

Randal Smathers



SU in wonderland

Dare I quote Lewis Carroll in discussing this year's SU elections, or am I at risk in comparing our campus politicians to Tweedledum and Tweedledee? Ah, what the heck... I'm obviously not the only person who had a hard time deciding between D '89 and the Rep Slate, judging by the margins of victory.

The biggest spread in the executive elections was about seven percent — more like a mud pie falling over than a landslide. Considering it was David Tupper who got the biggest mandate, it was like no margin at all. In a race for name recognition — which any election lacking issues is — the incumbent is the clear favorite.

Tupper, the closest thing to an incumbent in the presidential race, was a 2-3 favorite in my book, with Mike Evans a 2-1 underdog, and Karen Hudson a 5-1 longshot. That's just the way they finished — except that even Hudson, running a low-budget campaign with no slate, finished as close as she did.

Wade Deisman managed to inherit Tupper's external post with about 3.5 percent of the votes cast for his position: hardly a ringing endorsement for the highest profile slot on the SU. Deisman and Tupper, coming from different slates, could have some conflicts that will be worth watching. They should iron out their differences, however, SU politics being the massive incestuous Ozark clan-bang that they are.

Vps Peter Chu and Suresh Mustapha received similarly small endorsements, proving that not only did most students fail to see much difference between them and their opponents, but that most students have no clue what makes a good vp finance or vp academic. Fortunately for both men, these jobs attract no public scrutiny whatsoever unless the officeholder screws the unscrewable pooch, so they'll have peace while they learn their jobs.

Steve Twible has a mammoth nine percent mandate to do whatever voodoo he do so — apparently — well. That is assuming, of course, that he got votes for doing

a good job, and not just for having a well-recognized face. Hell, the whole campus must know the standing joke about his name by now: "What's the trouble with Twible?" Ha ha. Speaking of which, his name is actually pronounced Tweyble, and not Twibble.

All of which brings us around to the vp internal, Melinda D'Souza... or is that Aruna Bang? In the closest thing to a Mexican standoff this campus has ever seen, Aruna D'Souza and Melinda Bang finished with Bang the winner by a vote. Naturally, this caused a recount, which should be done by the time you read this, but which was far from done when this was written.

Who wins the Bang/D'Souza clash hardly matters. What matters is that the voters expressed the opinion that their choice was no choice at all. Maybe the women could just take turns, or Bang could hold the job in months with an "R" in the name, or something.

Despite the fat (for SU elections) turnout of 25 percent, the voters had a hell of a time deciding anything. I turn inevitably to the total lack of issues for the answer, and to Carroll:

Tweedledee and Tweedledum agreed to have a battle/ For Tweedledum, said Tweedledee, had spoiled his nice new rattle.

Opinion

Convictions admirable

Re: Beliefs unproven (Feb. 28)

I am intrigued by the flurry of letters written in response to John Price's letter "beliefs unproven." After an intense look at this letter, I have found myself agreeing with much of what he stated, especially in regards to "narrow-mindedness." Consider then Mr. Price, that when you admit to being ignorant concerning a subject, then refute that same subject, the term "narrow-mindedness" comes to mind.

Unlike the others who have thus far responded to your letter, I am not an avid "God-fearer." I am not Christian, not Moslem, but I have considered both sides to the Christianity issue. Unlike Karen Richardson, a hard-line Christian who responded to your letter on March 2nd, I do not feel that my decision regarding Christianity is the most important one of my life. But, for some it is. Unlike Cam Balzer, these people cannot list all sorts of scientific

evidence (most of which can be countered) for His existence, but they believe anyway.

They do this out of Faith, or Hope. For the sinner, Faith is the supposed power of confession. For the destitute, Hope is that there is an eternal justice. For the dying, Hope is that there is life after death. And the list goes on. I, for reasons of logic perhaps, do not subscribe to their beliefs and may never, and more's the pity. I will have to live with my guilt, and when the time comes for me to pass on, what will I have to look forward to? Should these, the people of strong conviction, be termed "narrow-minded"?

Perhaps, but when all the cards are on the table and all the points counted, I am willing to wager that through their hope and faith, they will have lived a happier, fuller life than both you and I. This spiritual aspect is what religion is, and should remain, about. I ask you, should this be denied them for even 10 days?

Alain Desgagne
Arts II

"Jesus was immoral"

Re: Letter illogical, Proof of Christ claimed, and abandoning religion no solution

Have these people not heard that God is dead?

This undisciplined gush of Christian apologetics does about as much for Jesus Christ as the Ayatollah and his fanatical, book-burning cohorts are doing for Mohammad. Indeed, in all three letters, the respective apologist talks about "facts." What facts? Karen Richardson has looked at the "facts" for and against Christianity. Cam Balzer painfully attempts to demonstrate that evolutionary theory is no more plausible than Christianity. And Jeffery Schneider earnestly asks naive readers to examine the traditional, long-ago refuted, proofs of God's existence.

There is no more reason to suppose God exists than there is to believe a billboard stands on Pluto reading, "Jesus smoked pot." Both are highly implausible, although at least we know the second alternative could in principle be verified had we the technology. As it stands now, there is no evidence for either claim. Pardon me, but I'm skeptical of both.

Balzer says evolution is not an irrefutable fact because it is a mere "theory." What else could it be? Theories are *explanations* of natural phenomena and always will be so. No additional "fact" will change this. Theories are not "immature laws." Moreover, evolution could never be open to the same criterion of justification as Christianity because Christianity cannot be scientifically justified and therefore no criterion could possibly apply. Natural organisms are empirical. God is not. Bad analogy, Cam.

And what is a philosophical proof of God's existence? Remember Michael (Christian) Horner's debate in which he attempted to show that accepting Jesus Christ as a personal saviour logically followed from the second law of thermodynamics?

But let's face it. Even if every "fact" in the world pointed away from Christianity and its accompanied set of myths, not one Christian would jump ship. Behind the historical/scientific smoke-screen, only faith remains. Faith means, by the way, "belief at any

cost." Cost? Well, yes... truth, knowledge, integrity, morality.

There are no good reasons for accepting Christianity. Sorry, but the Gospels and the cosmological argument do not a factual basis make. Additionally, even if they did, I would still believe that Jesus was immoral. Sin? Hell? Fear-mongering! Yet if you believe that subservience to an empirically unverifiable, omnimalevolent, disembodied fear-monger is the key to a meaningful life, then I can only hope for the second coming... of Nietzsche!

Jonathan Wiseman
Arts III

HUB inaccessible

With all of the renovations and improvements made in HUB mall, there is one very important thing which was neglected: wheelchair accessibility. The seating in the new establishments, Cinnabons and A & W are inaccessible with the exception of only two tables which are usually occupied. Also, other establishments such as the

Bottleneck restaurant, Varsity Drugs, La Pasta, the Gallery Lounge, Academy Pizza, and the Laundramat are not wheelchair accessible in varying degrees. (The Bottleneck restaurant is not wheelchair accessible AT ALL!) This problem limits the freedom and independence of disabled students. I particularly have a problem with the recent locations not being wheelchair accessible. I wonder why the renovations and improvements do not include more consideration for disabled students. What is more important, new tile and paint or making HUB mall a place that all can enjoy? Perhaps the seating on the floor level should be given priority to disabled students. This would be a convenient solution that would not cause much extra cost or effort on the part of the University or the stores. I hope that this is a suggestion that the HUB mall administration will consider implementing.

Laurie Slipchuk
Arts II
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Arts II

The Gateway

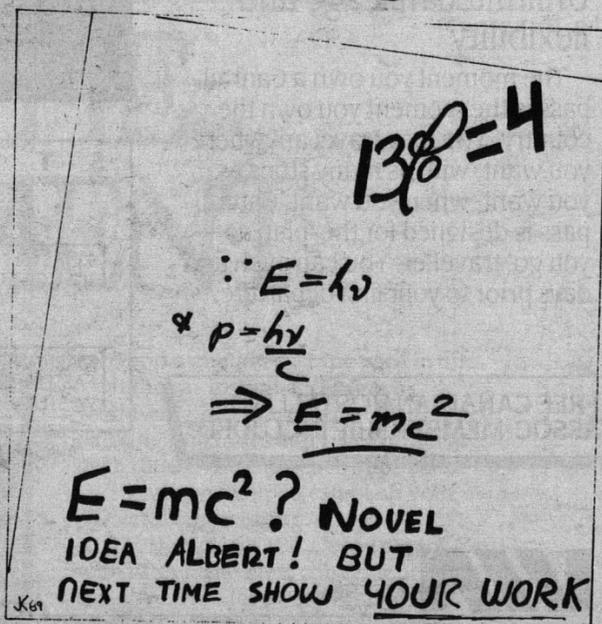
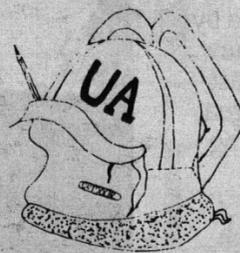
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