

EDITORIAL

The Small Picture

by Kurt Hildebrand

editor

I was given an assignment a while back which was to write about what really made civilization and what distinguishes it from its predecessor.

At the time I rattled off the three main things which appeared in the book, that is the use of metal, the art of writing, and the concentration of people in urban areas, in other words, I tossed off the assignment.

But, I was thinking, thinking about what made civilization different from any other way of living. The main point I found which differed from living in tribes and such, is the rule of law.

When human society recognized the rule of law,

then and only then could it claim to be civilized.

I don't even think that writing is necessary, I don't think you need people to live in cities or be able to forge metal or any of that other jazz.

All people need to be civilized is the rule of law as opposed to the rule of men.

The story of King Arthur is an example. Yeah, sure, it's a love story, it's a morality play, it's about knightly love, but most important in my mind, it is about the rule of law.

For when Guinevere was caught with Lancelot, Arthur had to find a champion for the accused queen, and it could not be himself.

Instead of backsliding into the rule of men, Arthur said the rule of law must

be adhered to.

This is the kind of story I like.

The unfortunate thing about these times is that the rule of law is doubted. There is always someone who wants to violate the law in some way for their own purposes.

Take, for example the current government. President Reagan failed to uphold the rule of law concerning the matter of Oliver North; Congress failed to uphold the rule of law in dealing with him; the rule of law disintegrated.

In New York Bernhard Goetz got away with murder, or very nearly so, because people had lost their faith in the rule of law.

They felt that Goetz was justified because the police were not strong enough, or the courts were not harsh enough or

that life was not fair enough.

In our own CSUN, the Executive Board is currently in violation of the law.

There is an individual who is receiving both an hourly wage and a fee waiver from the same account in direct violation of their own law.

This would not be so bad if they were not aware of it. But they are.

This is a prime example of a lack of respect for the law. Not only by the few individuals who have very little choice in the matter but by the leadership in society.

People wonder why the crime rates are so high when the very leadership of the country is setting the example.

People wonder why more can't be done about crime when the very people who are to enforce the

law are constantly undermining it for their own purposes.

I believe I might have an answer. It might be too simple, too easy, require too much patience, but here it is.

Next time you are watching the television news, and you here about some heinous crime which has been committed, don't react with "they ought to hang that guy," or "I hope they shoot the bastard."

Don't convict someone automatically, without trial or evidence; wait and see, have patience.

For without patience, the rule of law fails; without patience the rules go by the wayside; without patience there is no law. Without patience there is barbarism.

And that way madness lies.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor may be dropped off anytime between noon and 5pm at the The Yellin' Rebel offices on the third floor of the Moyer Student Union, Monday through Friday. All letters must include the name of the author. No letters will be run anonymously; no names will be withheld. The opinions expressed are not

necessarily those of The Yellin' Rebel or CSUN.

Saturday Night

Dear Editor:

I am embarrassed. Ever since Saturday Night Live broadcast their lampoon on UNLV, I've been reluctant to admit that I attend UNLV.

My reluctance is not due to ridicule from SNL; it is due to the juvenile reaction some of my peers have had to the SNL broadcast.

For close to six months CSUN, Kirk Hendrick, and their group of well-intentioned supporters have tried to rally UNLV students to retaliate against SNL. Perhaps

after six months of being ignored, CSUN, etc. will give up. I doubt they will, but one can always hope.

I think perhaps these individuals have been looking at this issue from the wrong perspective. UNLV is only recently gaining a national reputation. Part of this reputation is due to the excellent performance of our athletic department.

UNLV cannot expect to immediately be received as an academically superior institution.

We have to prove it. I think we can.

We will not demonstrate our academic standards by attempting to remove SNL from the air. That move is fruitless and shows a lack of maturity on behalf of our peers.

We should be saying to ourselves, "Look, we received national exposure. More people know our name than ever before. Now, we have an opportunity to show them how wrong they were."

By showing we can maturely handle criticism, we demonstrate not only how good a university we are but also how little we esteem the opinion of Saturday Night Live.

If CSUN, Kirk Hendrick, and company want to improve the image of UNLV they can concentrate their efforts in better areas, right here on campus.

If they want issues to deal with, we have enough
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