

"You'd be surprised.  
They're all individual  
countries."

# The Gateway

— Ronald Reagan after  
a trip to Latin America

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## "Satanic" text toasted

by Kevin Law

A lone copy of a controversial new book was set alight in the bookstore at the University of Toronto.

A smoldering copy of Salman Rushdie's novel *The Satanic Verses* was discovered in an alcove of the bookstore on November 17, according to Ian Jack, news editor of the University of Toronto newspaper *The Varsity*.

The book in question has been targeted for what some have called its unflattering portrait of the Muslim prophet Mohammed. The book has been banned in India and South Africa.

U of T bookstore employee Nicholas Pashley first realized something was amiss when he smelled something burning. "Two or three of my colleagues and I started sniffing around," he said. "There was a smell of butane in the air."

Besides the one copy of *The Satanic Verses*, two other books that were under it and an adjoining book shelf were damaged. The book itself, however, was not destroyed.

Pashley noted that "you have to get to Fahrenheit 451 to really get a book burning."

U of T police said they have no suspects.

Pashley, the bookstore's fiction buyer, doesn't understand the mentality of bookburners.

"If people are going to burn books," he said, "I wish at least they'd buy them first."



Rob Galbraith

### Drunk Claus crashes

...No Virginia, Kris Kringle didn't really buy the big one. Actually, Business student Daryl Lange and Arts student Linda Yee set up Santa's mock death in room 302 of the Business Building as part of the Entrepreneur's Club campaign against drinking and driving. One wonders what happened to the reindeer...

## Computer virus vaccine

by Caroline Sin

What do you get when you mix Peter Johnston, a computer, and a nasty set of viruses?

The answer is *The Computer Virus Crisis*, a new and comprehensive book about computer viruses written by U of A senior systems analyst Peter Johnston.

This response to "a boom of public interest in computing viruses" is an attempt to alleviate the confusion and concern about viruses by replacing common ignorance and exaggerated sensationalism with straightforward, simple facts.

According to Johnston, "There is a lack of honest, useful information about computer viruses... People do not understand viruses and are afraid of them for that reason." He hopes that the book will be useful in educating the general public and hopes it will help people to "keep things in proper perspective", because the truth is, less than 1% of computer problems are caused by computer viruses. He believes that much current information is greatly distorted and the risks exaggerated.

"Of course there is always some risk, but then it can also be risky

look at the situation realistically."

The book overcomes the problem of exaggerations and distortions that arises when professional writers instead of computer analysts do the writing. Johnston's book presents a thorough discussion of the subject of computer viruses.

Although viruses seem to be a recent phenomena, they have actually been around as long as computers have been. Simply put, a virus is a set of instructions which is hidden within a normal program. When this program is run on the computer, the virus is automatically run with it. The virus is spread by sharing infected disks.

It's like that "Wella Balsam" shampoo commercial. You lend your infected program to two friends, who in turn lend their infected programs to their two friends, and so on and so on, and so on...

The book explains what exactly a virus is, how it is spread, and includes a breakdown of the currently known viruses. It covers everything from bare basics to legal repercussions and remedies.

COMPUTER — p 3

## Food policy diced

by Jeff Cowley

Protests against the cost of living at the University could be a thing of the past if the University administration approves a change in policy governing the budget for the department of housing and foods, said Students' Union representatives.

The amendment, supported by University vice-president administration Allan Warrack, means students will have more say in the way the budgetary pie is carved up for the department. The change goes before the Board of Governors for final approval Friday.

Aruna D'Souza, Students' Union housing and transport commissioner, cheered the amendment.

"I think it's a great opportunity for students to become involved in the decision making process in terms of the budget of housing and foods, and what services will be provided to students in the future," she said.

The changes will give students more representation in the department, said Warrack.

"Basically the amendment means that the budget housing and foods will be passed each year by the administrator, instead of operating on a break-even budget," said Warrack. "Whether it is a break-even budget will be decided on a year to year basis."

Before the changes, housing and foods was classified as an ancillary, or "peripheral," department. Like the University bookstore, parking, and U of A libraries, housing and foods was locked into a specific "break-even" budget, drawn up by department officials and University administrators.

Answering a call to "break even," housing and food administrators boosted the prices of food in University cafeterias earlier this year in order to put the department on the positive side of a troubled budget.

The price jumps led to a series of protests, including a post card petition where U of A residents literally stuffed the mailbox of University president Myer Horowitz.

Under the new policy, the housing and food budget would have to be passed by planning and priorities commission, the General Faculties Council, and the Board of Governors. Student representation on all three levels ensures greater student input, said D'Souza.

However, administrators are uncertain about the effect of the policy.

"I don't think it changes things very much," said Horowitz, saying that nothing substantive will come from the agreement.

While the administration still controls housing and foods' budget, the amendment will allow students and University officials to draw up "custom made budgets on a year to year basis" depending on the economy, said D'Souza.

It will also make the administration more accountable, she said. "It doesn't mean that housing and foods will have to change, but at least if they decide not to take any of our proposals we will be able to see the reasons behind those decisions."

"Then amendment is also symbolic. No longer are students being lumped together in the same category with parking lots and utilities."



Rob Galbraith

Housing and transport commissioner Aruna D'Souza in Lister cafeteria, holding the proposal passed by GFC Monday. The Students' Union is hoping the amendment will end quibbling between housing and foods services and students.

### INSIDE

#### Sports

Bears to play HOT Manitoba Bisons in hockey. p 12.

#### Entertainment

Kent Staines brings his one woman show back to Edmonton. p 6

#### Comics

OH NO! It's the return of Belle Curve: The Student From Hell. p 15

#### News

Next year you'll have to be older to get into the U of A p 3