

FROM THE EDITOR

We are constantly told by a cynical society that the age of heroes is long gone. We can see the world around us becoming more inhuman every day. In dealing with corporations and government agencies, we feel frustrated by their cold attitude. We sometimes feel that the age when a person mattered will never come again.

I don't see how anyone can believe that with the likes of Terry Fox among us.

Terry was the young, valiant Canadian runner who, after losing his right leg to cancer in 1977, trained to run across Canada on behalf of cancer research. He started his journey — the Marathon of Hope — on April 12, 1980, after symbolically dipping his artificial leg in the Atlantic Ocean, and covered 3339 miles along the Trans-Canada Highway before being hospitalized when the remaining cancer spread and laid him low with more than 2400 miles left to run. He died on June 28 at the age of 22 years, 11 months.

Terry was one of the most courageous, heroic and unassuming people of this century. He did not set out to grow to heroic proportions. When he learned he had cancer of the leg and that the limb would have to be amputated, he had the reaction anyone would have: depression. But by learning of the accomplishments of other amputees, specifically from an article on New York's Dick Traum in *Runner's World*, he saw a way to turn his loss into a gain for other people.

His run across Canada drew more publicity than he ever expected. His daily struggle against cancer was broadcast across Canada and people came out in increasing numbers to cheer him and to offer their support to his cause. By the time cancer stilled his brave heart, Terry had raised \$24 million for cancer research.

The achievements of Terry Fox more than personify the ideals of the runner and the philosophy that the runner cannot be separated from his run. Running a race



Terry Fox' trans-Canada attempt captured the hearts of millions.

against time and his own inevitable death, he gained nothing for himself beyond satisfaction. But in doing so, he inspired millions of people by turning a potential tragedy into a beautiful victory of the human spirit.

To think of Terry — or Dick Traum — while on a run is to make that run special, because when a run goes particularly well, or when it takes us through an especially beautiful stretch of road, there is a link to the purity in running that Terry personified. For in his hobbled stride, in his efforts to keep going, was a certain beauty of movement, the indomitable good left leg pulling along the phantom right leg. It was certainly biomechanically inefficient, but it was no hindrance to a young man who would not be slowed.

When Terry died, we did not really lose a runner who happened to rise above the rest because of overcoming a handicap; we gained the inspiration to go on when the workout or race gets tough, to pass along some of the enthusiasm we feel when we've experienced a good run, and to appreciate, in a new and better way, a life that we too often take for granted.

I think it goes without saying that Terry got his point across. Cancer can maim and kill, but just because it can does not mean that it can defeat us. Terry's Marathon of Hope should be kept alive in his honor. I would urge all runners who have been inspired by Terry's efforts and who have a sincere desire to see cancer eradicated, to send a donation, no matter how big or small, on Terry's behalf, to: Canadian Cancer Society, Terry Fox Memorial, 185 Bloor Street East, Toronto, Ontario M4W 3G5, Canada.

I'm sending my check. But just as important, I'm planning on dedicating my next race effort to a wonderful young man who confirmed to me that heroes and giants still walk tall on this earth.

—Bob Anderson

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