

countries? White's research provides an excellent basis from which to begin these and other related enquiries. It is to be hoped that her book will motivate researchers to tackle the large gaps in our knowledge of part-time work and will encourage others to undertake policies which accept and support part-time work as a viable alternative in the organization of work.

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**Fair Ball: Towards Sex Equality in Canadian Sport.** M. Ann Hall and Dorothy A. Richardson. *Ottawa: The Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, 1982. Pp. 124.*

The existence of sexual inequality in Canadian sport should not come as a surprise to anyone both because of the patriarchal nature of the sports system and because of continuing sexual inequality and discrimination in other areas of social and cultural life. Hall and Richardson's book documents the extent and forms of inequality in sports and examines some of the attempts that have been made to deal with this problem.

The book looks at inequality at different levels and forms of sports participation. Opportunities for participation and access to facilities and programs are shown to be much greater for males compared to females at both recreational and competitive levels. Inequality is also evident with regard to other types of sports participation, for example, women are under-represented among sports executives, administrators and coaches, and are virtually absent from the top positions in the field where power resides and where major policy decisions are made. According to the authors, this inequality within sports cannot be explained away by women's lower sporting interests, aspirations or achievements relative to those of men. Indeed, Hall and Richardson stress that Canadian women have a strong sporting heritage in terms of international suc-

cess in many different sports. Explanations for inequality, therefore, have to be sought elsewhere.

Chapter five of the book deals with the myths and realities surrounding female participation in sports. In particular, it briefly examines still existing societal beliefs (or myths) that female athletes are limited by their biology, that women do not have men's endurance capabilities, that exercise can harm the reproductive system in women and that women are more susceptible than men to sports injuries. It is not clear whether Hall and Richardson are suggesting that these societal beliefs—now largely shown to be inaccurate—are the main cause of sexual inequality, but the implication is that they are responsible for at least some of the continuing sexism in sport.

The book examines the effectiveness of legislative and government bodies in dealing with the problem of sexual inequality in sport. The pros and cons of American legislation (i.e. Title IX) are discussed, as is the efficacy of human rights legislation in Canada. In addition, the relevant actions (or inactions) of the federal Fitness and Amateur Sport Branch, provincial departments of education and of fitness and sports, and advisory councils on the status of women are documented. In some instances, legislation and government actions are seen to have had some beneficial effects, although the authors conclude that legal actions alone are not effective "especially when the law is in conflict with deeply rooted social attitudes and long-followed practices (28)."

Having described the continuing sexual inequality in Canadian sport and the problems surrounding legislative and government actions to deal with this issue, it is regrettable that the final section of the book dealing with how social reform might be effected is so short. The authors say that there is a need to develop a feminist presence in sport, although they do not discuss why there appear to be so few feminist athletes,

nor why women's groups have not been very concerned or involved with sports issues. Both these questions, though, are of interest and are relevant to the question of social reform. The authors do say that they favour a structural rather than an individualistic approach to reform, although, again, this statement is not expanded or discussed to any great extent. It is not clear what types of structural changes are envisaged, nor how such changes could be effected. In addition, the support for structural change would appear to be potentially in conflict with the emphasis placed on other concerns in the book, such as the need to reject the myths surrounding female participation and the need for a more feminist perspective.

One of the issues that inevitably arises in any analysis of sexual inequality in sport is the issue of separate versus integrated sports organizations and competitions. Hall and Richardson suggest that all sports in which physiological sex differences are irrelevant to performance should be integrated, and that in other sports—those more dependent upon strength and size—the emphasis should be on equal opportunities for males and females. This discussion of integration/separation could have benefitted from being more closely allied with the section on myths and realities. For example, should endurance sports be organized separately, or is the greater endurance abilities of males a myth based on cultural attitudes and expectations? The question of sports ideology would also have been relevant here. That is, does the patriarchal nature of the existing sports system mean that women would be better off developing their own separate system or should they try to change the existing system from within?

Overall, perhaps the major weakness of the book is its somewhat narrow focus on the sports world and sporting achievements rather than on the relevance of broader social issues and theories concerned with sexual inequality in other areas of social life. It should be recognized that

the purpose of Hall and Richardson's book was not to write an academic discourse, and that it does provide a good documentation of current discriminatory practices in Canadian sport. Nevertheless, it would, I believe, have benefitted from the incorporation of a broader perspective. The problem of a lack of female sports executives, administrators and coaches, for example, is clearly related to labour market segmentation and the lack of women in high power, high status and high paying positions. Also, women's low sports participation rates were not discussed in the book to any great extent in terms of the structural barriers, such as home and family responsibilities, which restrict women's participation in a range of leisure and community pursuits.

The question which needs to be addressed, therefore, is the degree to which discrimination in sports is similar to other forms of societal discrimination against females. To the extent that problems are similar, potential solutions to sex inequality are also linked. Perhaps this is what the authors had in mind in advocating a structural approach to change and the need for a feminist consciousness in sport. If so, this point could have been made more explicit, and the need for advocates of sex equality in sports to be aware of the social analyses and initiatives for change in other areas of sexual discrimination could have been given much more emphasis.

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