

Forum

Finally — fun sports at U of A!

History was relived last weekend as the Varsity Gym was packed to the rafters for three straight Golden Bear playoff games. Here, sports was fun again and believe me, there's been many nights when covering a Bears' game has been a chore.

A look through the old issues at our office full of Gateways past reveals that a crowd of 3000 for any sport was shrugged off as ordinary. A routine thing at football games was for the youngsters, not really interested in the action, to roam the stands looking for bottles. To give you an idea of how many people were there and how much fun they were having, the kids would make a fair haul on a sunny afternoon.

Well they had just as much fun this weekend. And even though the basketball Bears lost in overtime of the deciding game, the fans left content. It's not a myth that athletes perform better in front of a full house. The hockey Bears have made a habit of snoozing through the first period before saying to themselves "What the heck. We're here, might as well win." Their crowds, though devoted, are small.

Let's get something straight. As sports editor of this students' newspaper, I get paid to cover these games whether you show up or not. But as I sat at courtside Sunday, the roar of the crowd behind hitting me in the back like a half ton truck, I couldn't help but smile.

This is the way university sports were meant to be. They screamed en masse when a Victoria shooter stepped up to the freethrow line. And you could hear a sneaker's squeak when a Golden Bear hit the line. When Bears' coach Don Horwood called a timeout in overtime, everybody rose as one, stretching out the tension, and smiling with the person next to them like an old friend. It was great.

The fact that there was a television broadcast, several news cameras, and a couple of radio live broadcasts going on only intensified the event. The games didn't need all that though, they stood on their own. So did the fans for much of the weekend, they stood in appreciation of the product they had come to see.

If you weren't at the games, just ask someone who was there what it was like. Ask how much fun it was and how little money it cost. If you value their opinion, I guarantee you, you'll want to give it a try.

The rambunctious confines of Varsity Arena, where the hockey championships are being held next month, might just be a good place to start.

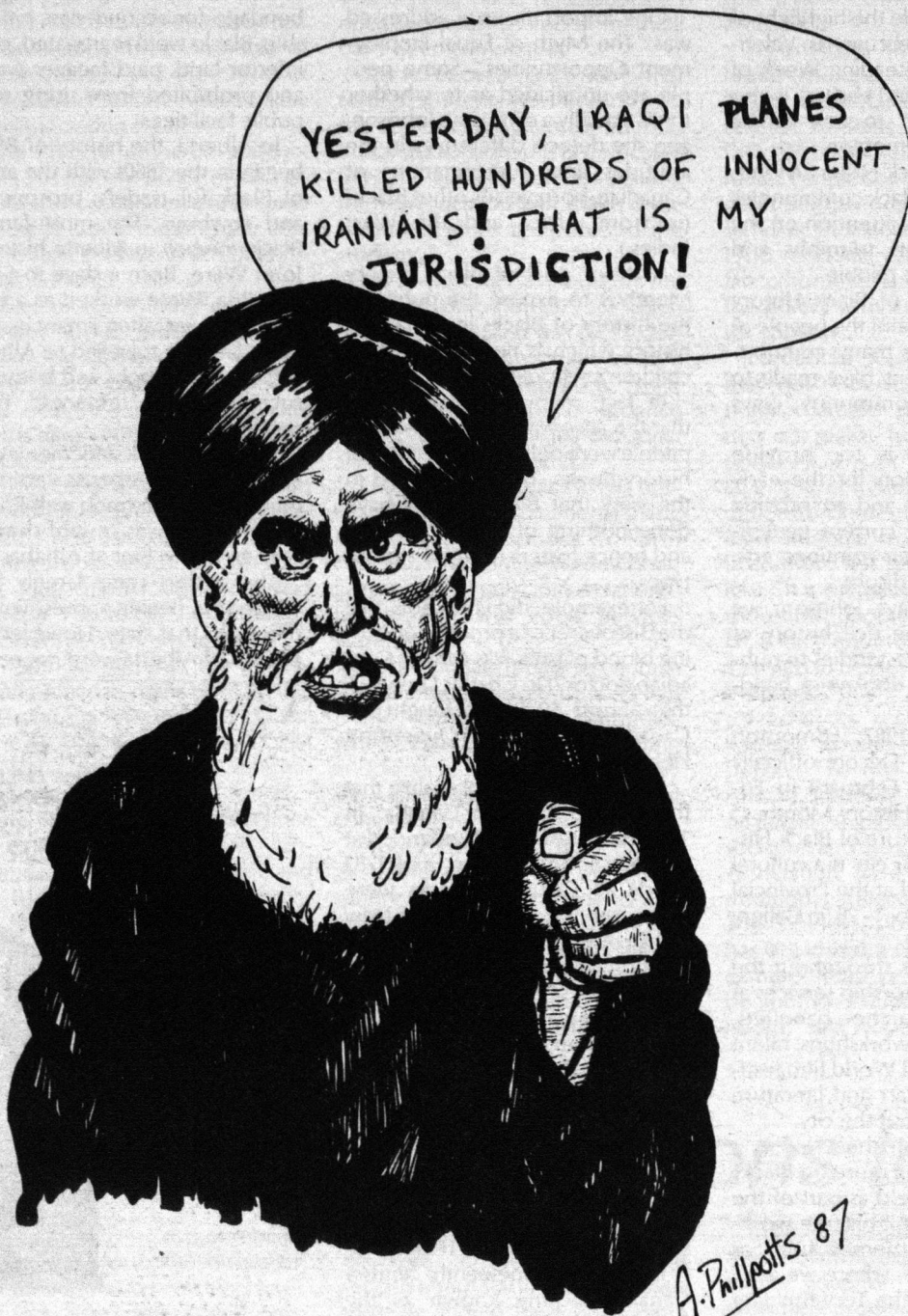
Mark Spector

The Gateway

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Letters...

Clarifying caribou case

To the Editor:

I would like to comment on the article by John Watson re: the wolf-caribou issue as it appeared February 5 in the Gateway.

The article in general reflects a fair philosophical perspective of mine; however, there are some minor errors which are less serious than the major omission. I did not stress this in my talk but want to go on record mentioning it here.

As a last resort I believe predator control may be necessary, in this case to save a population of a caribou sub-species. The sub-species is in need of all the help it can get. Predator control cannot be taken lightly or without a lot of thought and public debate. In Alberta, I believe that process is now underway. Species preservation is of utmost importance and wildlife management requires objective approaches in dealing with important issues. To say that we should, under no circumstances kill wolves — regardless of the consequences, is not an objective or logical course of action. It is also not my own position and the article seemed to suggest that it was.

Ludwig Carbyn

Requiem for a couch

To the Editor:

I just got back from a less-than-productive reading week and one burning question is foremost in my mind: what's happened to the couches in CAB?

A substantial number of those comfortable black-cushioned couches have mysteriously been replaced by some wooden benches, and I would like to know why. Although the couches were not the most attractive in the world (as many of the cushions were well worn), they were nonetheless a comfortable place to flop out between grueling classes.

Were these couches expensive to maintain? Was the cost of periodic cushion replacement prohibitive? Or did the CAB

building management feel that these couches were becoming unsightly to the extreme? I suspect that this may be the case.

If it is, I feel saddened at the necessity of such a move, where comfort is sacrificed for esthetic considerations.

It is important to me (and many others, I'm sure) that university be an atmospheric place to study, go to classes, and relax thereafter.

Anyone who discounts the importance of comfortable seating should spend 9 hours per week in V-wing. After doing so, they, too, would look for a comfortable place to rest.

What does this mean? It means that I will join the teeming throngs searching for couch space at lunchtime in SUB.

Alas, poor CAB couches.

I knew thee.

Don Filipchuk

A true Canadian hero

To the Editor:

A few days ago on my way back up to Edmonton from my hometown of Lethbridge, Alberta I had the opportunity to witness something absolutely wonderful! I had stopped by the side of the road with about twenty-five other people because I knew he was coming by and there on a lonely stretch of highway I watched as a courageous young man in a wheelchair rode by. And as he passed me I felt a warmth deep inside me, and a smile lit up my face — for I realized that what he was doing was something very, very special. And as I got back in the car I started thinking about what we could do at the U of A to help this "Man In Motion" achieve his dream. Just think of what we could raise here at the University if everybody donated just a single dollar to his cause. We're talking thousands of people donating one measly dollar each! That's not asking too much, is it? I mean, that's not even enough to buy you a beer at RAJT on Friday afternoons. Surely you could sacrifice a few cups of coffee one day to give to a truly amazing and dedicated man. (And for those of you who are really out-to-lunch on who I'm talking about I'll give you a hint! His first name starts with Rick and his last name ends with Hansen.)

I personally don't think that's too much to ask for. A man as dedicated and devoted as Rick Hansen is, doesn't cross

Letters to the Editor should not be more than 250 words in length. They must include your signature, faculty, year of program, I.D. number, and phone number. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the view of The Gateway.