

Editorial

Suds in time...

If one could somehow collect all of the *fun* things about life as a university student, all of the moments when term papers and finals are the furthest things from a student's mind...

There is no doubt that the end product of such a collusion would be the Beer Gardens. What a perfect way to begin another, or perhaps your first, year of university. With each passing year as a student, I remind myself to enjoy the sights, the sounds, and the suds of a student's lifestyle with a little more attention than in previous years. Because with each passing semester, we all move closer to the inevitable: Graduation.

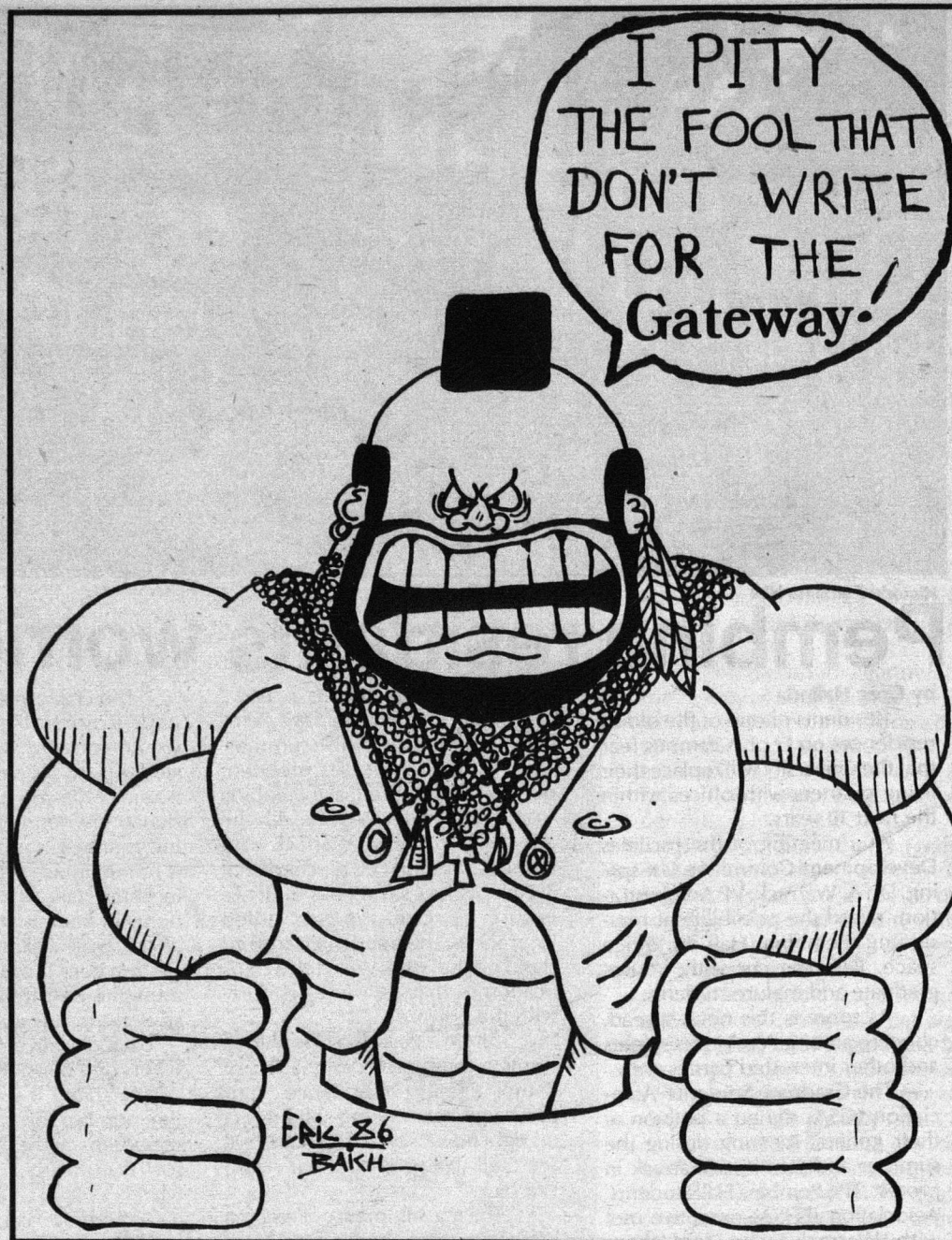
Approximately ten years ago, some incredibly alert Students' Union politico (possibly the last of a dying breed?) came up with the idea of the Beer Gardens. He was obviously a money maker, as it was continued again the following year, but what was presented at that time was merely the crude ancestor of what we are privileged to enjoy today. And don't kid yourself — the main reason that this festival is still running so smoothly is that it is "A very good fund raiser," according to the V.P. Internal, Barb Higgins.

And so, in 1980, the IFC (Inter-Fraternity Council) became part of the show, providing all the necessary staff and cleanup crews in exchange for a portion of the profits. And for the fraternity members, it is also a time to appreciate some of the intangibles that are pertinent only to one's college days. "This is a chance for all of the fraternities to work together with no rivalries involved," says ex-IFC president Rick Toogood. "You can sit with a Deke and talk without any competition involved." Until you've actually been a member of a fraternity, I'm sure you can not fully appreciate the meaning of such an opportunity.

Opportunity. That is the key word here. The Beer Gardens stand for much more than merely the swilling of alcohol; they represent a week long example of the times that will stay in your memory long after your student loan is paid off. The clubs and other such organizations are great, but you'll find no better place to meet new friends than the Gardens, I promise you. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy yourself before the reality of university sets in, before some tyrannical prof dictates to you how you must spend your weekend. If nothing else, go have a hot dog or two on the house, with the firm knowledge that it is the last thing that you'll get for gratis out of this university.

And if you don't drink, that's no excuse, because this year they're serving pop.

Mark Spector



Letters

Sri Lanka unite

Dear Editor,

The 155 Tamil refugees' saga has been in the headlines for more than a week. Meantime, so much has been said and so much has been written about Sri Lanka by "parachute" reporters as well as "well read" commentators.

It is tragic that innocent Tamil men, women, and children are getting massacred in Sri Lanka. Equally true is that innocent Sinhalese men, women, and children are being massacred. The causes given are varied, but the massacres are well-orchestrated to rid the Tamil-dominated areas of the Sinhalese and to spur a Sinhalese backlash that would result in an increased Tamil-Sinhalese animosity.

It is very encouraging, at least for the time being, that the Sri Lankan government and the moderate Tamil leaders are striving for a peaceful political settlement. However, it is disturbing that the terrorists/freedom fighters have vowed not to accept anything short of a separate state, especially since a great majority of both the Sinhalese and Tamils desire to live in harmony in a united Sri Lanka. Even the international community, including India (which has its own Tamil population nearly 20 times larger) opposes the separation of Sri Lanka. What is more frightening is the fact that the well-armed terrorists/freedom fighters are controlling the Northern Sri Lanka and their guns have more power than any agreement signed between the government and the moderate Tamils. In other words, until the terrorists/freedom fighters soften their stand for a separate state and join the peace talks with the government and the moderates for a political solution, any agreement signed between the moderates and the government will be useless. On the other hand, as long as there is a safe haven for the armed Tamil terrorists/freedom fighters in southern India, the terrorists/freedom fighters will control the Northern Sri Lanka.

According to observers, there are "genuine" refugees, both Sinhalese and Tamil, who have lost everything and have no place to go other than the refugee camps in Sri Lanka. There are innocent Tamil people who cross the Palk

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Strait to South India out of fear of torture and arrest. And some cross the strait to join the terrorist training camps in southern India. Also, there are terrorists/freedom fighters who cross the strait to evade arrest for armed robbery and murder (including massacres). And then there are people, although not directly affected, who try to use the sad situation in Sri Lanka as a reason to go to greener pastures, both Sinhalese (with little success we imagine) and Tamil.

Canada has a great reputation and a prestigious position in the international arena. We urge Canada to use that position to convince the Tamil terrorists/freedom fighters to join with the government and the Tamil moderates to reach a peaceful political solution for a united Sri Lanka so that all peace loving people will see an end to the senseless killings and massacres in that country. Also, this will automatically solve Canada's problem of thousands of refugees; "bogus" and "genuine".

Yours sincerely,
A.R.F. and L.S.

Get out now!

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to warn all first-year students about what they're getting into. Besides the financial drain, university causes loss of hair, loss of self-confidence, and sleepless nights. You will meet the world's worst professors who cannot write (on blackboards), speak (english) or communicate. And if you do finish, you will join the ranks of the unemployed. Take my advice — DON'T DO IT. Quit school today (you'll still get a full refund from the registrar).

Rusty Wigged
Arts XV

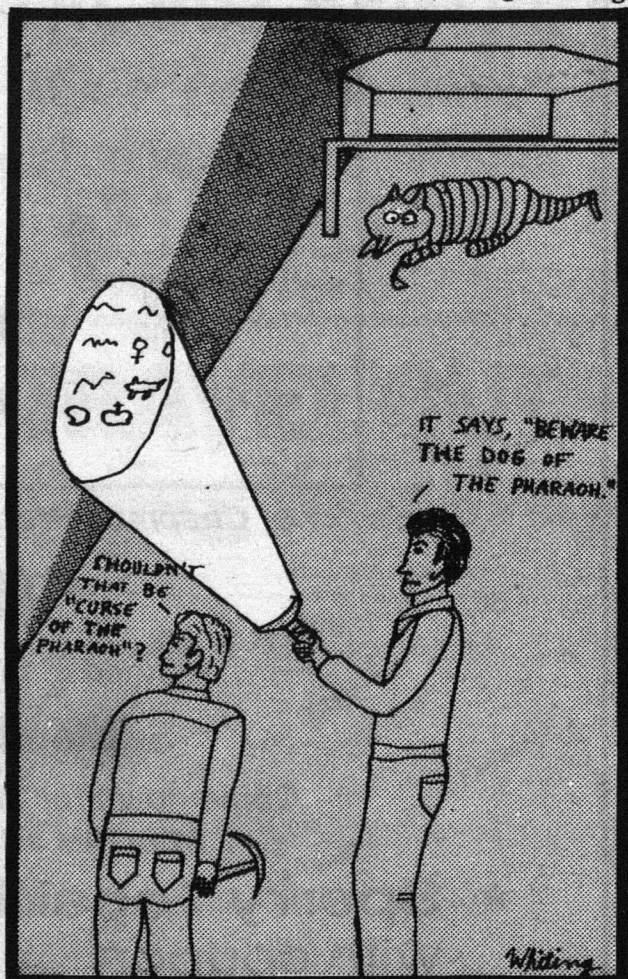
Falling "in love" is the only socially acceptable form of neurosis.

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Letters to the Editor should not be more than 250 words long. They must be signed and include faculty, year of program, phone number, and I.D. number. No anonymous letters will be published. All letters should be typed, double-spaced, or very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

The Round Corner

By Greg Whiting



The Gateway

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