

E ditorials / Letters to the Editor

T H E S W O R D

The Satanic Verses

by Greg Mattson

When B. Dalton and Waldenbooks decided not to distribute Salmon Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses*, theoretically, the first amendment condemned them both.

Ex-Nixonite and New York Times columnist William Safire urged a general boycott of these bookstores in favor of those independent bookstores who chose to sell Rushdie's explosive novel.

Economically, B. Dalton and Waldenbooks have many incentives to distribute the

novel, considering its popularity in the United States. The feelings of the Moslems around the world and the Ayatollah's death sentence on Rushdie have made this novel an object of curiosity for many.

Nevertheless, choosing not to sell the novel was both reasonable and wise. It was the store's decision to either accept or reject the novel. It has that right under our constitution. I don't believe that there is any clause in that amendment which forces booksellers to distribute any magazine or book that

happens to come along. I don't recall hearing much outcry when Waldenbooks stopped selling *The Soldier of Fortune* magazine.

Another reason for not selling the novel is many bookstores have a certain percentage of their patrons who are of the Muslim religion. Why should the stores offend their customers for the sake of some newspaper journalists?

The final argument for the decision made by B. Dalton and Waldenbooks is the most voiced by all chains of business: public safety. Former pop singer and now

devout Muslim Cat Stevens has recently stated that the Koran dictates death for anyone who blasphemes Mohammed. His statements have recently drawn the wrath of some radio stations, who have refused to play his music and have even burned his records.

Why haven't Safire and his friends rushed to the defense of Stevens' first-amendment rights? It isn't a far-fetched idea to think that some of the violence in the the Middle East might also come here to stop the "blasphemy."

Concordia Speaks :

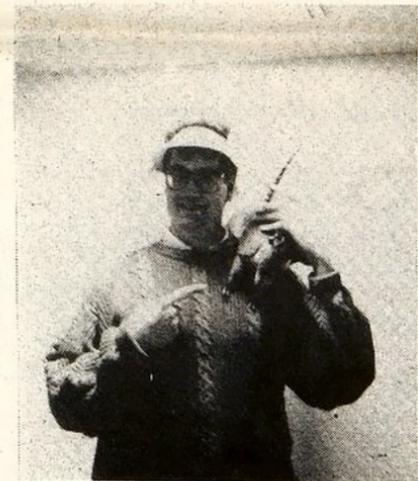
What is the most interesting entree you've ever eaten at ARA and why?



-Tom Nelson: "The lasagna the other night!; It had two hard layers followed by one soft and two hard layers, the fork didn't go in!"



-Krista Adler: "They put celery in everything!; They just use it as a filler"



-Dave Meyr: "Macaroni and Cheese; it was flavorless and bland (Todd didn't like it either)"



-Vikki Schumacher: "Monte Christo Sandwich; I can always feel it coming back up!"



-John Glock: "Spaghetti; the noodles are soggy, the sauce is bland, and meatballless. The texture is wormy and watery (vote for John Glock)."



-Alyssa Chase: "Vegetable Stew; It's either too runny or too clumpy."