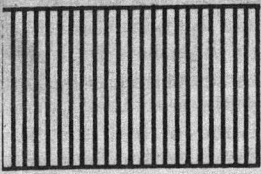


The problem with talking to politicians...



...is that it's in one year and out the other.  
Author unknown

# The Gateway

Thursday, September 11, 1986

## Plagiarism prohibitions

by Elaine Ostry

It's difficult to be original under pressure, and it's tedious to write pages of footnotes, but the cost of plagiarism is too great to be ignored. Especially now.

The General Faculty Council recently altered its definition of plagiarism in *The Code of Student Behaviour*. The definition now reads as follows: "No student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as his or her own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, research project or assignment in a course or program of study." (*The Code of Student Behaviour*, GFC S.43.3; effective June 23, 1986.) (See, it's easy.)

The previous definition stated that "intent to deceive" must be proved for the charges of plagiarism to be valid. This is an important distinction. No longer will a student be able to claim innocence from ignorance.

The change is a response to the increase in cases of plagiarism. Growing competition stimulates some students to plagiarize. Natalie Sharpe, the Student Adviser, urges students to realize that "you don't lose marks by quoting."

Because many cases of plagiarism are judged as the results of simple carelessness, penalties will be allotted according to the degree of the student's intent to plagiarize and his amount of scholastic experience. For instance, a graduate student would be punished much

more severely than any undergraduate student writing his first term paper.

The penalties are primarily dealt by the professor. They range from a mere reprimand, additional work or a grade reduction, to a failing grade on the paper, on the course itself, suspension or expulsion from the class. The severity of the charge relies on the discretion of the professor. If the student denies the charge, the Dean reviews the case. If the charges include suspension or expulsion, and the Dean approves of the charges, the Discipline Panel must review the case.

The student is allowed to defend himself before the Discipline Panel, but because of the exclusion of the "intent to deceive" clause, this task is much more difficult. The altered definition is very rigid, and how closely it is adhered to depends upon the professor's interpretation of the definition and his assessment of the student.

The professor therefore has the responsibility to read the new definition and present his interpretation to his classes, and smooth out any uncertainties. He should also demonstrate his models of footnotes and bibliography to avoid later misunderstandings. If one of his students plagiarizes, he should gain a perspective on the experience and the record of the student, and listen to the student's self-

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## Pitfalls of parking

by Emma Sadgrove

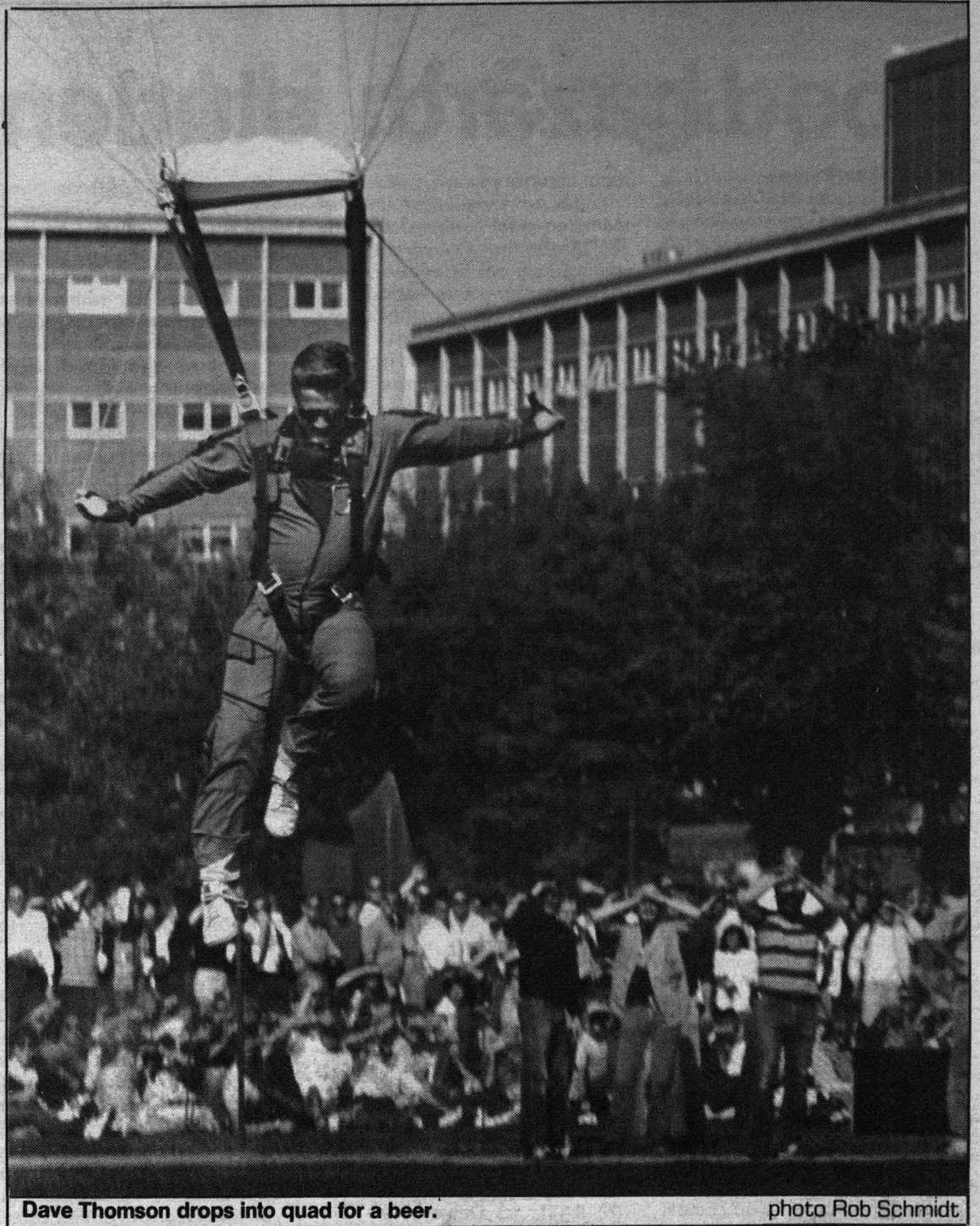
City police are not the only people out there looking for your vehicle. University Parking Services have also been having problems with people who bring vehicles without permits. They have been tagging vehicles, but starting Monday, offending vehicles will be towed away.

All permits have been sold out and Parking Services warns people not to try to sneak by — they will be caught.

A new system was implemented this year to avoid long

lineups. All successful applicants were sent temporary stickers for September. These must be changed for permits sometime during the month. Parking Services are aware that people are picking up their permits and then giving the temporary sticker to a friend. They especially warn these offenders that they will be towed away.

Permit holders are also advised to pick up the permits early. Otherwise, they will likely encounter long lineups at the end of the month.



Dave Thomson drops into quad for a beer.

photo Rob Schmidt

## Legal cost covered

by Randal Smathers

The Gateway has lost its liability insurance and could be held accountable in a libel suit.

The Students' Union was unable to buy liability insurance for the newspaper over the summer. "It is seen as a bad risk because the staff is technically inexperienced," said Tim Boston, SU Vice President of Finance and Administration. He also cited lack of SU or faculty control over the paper. *Gateway* Editor-in-Chief Dean Bennett agreed and added that ongoing litigation between former members of the SU executive and editors of the paper may also have been to blame.

Bennett pointed out that the newspaper is in a unique position because, although the Students' Union publishes and is therefore responsible for the *Gateway*, they have no editorial control. Boston concurred by saying, "We will be the ones sued because we are the only ones with enough money to pay." He added that it was important for the *Gateway* to act as a watchdog for the Students' Union.

Under a pending agreement with the paper, the SU would pay legal and settlement costs of a libel suit only under certain conditions. According to a letter on the subject from Bennett to Students' Union President Dave Oginski, if SU legal counsel felt it "in the best interests of the Students' Union and the *Gateway* to print a retraction", the editor-in-chief would either have to "print the retraction verbatim" or, on refusal, submit the matter to a third party lawyer for arbitration. Only if this second lawyer also recommends a retraction and is rebuffed by the editors and writer of the story in question will the SU refuse to cover legal costs. In this case, the editor-in-chief, story editor, and writer(s) could all be

personally liable

Bennett went on to point this support from the Students' Union executive is needed to prevent the paper becoming "nothing more than an advertising flyer." Bennett said discussions with other papers have shown that "sometimes on a

really good story, somebody threatens to sue to throw the paper off the story. If people thought we were personally liable, we would see a lot more libel suits." He also characterized discussions with the SU executive on the issue as "tough, but very fair."



Gateway Kapitan Bennett

photo Rob Schmidt

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