

New England Enthusiasm for Basketball Traceable to Colorful Rhode Island Team. By Vic Stout - Boston Traveler.

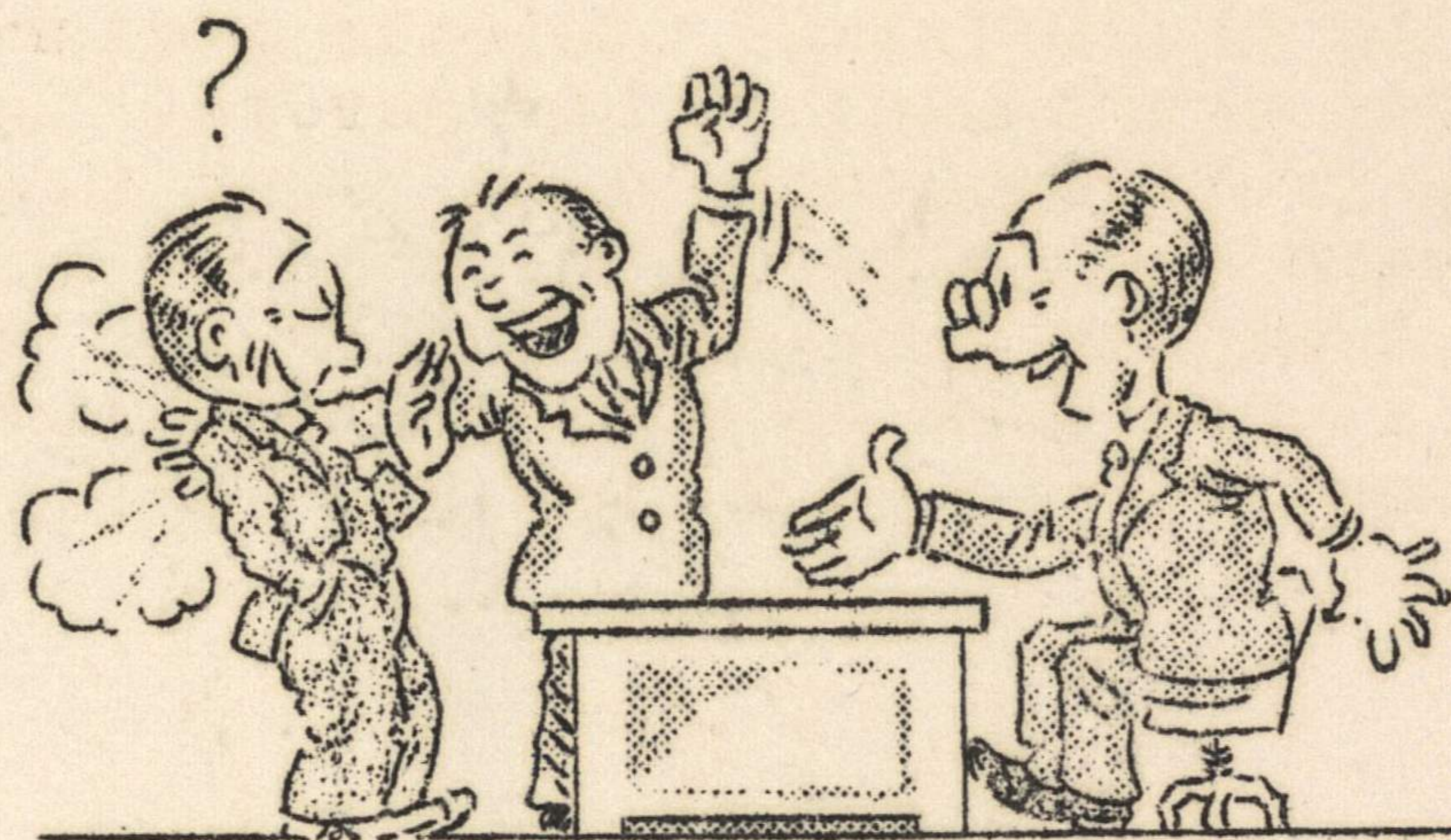
It was only a few years ago that college basketball in this section was pretty much in the doldrums, seldom paying its own freight. But today the court game has actually supplemented hockey as the No. 1 winter pastime and colleges all over New England, finding their seating capacities wholly inadequate, are making plans for bigger and better gymnasiums.

Elimination of Jump helped somewhat:

Several answers have been advanced for the increased interest in the bounce and dribble activity. One is the elimination of the center jump which has made for a faster and higher scoring game. But, according to authority Big Ed Kelleher, New England's top-ranking whistle-tooter, a gentleman by the name of Frank Keaney has been most responsible for the revival.

Rhode Island State basketball teams, the last word in color, have made all of New England basketball-conscious the past two or three years," claims the Cambridge official. Kelleher explains that there is not a team in New England with more crowd appeal than the Rhode Island Rams. "Why every time this team plays a basketball game hundreds of people become sold on the sport. It's so bad down in Kingstown now that they have to lock the gates at 6:00 o'clock."

The secret behind Rhody's success claims Kelleher, is the condition of the players. "You'll not find a better conditioned squad anywhere. This team has averaged 67 points a game this winter and the men maintain a dizzy tempo from the start, having the opposition bleary-eyed before the half is over. Rhody's motto is "Keep shooting." And how those boys do shoot! And you should see them travel up and down the floor. Why any official will tell you that he runs twice as much working a Rhode Island game as he would in any other game."



A prospective candidate !