

Editorial



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. Requests for anonymity are at the discretion of the Managing Editor, but the above information is required regardless. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

I just dropped a course.
Persevering sort, am I.

Actually, to my own defense, the reasons are justifiable enough to warrant the move, but everybody knows that nagging feeling that accompanies a 'W'. The feeling that you've given up, that somehow you didn't have what it took to complete that full course load. "You're a quitter," says a not so little voice from somewhere inside of you.

And that, folks, is my biggest problem today. Big bleeping deal.

Rick Hansen is coming to the end of his Man In Motion tour, and should be wheeling his way through this part of the country some time around spring. We all wail and complain about finals, term papers, and maybe not being able to go home at Christmas, while Rick Hansen shows the world that to realize any dream, all you have to do is want it bad enough.

Hansen, who has logged over 40,000 miles on his wheel chair, was paralyzed from the waist down when a truck that he was riding in rolled when he was 16. What he has accomplished since then boggles the mind. He shows us that there is one common denominator in all personal failure: the person. Whatever goals you shoot for are reachable, whatever heights you see are attainable.

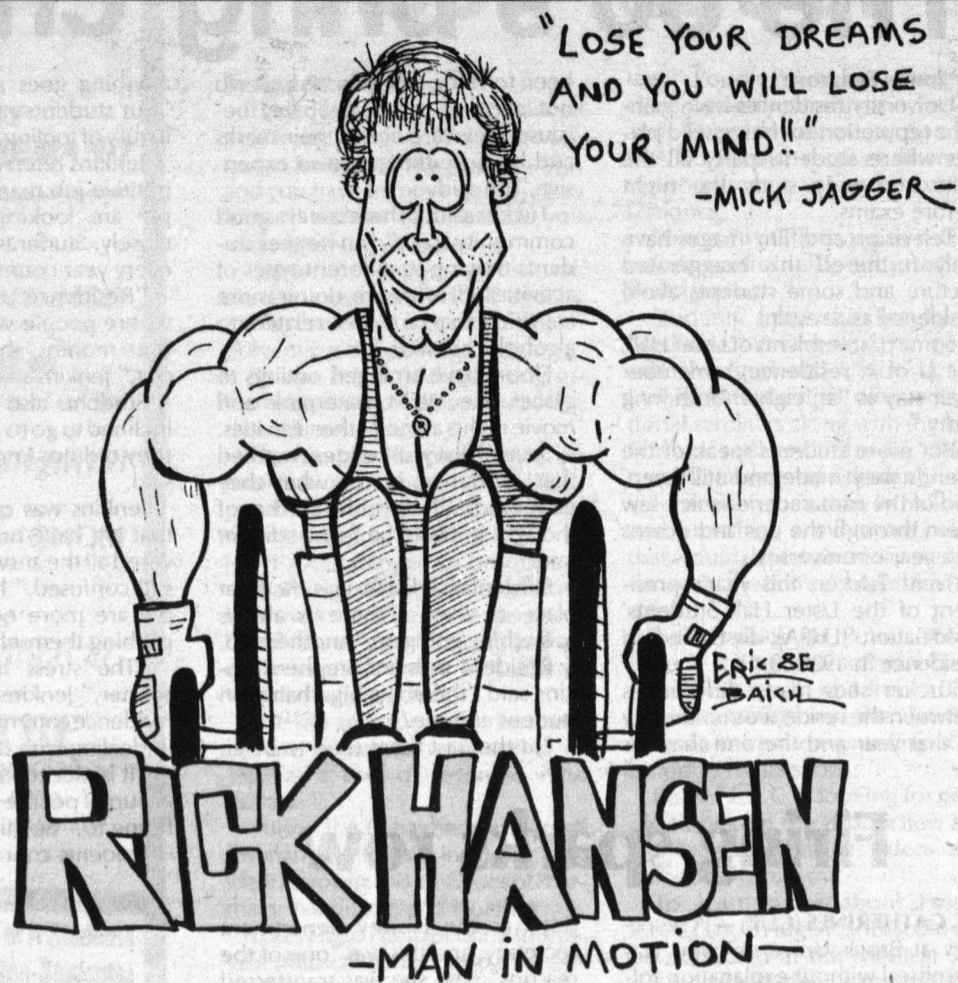
It's your attitude.

Maybe we should put things into perspective just a little bit. You're 16, a normal kid. All of a sudden you can no longer walk. In the blink of an eye, chances are that all of the dreams and hopes that you had as a youngster are washed away. Everyone cares, for a while. Then they go about living their own life and it's you and your family left to tough it out. But your family can get away from it for a while. Maybe your brother takes off from the house to go play hockey, or your mom hops in the car and goes for a workout. The time alone would drive me crazy, I'm sure.

But that wasn't the case for Hansen. And because of what he is doing, it may not be the case for others. He's not alone, though. I've often watched and marvelled as people in wheel chairs weave their way through HUB Mall, their eyes at coffee cup level, yet seemingly never losing their patience. I get mad, sometimes, at the people who block the way to hold their conversations in the midst of a class change.

So do others. But if everyone had just half of the perseverance, the positive attitude, the will, that Rick Hansen has, the word failure would be obsolete.

Mark Spector



RICK HANSEN

-MAN IN MOTION-

Letters



Half baked idea

To The Editor:

RE: John Baker's letter in Gateway, Nov. 18.

I seriously believed that Randal Smather's column (Oct. 30) was the pinnacle of stupidity. But I was wrong. Mr. Baker seems to sincerely believe he knows "what is happening" with unions, and the Gainer's dispute. Mr. Baker states that the Food Services is remaining neutral by continuing with Gainer's products. That is his only reasonable point. But Mr. Baker (conveniently?) neglects to realize, that it is the WORKER who is hurt by the purchasing of Gainer's products, not the "supporting of the union's position". John Baker blames "both the students and staff" for "not being objective". Assuming Baker is objective, he later states "there will be no more union jobs for me. I don't want them." I find that bias makes him a hypocrite.

John Baker's "past experience" with the AUPE "has shown" that the control is in a small group of people". If Mr. Baker actually has "past experience" with a union, he would realize his observation is undeniably wrong. The members have control of the union. Periodically a union meeting is held. This is standard with every union. At the meeting, issues and policies are brought up and voted on. For a hypothetical example, if only 50 (out of a possible 1200) members show up, those 50 votes will decide the outcome and direction of union policies. It is very possible that the majority of the fifty votes may not hold Baker's opinion or be representative of the 1200 voters. I am curious just how many times Mr. Baker bothered to show up for meetings? Or did he care? It is far easier for Baker to bitch about unions and collect his cheques than to take the time to find out the facts.

John Baker has a feeling that union members do not have a voice in negotiations. What does Baker propose for the Gainer's dispute? One table (one mile long, three feet wide) in a field with 1081 striking workers on one side, and Pocklington and his negotiators on the other side? John Baker must admit that every individual desire for every individual worker can not be brought into negotiations. I hope Baker will understand why. He also fails to realize that the Gainer's dispute is not all "lost wages". With the "lost wages" attitude, the dispute is far too complicated for John to understand. Fairness, decency, honesty, and principles are involved in the dispute. I can only assume money, apathy, and the "me attitude" can be understood by Baker. With Baker's inability to understand, it would be fruitless to correct his depiction of the criminal "mob" strikers.

"One final point to ponder" Mr. Baker: It is freedom of speech that allows people to voice their opinions. An opinion is neither right nor wrong. But the closest one can come

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to a "wrong" opinion is one which is seriously misinformed. If a person does not attempt to obtain facts before forming an opinion, how many people will respect it?

Jerry F.
Science I

\$50 Con artist

To The Editor:

Is Mike Spindloe joking? Bruce Springsteen the greatest live performer rock and roll has ever known? Doesn't anybody remember the Who "Live at Leeds". That album changed the course of rock history, opening the door for Led Zeppelin and every other hard rock band to follow. Springsteen in concert is merely a live reading of the same tired themes that dominate his music, namely: cars and girls. Anyone old enough to remember the 70's knows there's no comparison between the real king of live acts, the Who, and a \$50 album con artist like Bruce Springsteen.

Cam McCulloch
Arts III

Worse than death?

To The Editor:

I am simply amazed that Gordon Wright would champion the Varcona while letting Studio 82 — a similar structure — meet a fate worse than death.

I. Foord
HT Coultts Library

"I don't care" ...?

To The Editor:

I was shocked to read in the Gateway that several Council Reps. abstained from voting on a motion dealing with provincial government funding cutback for universities.

Presumably the abstainers have their own good reasons for not expressing themselves regarding this issue. I'd like to hear them.

My shock turned to outrage when I read that Science rep. Gary Semak said, "I don't care". Mr. Semak's comment reinforces some student's opinion that SU Council is a non-representative clique of political "hacks". I assure you, Mr. Semak, that although you may not care, many of the people that you purport to represent in the Science Faculty do care. Surely you do them a grave injustice in refusing to address the issue.

Mr. Semak does little for the credibility of SU Council, whose justification for not handling international issues is

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that such issues don't affect students directly. Now, with an issue that *does* affect students directly, Mr. Semak doesn't care.

I hope the Science students are as outraged about this as I am. \$43 — a year in SU fees entitle the Science students to better representation on Council than they are currently getting. Mr. Semak should resign. If he doesn't, I trust that there is a procedure for the removal of inadequate representatives; if there isn't, there should be. Such a move would necessarily have to come from the science students, not the other councillors.

At the very least, Mr. Semak owes the student body an apology preferably on the letters page of the Gateway. As well, he should apologize to the other SU Councillors, whose credibility has been seriously eroded.

To those who did take a stand, one way or the other, I commend you for trying to do your job. However, with irresponsible representation such as Mr. Semak's among your ranks, you must appreciate that your job (that of representing students) becomes much more difficult.

Martin Levenson
Arts II

We will suffer

To The Editor:

I thank you in advance for the opportunity to express a concern of mine that I hope is also one of all students.

Like U of A President M. Horowitz, it angers me to hear that the provincial government would consider up to a ten per cent cut in the education budget. I agree fully with him in that it would destroy the university, and disagree fully with Students' Councillors Ken Bosman and Martin Badke in their belief that "money does not equal quality of education."

Anyone who shares their sadly mistaken opinion needs to hear of examples of universities lacking funding, such as the two given in the Nov. 20 Gateway, McGill and UBC. As a former student of McGill, I have seen the effects of funding cuts myself.

When a university's budget decreases, for example, some of the first effects may be drops in staff's salary and research money. The latter is direct, and of course prevents the purchase of equipment and materials, resulting in (at worst) elimination of research programs, at once discouraging involvement with the university by present and prospective professors, research fellows, graduate students, and undergrads with foresight. Along with salary decreases, the results are soon obvious: these people, who are great assets, either choose not to come to or leave the university, in favor of another, or even leave the country.

I know that McGill and UBC are experiencing such undesirable, as well as a downfall in academic reputation, among other difficulties. Former Premiers R. Levesque and

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The Gateway

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Dear Mom,

How are you? I am fine. Greg Whiting, Eric Baich, J. Dylan, and Gordon Berry are driving me crazy, though. Last week Brad Johnson, Dianne Kenny, Kisa Mortenson, and I ganged up on them and tried to smother them with kisses, but Linda Atchison, Matt Hays, Alan Small, and Alex Shetsen put a stop to that mighty quick. It seems that Glenn St-Germain, Dragos Ruiu, and Tim Enger had already tried the kissie-kissie thing with those vermin, but to no avail. In the end Philip Preville, Cam White, and Lutful Kabir Khan settled for just a hand shake. So, we're all back on speaking terms again, but not for long — if I have my way. P.S. Send money.