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## City mayoral candidates spar

Ryan, David, Drazen address river walk, budget

BY ERIC REINAGEL • EREINAGE@GANNETT.COM • OCTOBER 28, 2009, 10:46 PM

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BINGHAMTON -- It says something when you can work the words "saucy sailors" into a mayoral debate, and that's just what Independence candidate Douglas Walter Drazen did Wednesday night.

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The two-hour debate, held in city council chambers and sponsored by The League of Women Voters of Broome and Tioga Counties, featured many questions that led incumbent Democratic Mayor Matthew T. Ryan, Republican challenger Rich David and Drazen to lean on campaign talking points.

But in response to a question about further developing the river walk, Drazen set himself apart.

Unlike the other candidates who heralded the river as an [asset](#), Drazen said it would be nice if engineers could find a way to make sure the river walk is not under water. He went on to say that the river was never navigable water, there were never "saucy sailors" docking on its banks and "you can't invent a history that wasn't there."

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Likewise, Ryan set himself apart when talking about the Court Street roundabout. Both Drazen and David oppose the project, which will be funded mostly with federal dollars, but Ryan said he stakes his reputation on the roundabout.

"At the end of the day, this might be called the Matt Ryan Roundabout," he said, getting laughter from some in the audience of more than 100 people.

Although Drazen and Ryan were critical of contenders -- in particular, Ryan said David's idea

to cut 13 administrative positions in the budget wouldn't have made a dent -- David seemed to have the most pointed remarks that produced reactions.

David used his closing statement to say Ryan doesn't know what it's like to operate a business in a city that is constantly raising [taxes](#) and rates. He told people if they are happy with the city's direction to "stay the course" and support the current administration.

David also criticized Drazen's ideas of drilling for [natural gas](#) in the city and "shaming" nonprofits.

Earlier in the debate, David said nuns working for nonprofits don't deserve to be shamed into making [financial](#) contributions to the city as Drazen would do.

Drazen said sarcastically, "I'm against nuns and for kicking people in the stomach and pushing them into snowbanks."

He continued that he just wants nonprofits to pay their fair [share](#).

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**MrPozitive** wrote:

Replying to WordWarriorNY:

*"David said nuns working for nonprofits don't deserve to be shamed into making financial contributions to the city as Drazen would do."*

*The hypocrisy of Douglas Walter Drazen is astounding.*

*He is a man whose own father defaulted on tens of thousands of dollars in taxes owed Binghamton & lost the family building but Douglas Walter Drazen won't even own up to that fact.*

*Drazen, who claims to be a "family man" distances himself from his own father.*

*Drazen wants to shame others into paying taxes & fees they legally are not bound to pay but has no comments on his own family that didn't pay their taxes.*

**SHAME!**

*Furthermore, Dr, Drazen who says he is above backroom deals himself tried to negotiate a backroom deal with City Council to avoid paying the full amount owed on his family's building.*

*Drazen's backroom deal was turned down & since that time Doug Drazen has been out to attack Binghamton's mayors & city council.*

*That explains his irrational desire to be mayor.*

[QUOTE]

[/QUOTE]

You, Mr Arzouian are a filthy, no-good liar. Drazen never tried to initiate a back room deal or special or preferential treatment. That is the province of your employers, the Kradjians.

Secondly...there are no nuns delivering babies or any other healthcare at Lourdes Hospital...Lourdes Hospital isn't a charity, it's a big business that receives MILLIONS of dollars in taxpayer money. Try walking out of there without paying your bill and you'll find out just how "charitable" they are. They can well afford to pay something toward the police and fire protection they receive from the taxpayers.

Many long-standing businesses and buildings (like the Drazen Building) have been lost to a crushing high tax burden...like the 93 percent tax increase heaped on residents over the last ten years by Bucci, David and Ryan.

The shame belongs to those who raised the taxes and their lying, dirtbag apologists (like you), not to those who couldn't afford to pay them.

10/30/2009 1:16:05 PM

[Recommend](#)[New Post](#)[Reply to this Post](#)[Report Abuse](#)**WordWarriorNY** wrote:

"David said nuns working for nonprofits don't deserve to be shamed into making financial contributions to the city as Drazen would do."

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