

"Cure" unproven

Re: Christians share cure

Galyne Howard put forth a very interesting argument supporting some Christians' approach to other students on campus; yet, many people may have been grossly misled by her unjustifiable comparison. She attempted to equate a cure for cancer with a cure for "the deadliest disease to ever attack mankind — the disease of sin". If Howard had taken the time to think about her line of reasoning, she would not have made such a blatant fallacy.

When a person discovers a compound believed to eradicate malignant tumors, extensive tests must be performed to assess this drug's effectiveness. Eventually, after such empirical studies, one might be able to conclude for a certainty that such a compound can cure cancer. However, there can be no basis for anyone emphatically claiming that a "pill" can cure the spirit from sin. Now, I would like to ask Howard a couple of simple questions: what proof can you offer readers that Christ is that cure; and why do you assume that this is the only cure for sin? The answer to the first question is obviously "none" since it is a matter of spirituality that cannot be quantified empirically. (The second question is more difficult for us to answer since it likewise hinges upon the aforementioned matters of one's faith.)

Howard goes further to quote the Bible and to claim "the most important decision you will ever make is whether you choose to accept Jesus and serve God with your whole life or whether you... live your life without Him." This comment reiterates the narrow-minded assumption that Christians have *the* (not "a") cure for humanity's ills. I personally believe in God and trust Him wholeheartedly to lead me along the straight path; but, I do not believe that Jesus is that Guide. In Islam, Jesus was the Messiah and a most righteous prophet — nothing more

and nothing less: "They do blaspheme who say: 'God is Christ the son of Mary'...." (Qur'an: S, V, 75) Interestingly, according to a newspaper survey, more than half of England's Anglican bishops say Christians are *not* obliged to believe that Jesus was God. How then can we believe Christians possess *the* cure when they cannot even agree as to the fundamental principles of their "wonder drug" (faith)?

Now, we can discuss varying philosophies all we like — and I certainly do not discourage the circulation of one's views — but I must protest when one emphatically declares "we have the cure!" Howard has no concrete evidence to support such claims, and therefore people sense a patronizing arrogance on her part (and from the likes of Ward Antoniuk). She does nonetheless put forth a poignant suggestion at the close of her letter: we should engage in intellectually challenging discussions and readings before we choose our paths in life. Let us only hope that Howard follows up on her own advice and attempts to learn and comprehend what Islam, Buddhism, and/or other world religions have to offer mankind.

Ahmed Hussein
Medicine I

Ranting disappointing

Re: Christians share cure (Oct. 25)

Attitude "masturbatory" (Nov. 1)

Your recent ranting involving Galyne, Peter and others I find both disappointing and amazing.

My disappointment is in Peter's response in which he allowed anger to dispense with reason and fact. His own self gratification through the exchange is quite evident. Do I dare ask Peter to continue the debate. If he does, he may discover some of his own questions... unanswered.

My amazement is in the responses Galyne is receiving. Why do we in Western society find it

repugnant when someone believes something specific. For some reason, Galyne, we despise people like you who will stand up and say "I believe this!", and then live accordingly. Why do Peter and his side find you weak for taking a stand? Dare I say to you "Do not be ashamed..."

Gord Fletcher
Chaplain

Illiteracy shocking

I have a question directed at people in the field of Education. I would, however, appreciate a response from anyone who can come up with an explanation for the following.

One evening I offered to type up a story that my 11-year-old brother had written for his creative writing class. Now, when reading a piece of writing written by a grade 6 student, one expects to find the odd spelling mistake, grammatical error, or misuse of punctuation. What I got was the shock of my life.

Yes, there was the odd spelling mistake, and a few commas had been left out or misplaced, but this was not what shocked me. Questions did not have question marks. Sentences were strung together with commas. Sentence fragments were common. There was no rhyme or reason to the placement or content of paragraphs. I am not talking about complicated English format, such as the proper structure of a dialogue, but the components of a basic English sentence, and a basic English paragraph. I hoped he had just been sloppy and asked him if he knew what made up a sentence. He did not know. As a result, he did not know what made up a paragraph either. When asked what his teacher said about mistakes such as these, he responded with one word: nothing.

I'm sorry, but I have a problem with that. I know that my English grammar and that of my friends was better than that when we were in grade 6. My brother is in the French immersion program,

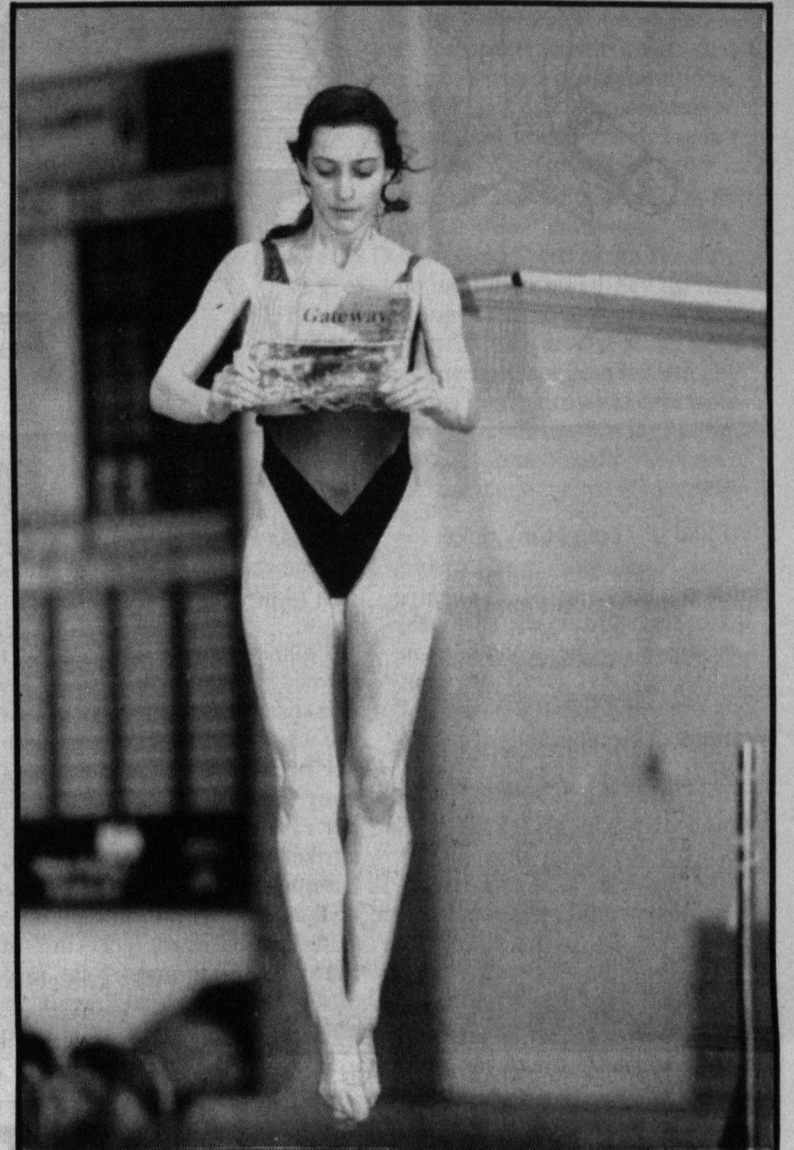
and we have been told that he could be a good "B" student if he applied himself. I do not consider this to be a problem that is related to whether or not one applies oneself.

People keep telling me that "schools do things differently now." Well, maybe so, but I still cannot understand how something

this serious can go unnoticed. Have standards changed? Or emphasis, perhaps?

I would appreciate a response from anyone who can come up with a reasonable answer, and perhaps, some suggestions as to how I can help my brother.

Jocelyn Rogers
Political Science II



Want to get involved?
Dive right in at *The Gateway*
Volunteers always welcome.
Room 282 SUB
Remember the party — see page 16!

INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

There is more to the University than textbooks...

BUILDING SERVICES BOARD

- requires 2 student-at-large members

The Building Services Board:

- Makes recommendations to Students' Council concerning building policies in the Students' Union Building (SUB)

- Makes policy recommendations to Students' Council concerning services offered by the Students' Union

- Approves allocating of space in the Students' Union Building according to building policy

- Considers applications for Dinwoodie cabarets

Contact: Wendy Olson

ADMINISTRATION BOARD

- requires 1 (one) student-at-large member

The Administration Board:

- Considers recommendations concerning the Students' Union budgets and applications for non-budgeted expenses

- Considers applications for financial assistance from all faculty associations and Students' Union Registered Clubs

- Aids in financial policy making with respect to Dewey's, RATT, L'Express, SUB Theatre, Games, and other areas of the Students' Union.

Contact: Chris Welsh

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BOARD

- requires 1 (one) student-at-large member

The External Affairs Board:

- Creates and coordinates projects on campus concerning various issues of interest and concern

- Makes recommendations to Students' Council on political issues

Contact: Dave Tupper

BYLAWS & CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

- requires 1 (one) student-at-large member

The Bylaws Committee:

- Drafts new Bylaws and amends existing Bylaws and Constitution

- Makes recommendations to Students' Council concerning Constitution amendments

Contact: Paul LaGrange



TERM OF OFFICE: CURRENT TO 30 APRIL 1989

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: Wednesday, 16 November, 4:30 p.m.

For Applications and Information, contact the Students' Union Executive Offices, Room 259, Students' Union Building (SUB), 432-4236.