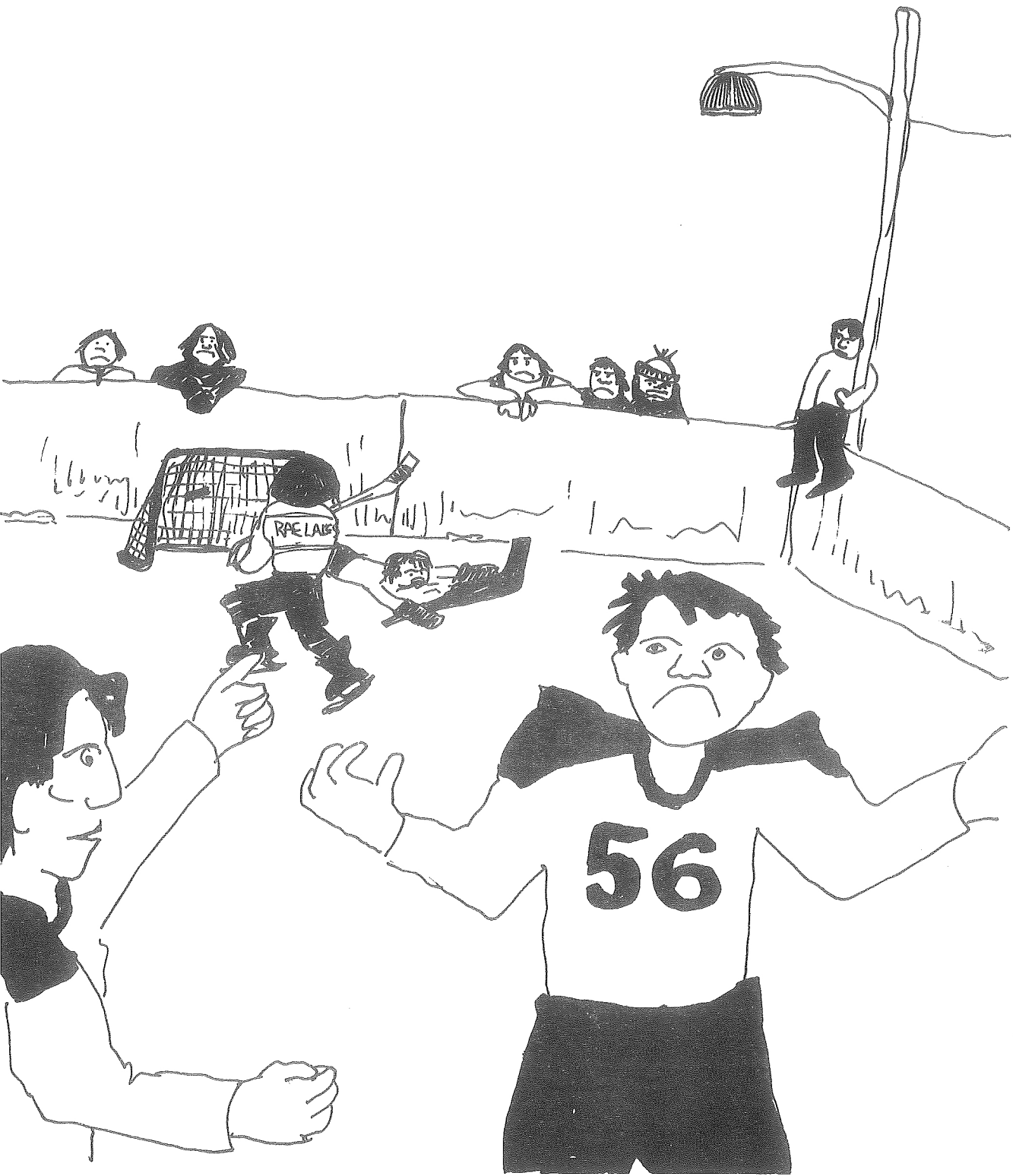
Bobby gets the puck from
a Rae Lakes player.

He passes to Ed.

Ed passes to Sam.

Sam skates.

Bang! He falls, hit by
Mr. Bou again.



Mr. Bou skates up the ice.

Mr. Bou skates around all
the Lac La Martre players.

Mr. Bou shoots.

He scores!

"Who is that guy?" asks
Sam.

"He is strong like a
caribou."

The Lac La Martre players
go to Mr. Bou.

They take his helmet
off.

They look.

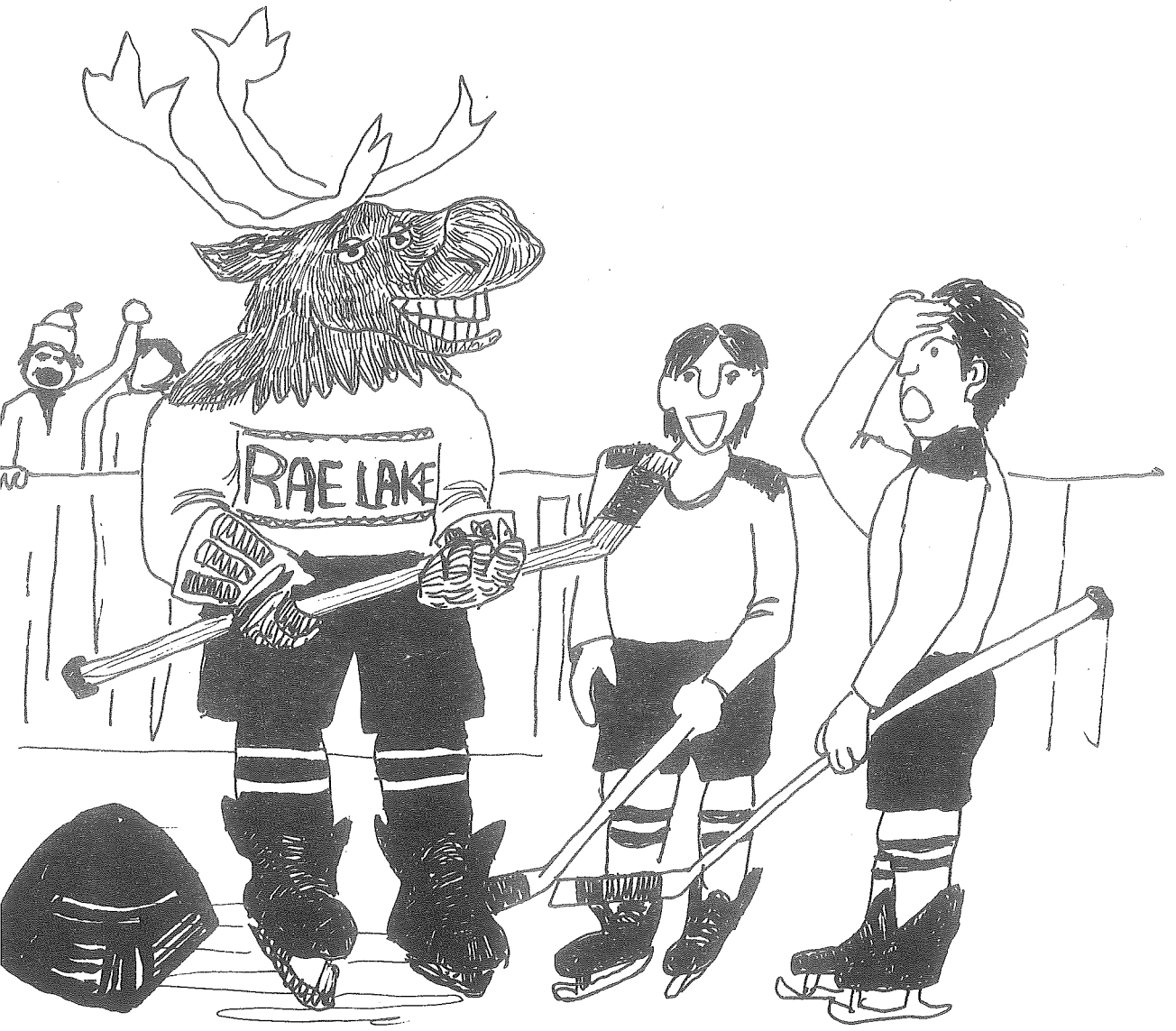
They look again.

"That is not a man.

That's a Barrenland caribou!"

One of the people
watching shouts, "A caribou!
Go get my gun.

I will shoot him for a
feast."



"No!" shouts the chief.

"He is a Rae Lakes
hockey player.

No one can shoot a
Rae Lakes hockey player.
I will shoot him after
the game.

Let's play!"

The score is four to two
for Lac La Martre.

The game starts again.

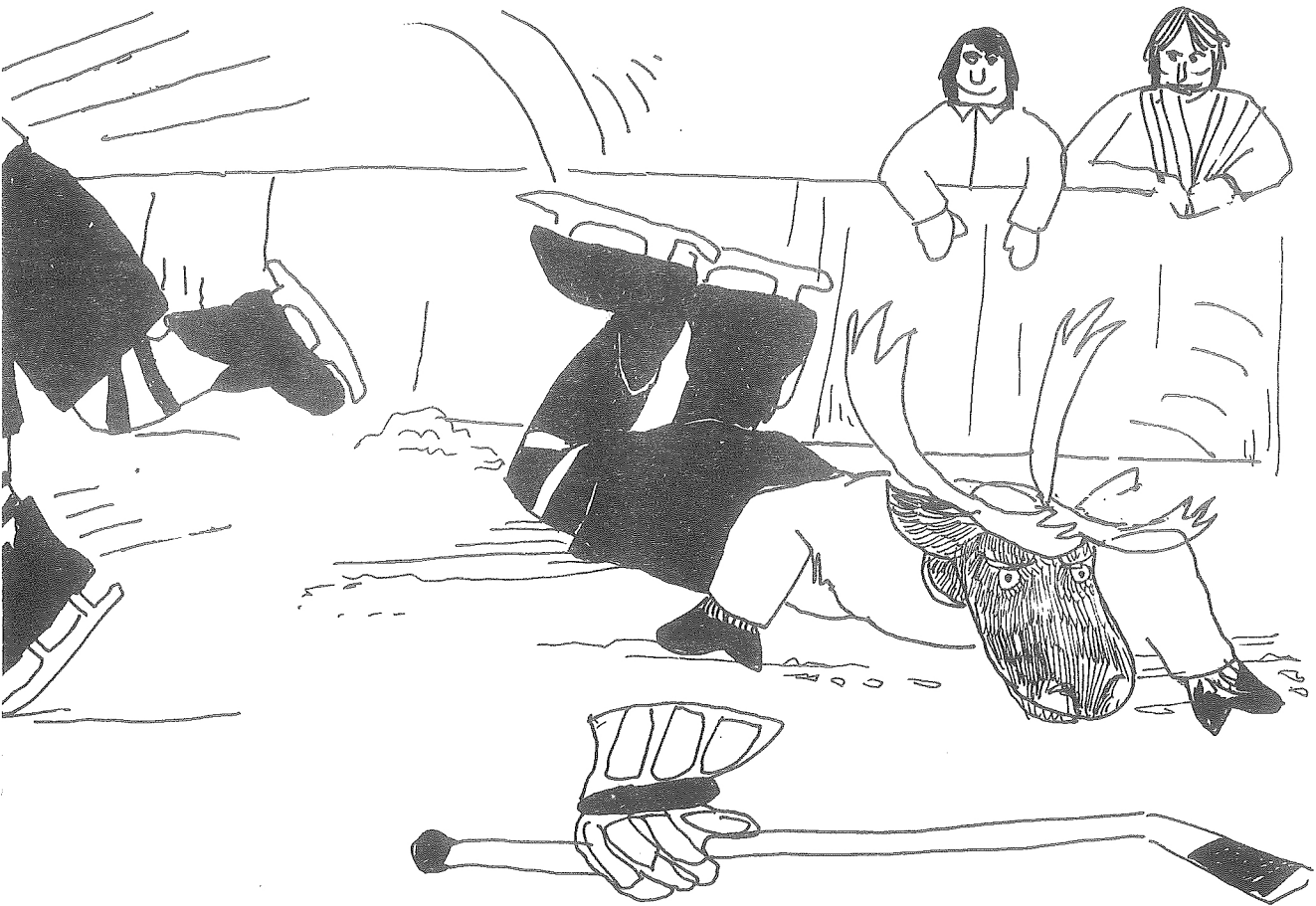
Oh no! The caribou
got the puck!

He is taking a slap shot
with his antlers.

He shoots!

He scores!

Four to three for
Lac La Martre.
Sam gets the puck.
He skates.
He passes it to Ed.
Bang! Ed falls.
Another man hit by
the caribou.



"Let's play!"

The caribou gets the puck.

He skates.

He goes around two players.

He is going to score.

Bang! The caribou falls.

What's this? The caribou
got hit!

Lac La Martre has a new
player.

It's a moose!

A moose on the Lac La
Martre team.

This game is crazy!

The moose has the puck.

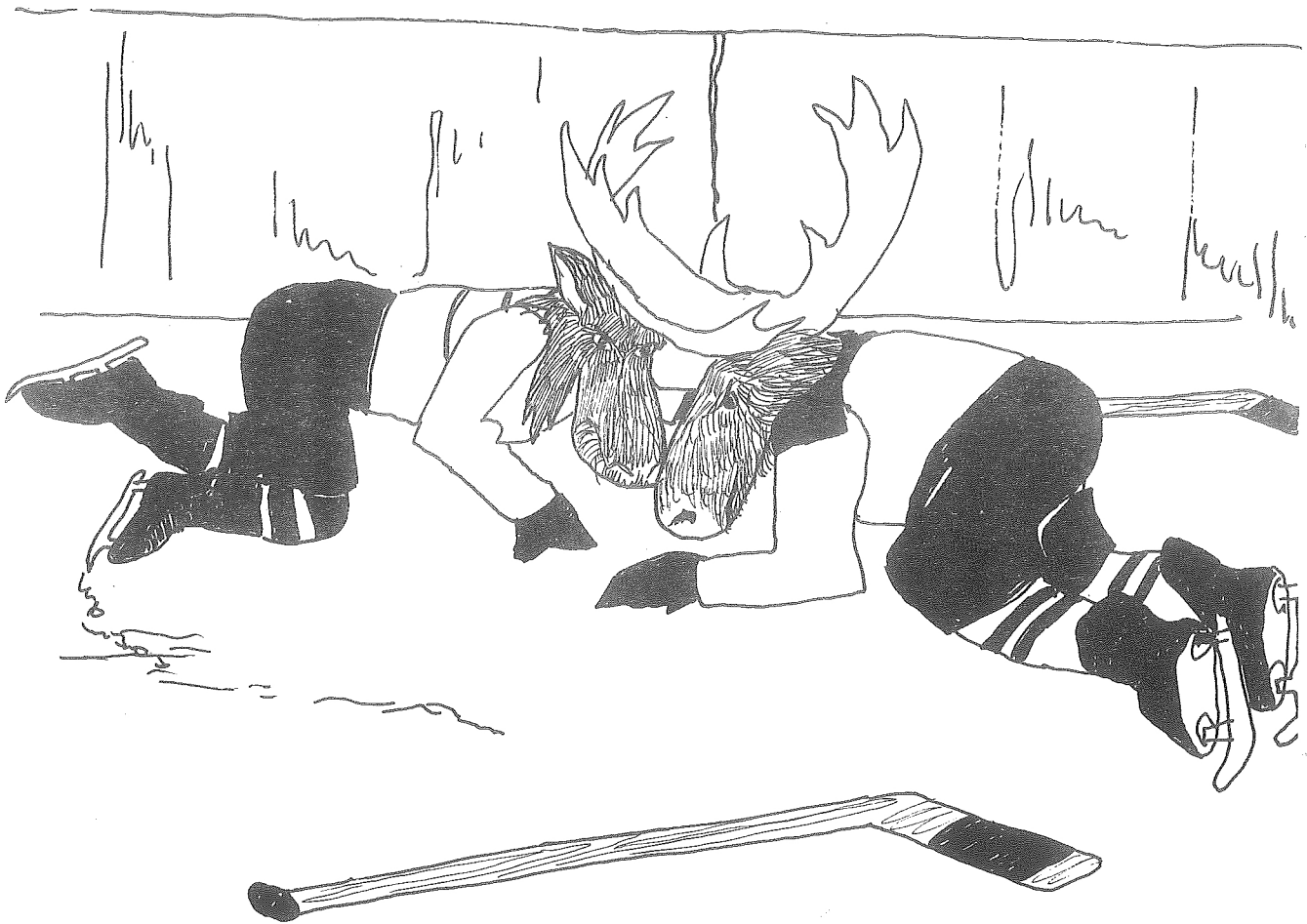
He passes to Sam.

Sam passes to Ed.

Ed passes to the moose.

Bang! The moose falls.

The caribou hit the
moose!



The moose he can't get up.

The caribou he can't get
up.

The antlers are stuck
together.

They are down on the ice.

Bobby gets the puck.

He skates!

He shoots!

He scores!

Buzz! Buzz goes the clock.

"The game is over!" shouts
the chief.

Lac La Martre has 5 goals.

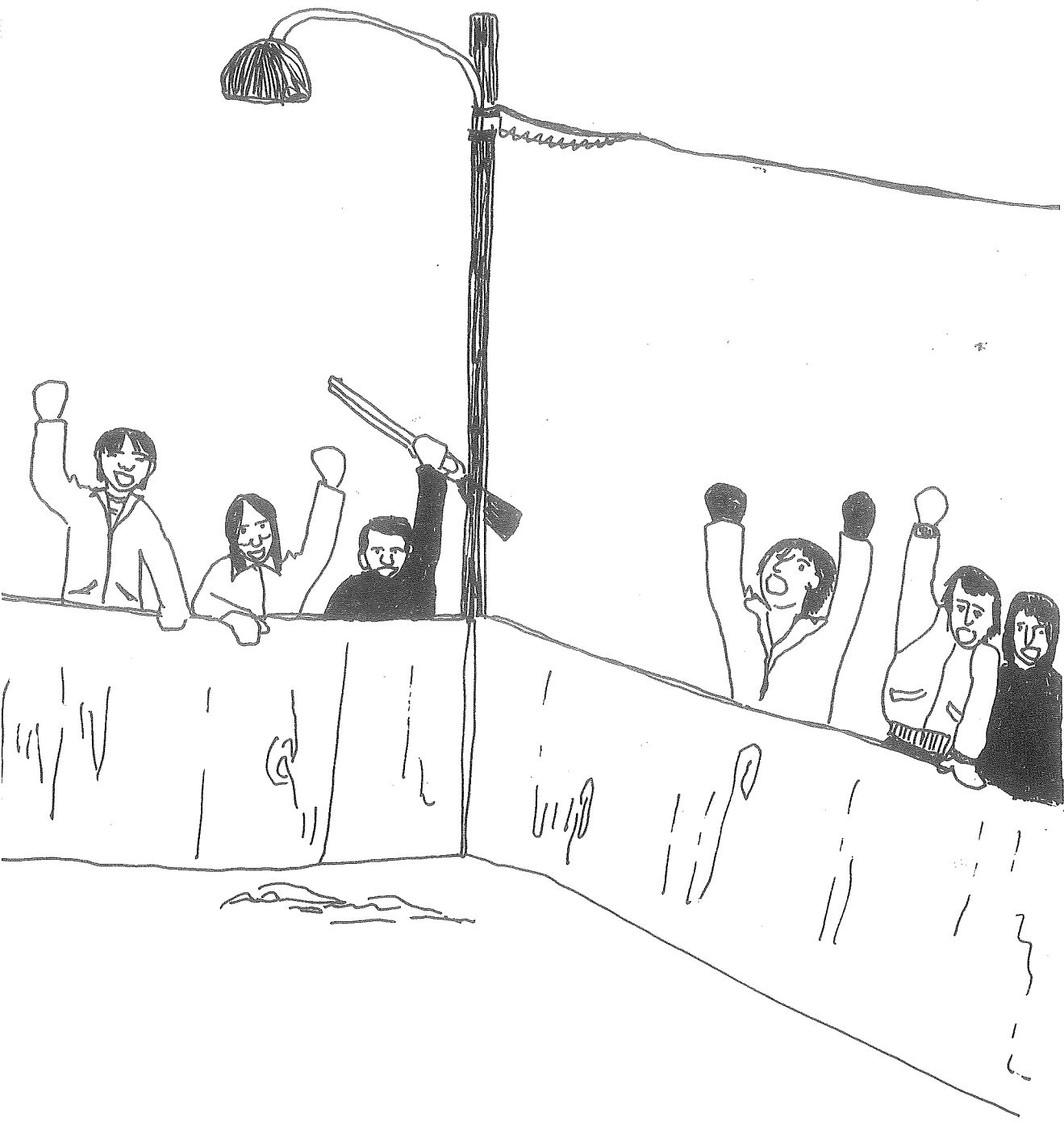
Rae Lakes has 3 goals.

Lac La Martre wins the
game.

"Let's have a feast.
Bobby go get my gun," says
the chief.

The Rae Lakes people
shout, "We want moose
meat!"

The Lac La Martre
people shout, "We want
caribou meat!"



So the people have a
feast.

They eat and they
eat.

They dance and they
dance.

Never again has a
caribou or a moose
wanted to play hockey.