

## I think *Think* has to think

To the Editor:

The *Think* slate needs to do some thinking. They are advocating that instructors be required to use the same text for four years. I had no idea that the Students' Union had that kind of power over my education.

Instructors choose the best textbook available in any given year for their students. Textbooks change because they go out of print, become dated, are found unsuitable or because a better text becomes available.

Perhaps someone who thinks might suggest that students who find the cost of textbooks too high could discuss with the instructor whether a former edition of a text is still suitable or whether alternative references are available in the library.

Changing a textbook is work for the instructor too. Unless the instructor is the author, the only reason to change a text is for the good of the student.

The only consolation I have with such a ridiculous campaign suggestion is that it is not something the Students' Union can decide.

Suresh Mustapha

## S.U. answers *Think's* allegations

To the Editor:

Members of the *Think* slate have brought to my attention a concern that they and other students were misled by information contained in the final budgets projections that appeared in *The Gateway* on January 15, 1987. In turn, they have utilized some of the same information in their campaign literature. I hope this letter will clarify any misunderstanding that may have been created.

The budget stated that the Students' Union would show a \$9,275 subsidy for 1986/87. Mr. Boston's commentary stated that the \$9,275 was as deficit. The confusion seems to be that many students interpreted the information to mean the S.U. had lost their entire cash surplus from previous years and that they were showing a cash loss of \$9,275 this year. This is far from being true; in fact, the \$9,275 referred to by Mr. Boston in the budget presentation is a subsidy which would be funded from previous years surpluses if required. The budget subsidy is arrived at after allocating \$75,000 to building reserves and \$150,000 to risk management reserves. These reserve funds are actually cash surplus derived from business operating profits. These 1986-87 reserves, when added to accumulated reserves from previous years, will total a net cash surplus of approximately 1½ million dollars.

I apologize if any students thought the Students' Union was in any financial difficulty because of any information published by ourselves or others.

Tom Wright  
S.U. Business Manager

## How dare they...

To the Editor:

We are extremely disturbed that the Chief Returning Officer has allowed the *Think* slate to publish inaccurate and misleading information about RATT and Dewey's profits in their campaign material. Apparently this ruling was based on the fact that they had qualified the budget scenarios by saying they were using assumptions and projections.

Let's analyze some of these assumptions:

1. They have assumed that all capital improvements should be written off against profits in the year that they are completed. Normal business practice is to depreciate capital expenditures over five or 10 years; therefore, the most that should be charged against any one year is 20% of the expenditure. (i.e. Dewey's 1984/85 - \$91,864 - maximum depreciation should be \$18,372. RATT 1985/86 - \$50,455 - should be \$10,091/yr.)

2. They have assumed that RATT should pay rent — at this time rent would be paid to the Students' Union, thus taking it from their left pocket and putting it into their right. They have also increased rent from \$52,186 to \$93,270 in two years. Why not increase rent to \$200,000 and show a loss of \$110,000 or more if all they are trying to do is make a point?

3. They have assumed that private enterprise will purchase these businesses and pay the Students' Union these outrageous rents. They have not told students that the Board of Governors control the liquor license for these outlets and would not likely allow the licenses to be transferred to private enterprise. How would you like to pay \$93,000 per year for RATT and not be able to sell liquor?

4. They have promised the cheapest beer prices in the city. How can they guarantee this if they lease the bars?

The reality is that both bars are showing substantial profits

— Real Profits — audited by an independent accounting firm chosen by Floyd Hodgins in 1984. They are as follows:

Dewey's  
1984/85 - \$68,108  
1985/86 - \$64,106  
1986/87 - \$77,274 (projected as of March 1/87)

RATT  
1984/85 - \$89,152  
1985/86 - \$90,264  
1986/87 - \$140,000 (projected as of March 1/87)

We have an assumption of our own — we assume that the members of the *Think* slate who prepared these fictitious budgets are merely incompetent when it comes to accounting and not totally irresponsible as some people might believe.

Don Moore, Manager  
RATT  
Greg Holmes, Manager  
Dewey's

## Words to my possible successor

To the Editor:

As the current VP Internal, I admit to a fairly extensive insight into what the position actually entails. I also realize the limitations of the position — one of them being that the VP Internal has no jurisdiction over other buildings on campus to freely plan, for example, a weekend music festival in the Butterdome. It is unlikely this particular campaign promise will ever happen: a) because of the university administration policy against Rock concerts in the pavilion; b) because of the extensive use by the recreational programs and intercollegiate sports events; and c) because of the possible damage it would do to the \$1 million floor.

To say the least, I am rather perturbed that Danny Beauchamp has not adequately researched his promises.

He promises to enclose the SUB courtyard. Great idea. Actually, it was mine. *Why can't it be done?* The Students' Union has a Master Lease agreement with the university administration for SUB. According to the agreement, additional retail space (ie. food outlets) and expansions on the building must be mutually agreed upon. (Why would the university agree to more food outlets to compete with their own Subway?) Even if the university did agree, the most reasonable mind will realize that neither the university nor the government is in a position to financially contribute to the \$2 million (or more) project. How could we justify expanding the building when the university has to close services, cutback and layoff staff?

He promises a quiet room in SUB. It's been tried and has failed miserably. Therefore the space was put to better use and currently houses the Exam Registry and Typing Services.

He promises to put another door on the bus shelters. The university's concerns about more doors on bus shelters are that they will hinder the disabled students from using them.

He promises an art gallery in SUB. We had one only a few years ago that wasn't used. Do you really want to compete with the one currently being set up in Fine Arts?

He promises to bring in one of: Dr. Helen Caldicott (who we've already done), Abbie Hoffman (who at Floyd's insistence a few years ago was brought in to a raging crowd of seven), Pierre Trudeau (who does not do any public speaking anymore, period), Jesse Jackson (who costs \$35,000 US, plus security, etc. etc. which equals a ticket price of over \$20.00 — this may not be financially responsible) or Richard Nixon (who is not only over-priced, but also over-rated). Who wants to see a political has-been? This year we've tried to offer a variety of speakers on a variety of topics and we have received a great response. Why narrow the field to political figures and issues?

Most importantly, the clubs. He promises to encourage the formation of clubs. Rick Stedman has done a great job as Clubs Commissioner, increasing the campus clubs from 142 to 187.

To Danny Beauchamp I say THINK ABOUT MAKING PROMISES YOU CAN KEEP AND RESEARCHING YOUR IDEAS THOROUGHLY.

Yours truly  
Barb Higgin

## U of A indulges in political censorship?

To the Editor:

Re: *Think* slate forced to edit pamphlets

Is political censorship rearing its ugly head on the U of A campus? As far as I can determine from this article, the only thing the *Think* slate has done to warrant the banning of their literature is to suggest a different interpretation of the

Students' Union accounting than that of the present Students' Union. If the other candidates, or the Students' Union themselves, disagree with this interpretation they can let us know without the help of the Chief Returning Officer. An election cannot be considered democratic if the literature of one group of candidates is banned because a single person (in this case Shelley Chapelski) disagrees with it. How much power is in the hands of the person holding this (supposedly neutral) office?

Whether you agree with what the *Think* slate has to say or not is secondary, what is important is that political censorship has no place in a modern democratic society.

Markus Eymann

## Boston not the only one

To the Editor:

Re: D. Gratton Assistance 87: Think before you speak

It seems that Mr. Boston should not be singled out for not knowing where he was last year. If Mr. Gratton and the Gateway were to examine Dave Oginski's literature he would also find some stupidity.

Under the section in his letter entitled "Accountable", Mr. Oginski appears to be employed by your paper. It is that or maybe the Gateway is on his slate for BOG. "He will also submit written reports to campus media on what he has done," sure sounds like you are going to be his boss and he will be a reporter.

"He will watch the Administration and will find out what the end results really mean for the students." I might suppose that is what he was doing on the Board last year, "Watching the Administration", as we got book price increases, labelled guilty with the Plagiarism vote, and saw food prices rise for students. Reading campaign literature is becoming great sport on campus and I suggest Mr. Gratton keep up the fair work. There is more than one person on campus who has forgotten about where they were last year. Let's be fair to all.

A. Bargh

## So why are you running?

To the Editor:

It seems ironic to run for office in an organization that you do not think is important enough to campus life to require that we all contribute to it. I'd like the President of the Students' Union to be a little more committed than that.

When we graduate are we going to vote for the president of our professional organizations or our unions on the basis that they will allow us to opt out and thereby dilute its strength? Sounds like solidarity at its best!

I'd rather pay.

Leslie Shields

## I'm voting Yamadachoomie

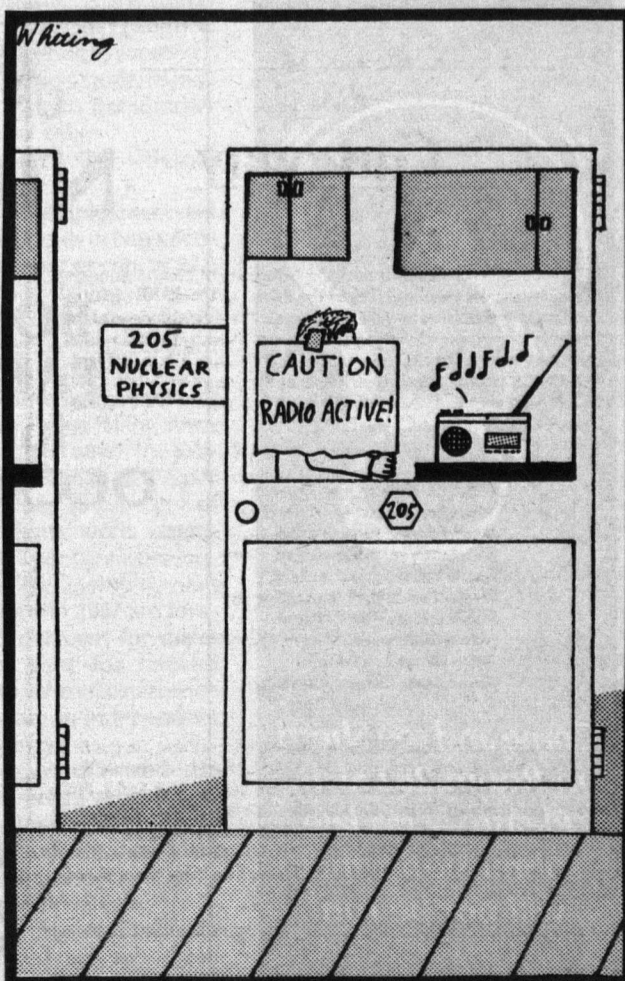
To the Editor:

Well, it's that time of year again. The time when certain student politicians don their rose coloured glasses and smoke the green green weed of home. This would seem to be the only means by which university educated individuals could make such ludicrous and unrealistic statements in an election, and expect the student body to consider them as viable candidates. I am, of course, referring to that 'brilliant' — yes BRILLIANT — idea of encapsulating the SUB courtyard in a dome. Hell, why stop there? Why not cover the entire university in a giant dome (I am sure Buckminster

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The Round Corner

By Greg Whiting



**TECHNOMAN**  
The cast and crew of **Technoman** would like to congratulate former Gateway managing editor **Kathleen Beechnor** on the birth of her new baby boy,  
**Colin Liam**  
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