

Gretzky's finest hour properly recognized

by Ajay Bhardwaj

On a rainy August afternoon Wayne Gretzky was traded by the Edmonton Oilers to the Los Angeles Kings. A great deal of bad feelings were exchanged between Gretzky and Oiler owner Peter Pocklington.

However, on Sunday evening, at Northlands Coliseum, as Gretzky approached Gordie Howe's all time point record, all was forgotten. No longer was Pocklington talking about Gretzky shedding "crocodile tears" and no longer was Gretzky talking about the Oiler organization "intimidating its players."

All the talk was of Gretzky breaking the record. After the game it was Pocklington who wandered over to congratulate Gretzky. Along with Pocklington was Oiler coach John Muckler.

When Gretzky broke Howe's record the game was stopped for ten minutes so that Gretzky could be honored. One would have thought that the National Hockey League would give him a gift (which it did). One would also have thought that the Los Angeles Kings would give him something too. However, after the Gretzky-Pocklington feud, I don't think that anybody thought that the Oilers would give Gretzky anything.

There it was. Plain as day. The Oilers presented Gretzky with a watch which Mark Messier (the Oiler captain) handed to Gretzky.

Maybe Pocklington just wanted to shed his bad-guy reputation. Maybe he wants to bury the hatchet. Maybe he didn't want to look bad when the Kings and the NHL gave gifts to Gretzky. In this case it just doesn't matter. Pocklington finally did what was right. He finally did something that Edmontonians understood and welcomed. He even showed a little bit of class.

I know. You're saying it's incumbent upon people (especially owners and teammates) to honor such achievements. After all, wasn't Walter Payton honored when he broke Jim Brown's career rushing totals? Wasn't Hank Aaron also honored when he eclipsed Babe Ruth's home run mark?

That's not the point. It isn't customary to have to appreciate someone when a record is broken. After all, the Buffalo Sabres didn't do anything for Gretzky when he passed Phil Esposito for most goals in a season.

The Oilers showed a great deal of class, especially since the delay likely caused the Oilers to slump. They proved that they were just as classy as a lot of people said.

Surprising? Yes.



LETTERS

Harrasment allegations misleading

I am responding to the letter in the Thursday, October 12 Gateway in which the Rutherford Library staff is accused of ignoring complaints of sexual harassment.

My library colleagues and I have checked into these accusations and found them without foundation. Our records show that in every case where these students have reported harassment, library staff have either called in Campus Security, or personally intervened against the alleged harasser, sometimes both. This was made clear to two of the signatories who met with me last Friday.

The Library is acutely aware that, in a large building open to the public, there can be a whole range of disturbing behaviour occurring. We are most concerned about the safety of our users, and it is for this reason that we employ staff who regularly patrol the building. We cannot, however, be on all 5 floors of Rutherford at the same time, and thus it is vitally important that students be our partners in maintaining a secure environment by immediately reporting disruptive or disturbing behaviour.

We are not a police force. We treat our users with courtesy and respect their civil liberties, but, given grounds, it is our policy to investigate and, if appropriate, call Campus Security. Often the "suspect" has left the building by the time we are contacted. Sometimes there has been a misunderstanding which we can resolve with a warning. We do our best, and, while we have guidelines, staff are sometimes forced to make judge-

ment calls. They are never indifferent to harassment. Consequently, it is unfair to allege that the library administration is "stubbornly quiescent" in the face of the kind of incidents that figure in *The Gateway* letter. The three students would have found this out if they had brought their concerns to me. In fact, after reading of their concerns in *The Gateway*, I took the initiative which resulted in a meeting with two of the complaining students, Campus Security, and the Director of the President's Advisory Committee on Sexual Harassment the following day.

Furthermore, Rutherford Library was an active participant in filming the University's sexual harassment video, and I am a member of the Sexual Harassment Committee. I have also been personally involved in apprehending an exhibitionist in the library and taking him to court. Library staff are themselves subjected to harassing behaviour, and thus we all have a stake in putting a stop to it.

There are a number of complex issues involved here which cannot be explained or resolved through the "Letters to the Editor" column. It is for this reason that I agreed to participate in an interview with *The Gateway* last Thursday. It is important that students know how to get assistance through appropriate channels if they are subjected to unwanted attention in the library or elsewhere, and I hope that the publicizing of these incidents, however distortedly, will accomplish this.

In conclusion, I would urge that in future *The Gateway* meet its civic obligations by verifying the validity of allegations contained in letters to the editor before printing items which can be so harmful to staff morale and professional reputations.

B.J. Busch
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Give a book to Save the Children

I am a pure-bred Newfoundland, and I should very much like you to know that I have been reading since I was four weeks old. Which is to say, newspaper was placed near the door of my friend's house, so I might know the obvious; the only dignified lavatory for the genus *canis* is out-of-doors. As you carry on your pursuit of knowledge — sevens, eights and nines — and etc., there are countless children who will benefit from your paper's assistance. In the fullest sense of the word "humility", I will inform you and your readers that the Newfoundland is famous for its kind and life preserving respect of children. Therefore, when I recently over-

heard that countless students are unaware of the Save the Children Fund book donation enterprise outside the Department of English, I was instinctively prompted to write to entreat your newspaper's ongoing intrinsic donation to needy children.

I should fully expect you will be able to find a negligible bit of space on a back page of your newspaper to advertise the location, etc. of the enterprise". The particulars of this "enterprise" can be had through ringing the Department of English, and thus speaking with any of the secretaries who may be available to answer a telephone.

Little Anny

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