

proved the idea of male superiority in intelligence and moral capacities, we would collectively have to concede an end to the historical emphasis on male and female categories. Women would still give birth, but both men and women would be seen as full participants in any sphere of life an individual wishes to join.

My students consider the idea that sport in the modern era has been a key site of resistance to full female emancipation. In the last ten years, I have observed many students come to their own conclusion through their assignments and readings that sport supports male dominance, and that this is an unfair situation, and that girls and women should be able to do anything they want in sport in any place that they choose if they are capable of the level of play. This generation of students, both male and female, seems willing to concede that we do not yet know the level of ability of women because we are still to arrive at equity. Mary Wollstonecraft figured this out in 1792:

Let us then, by being allowed to take the same exercise as boys, not only during infancy, but youth, arrive at perfection of body, that we may know how far the superiority of man extends.

—*A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*

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<sup>1</sup>The title of my Ph.D dissertation is "He Shoots! He Scores! Metaphors or War in Sport and the Political Linguistics of Virility" (1995), York University. I received the inaugural Mary McEwen award from Women's Studies for the best feminist Ph.D thesis that year.

<sup>2</sup>My education in women's sports began in my family of four sisters and three brothers, all of whom were excellent athletes. My older sister was a champion golf player, tennis player, skier, and sports car racer. Three other sisters were also active, and to some degree still are, in car racing, deep sea diving, golf, tennis, skiing, wilderness hiking, and riding. Two years after I introduced the course, my oldest sister (and first hero) died from an assault at 53 years old. She was still an active, vibrant woman, who defied the restrictions in her life as a girl and woman, and mostly succeeded. She has been one of my inspirations for this course.

<sup>3</sup>In their article on a study of 23 years of intercollegiate sport in the U.S., R. Vivian Acosta and Linda Jean Carpenter show that the increases for sport participation for women under Title IX have been accompanied by a marked decrease in the numbers of women in coaching and administration. For example, of the 534 new head coaching jobs of women's NCAA teams from 1998-2000,

women have been hired for only 107.

<sup>4</sup>The late Michael Smith is an early researcher on theory around training in both boys and girls for violence and aggression in sport.

<sup>5</sup>Laura Robinson cites in *BlackTights: Women, Sport and Sexuality* a 1994 sex-discrimination case in Coquitlam, BC, ice-time for boys was subsidized 50 per cent by the municipality, while girls' gymnastics received no such funding. In one arena 207 hours of hockey ice-time was available, with 200 going to the boys.

## References

- Acosta, Vivian and Linda Jean Carpenter. "Women in Intercollegiate Sport." *Women's Sport and Physical Activity Journal* 9 (2) (2000): 141-144.
- Malszecki, Greg, "He Shoots! He Scores! Metaphors or War in Sport and the Political Linguistics of Virility." Unpublished Dissertation. York University, 1995.
- Robinson, Laura. *BlackTights: Women, Sport and Sexuality*. Toronto: HarperCollins, 2002.
- Smith, Michael. *Violence and Sport*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press, 1988.

## REBECCA LUCE-KAPLER

### This is Not Housework

—for Jodi

time shimmers in a spinning top  
a long Venetian afternoon  
sun slanting through blinds  
rooms vaguely warm  
kitchen bleeding Magritte  
into halls

celery grows in her hands  
mocking the garlic hung  
in the window longing  
to be mashed slipped  
into soup to caress her lips  
stove sighing for her return

storylines inside cupboards  
trails ellipses onto linoleum  
their open-mouthed cries  
reminding the refrigerator  
of tales in her footprints

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