

Dragos Ruiu

Student Times' Crimes



"Take me to DIE board Big Boy."

That was the prophetic headline on the *Student Times* that was pulled off the stands.

The SU pulled the papers because, as a club publication, it falls under the club rules instead of the newspaper rules which govern *The Gateway*. So technically, it was within SU power to do so. They could not have done this had this been *The Gateway*.

Past editors of *The Gateway* have sometimes abused this privilege - even leading to libel lawsuits in some cases. *The Gateway* has previously endorsed candidates, a practice some of us might find unprofessional, even distasteful, but sometimes carried out by the media.

What the *Student Times* appeal to DIE board entailed is that they wish to be granted the same privileges as *The Gateway*. In hindsight, they shouldn't have sought funding as a club, but now the question remains on whether they deserve the privileges of the press.

And if they do, why don't all the other club's publications on campus deserve to be able to make stands on the election? If you recall, one candidate was thrown out of the election because the Ski Club newsletter endorsed him.

Further to that, if the SU decides to let the *Student Times* publish, what good are the limits on campaign spending if a candidate can get a third party to foot the expenses of his politicking? Ideally the SU would like to control the printing and publication of campaign materials, but they want to do this without censorship.

Further complicating the matter is the fact that all of the principals of the *Student Times* have had long standing involvements in SU politics. If they were just a newspaper, the issue would be less clouded. But the bottom line is that though their coverage is less than perfect, the *Student Times* is perceived as a newspaper and solicited funding as a newspaper.

Though the simplest solution would have been for the *Student Times* to be more prudent, the issue here is free speech. And the SU has already made the decision to fund another newspaper. They should be prepared to live with those consequences, and think carefully when funding a newspaper or selecting an Editor-in-Chief for *The Gateway*.

The Gateway

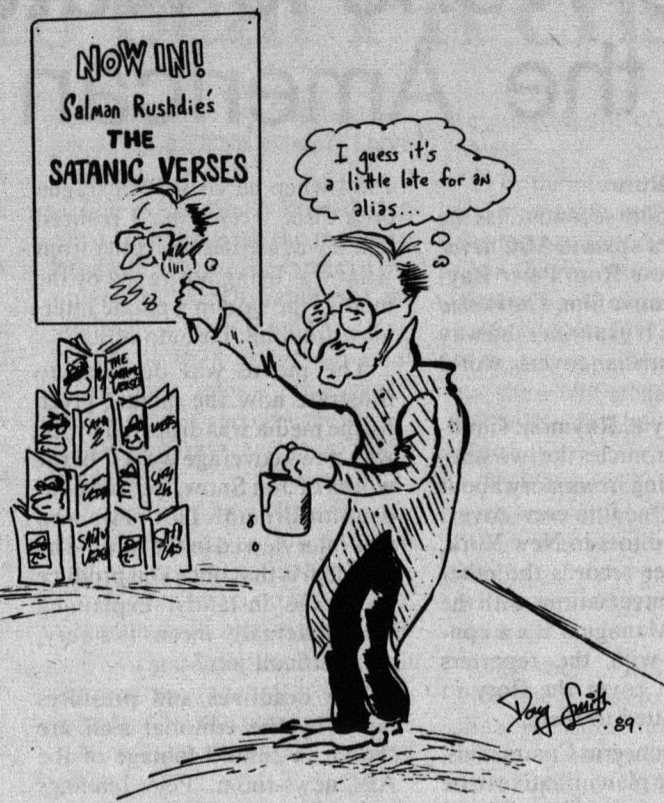
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Letters

Star Trek missed

Re: SU candidates prepare for election (Feb. 28)

Next year I will be in B.C., so the upcoming election doesn't hold the importance to me that it usually does.

This morning I spent the time, and now I wonder why I did, to review the candidates in *The Gateway*. As I skimmed from face to competent face, absorbing names, slates and qualifications, I felt that there must have been a page missing or a candidate who failed to show for pictures. After all, there were only two slates and two independents! Where have the Star Trek and Yamadechoomes of old gone? How can anybody even care about an election without a group like Star Trek to boost publicity? Admittedly, the candidates do look competent, which is all well and good for those people really serious about this, but for those faceless masses out there who will watch this election drift by indifferently, I can't get involved if I'm not interested in it. I will vote, of course, but not with any enthusiasm. Watching the two slates dig up dirt on each other will almost be enough to spark my interest, as the lies and slander that those slates will provoke becomes apparent. But I'll go pale and shake violently when I've discovered, after all the verbal disemboweling and fun is over, that some boring slate wins an unimaginative unanimous victory, and the independents are cast aside for their crime of originality.

Captain Kirk, were you are you when we really need you?

Gabino Vidal Travassos
 Arts III

Letter illogical

Re: Beliefs unproven (Feb. 28)

At the risk of incurring another flood of religious debate, I would like to comment on the letter submitted by John Price earlier this week. While I disagree with the general essence of his letter, I do agree wholeheartedly with the statement he puts forth against narrowmindedness:

"Narrowmindedness exists because the people who hold... beliefs refuse to test and thus in some way validate

them." And, "the type of action that is necessary for an openminded approach to an idea... is they must consider and view the alternative, not simply dismiss it at the wink of an eye."

Mr. Price, I agree. Not scrutinizing their own ideas is what makes religious people with strong convictions narrowminded.

However, Mr. Price, you would do well to apply your own logic to yourself. You stated that "I am not well versed in any of the world's religions..." yet your atheistic choice is as strong a conviction to you as to anyone whom you consider fanatically religious. Mr. Price — YOU HAVEN'T LOOKED AT THE OPTIONS EITHER!

Now I am a Christian — not in blind belief — but, having looked at the facts for and against it, I believe Christianity to be supported by the evidence more than any other alternative. I have made my choice.

The majority of those reading this letter will not have. I encourage you who fit this category: check out the evidence for both sides.

Base your life upon probability, not possibility. You may not realize this yet, but this is THE most important decision of your life, so make an informed one. If you decide not to choose, you've already made a choice.

Karen Richardson
 Arts I

Proof for Christ claimed

Re: Beliefs unproven (Feb. 28)

As a science student, Mr. Price is no doubt well-versed on the theory of evolution. Being a theory, and not irrefutable fact, evolution is open to the same criterion of justification that Mr. Price proposes religion undergo. So, Mr. Price, do you believe that all budding scientists like you should for ten years, devote their energy to examining the validity of alternate explanations for the origins of life?

Mr. Price's response will no doubt be that there are certain facts which lend credence to the theory and make it the best scientific alternative. Not being "well versed in any of the world's religions," Mr. Price may not be aware that beliefs based on the

Bible are supported by the historically verifiable events (such as the destruction of the walls around the city of Jericho) recorded in it. The most important of these occurrences is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The four New Testament Gospels and The Book of Acts report this event as historical fact, and were written only a few years after it happened. They are open to the same scrutiny as any other historical document.

Because of philosophical biases, some people refuse to accept the evidence for Jesus' resurrection. Any scientist who did such a thing with scientific evidence would be irresponsible. Here is your factual basis, Mr. Price. Basing your own beliefs about Christianity on opinion and "current views" alone is folly. I encourage you to investigate the claims I have made as seriously as you would those of any specific claim. I, and all responsible Christians, will respect any choice you make after carefully reflecting on these historical facts.

Cam Balzer
 Arts III

Campaign on issues

Well it's election time again and the concerned members of campus are now showing their stuff. Frankly, I'd rather not see it.

It irks me to see our future university leaders running around taking their opponents' campaign pamphlets off tables in the library and throwing them away.

Sitting in the library, I thought it strange that a girl be cleaning the campaign pamphlets of one of the slates off the tables and placing them in the garbage. Five minutes later I saw the same girl talking with members of the other slate at their table in HUB. I suggested they campaign more fairly and they denied the activity, further suggesting it was their opponents who were playing dirty.

Campaign on issues, not with dirty fight techniques like throwing the opponents' pamphlets away.

Ken Johnston
 Business IV