

# OPINION/EDITORIAL

## The Small Picture

by kurt hildebrand

editor

I have often wondered how someone would go about sitting down and writing a television editorial.

For myself, I think I would start with the simplest concept imaginable. For instance, "This sucks." Then I would go on to say who, what, and why this sucks.

This is fine, this is Editorial Writing 101, Complaining, Whining and Moaning made simple.

This is not a television editorial.

You see, television editorials are like good news, bad news jokes, only they reverse the order, so you are always left with the good news in mind.

Example of a good

news, bad news joke: "We have an old dog that we love very much."

"That's Nice."  
"He's Dead."

Example of a television news editorial.

"UNLV's ranking in balancing its athletic and academic programs suck."

"But, Dr. Maxson certainly dresses nice."

On Oct. 6 and 7, KTNV Channel 13 aired an editorial concerning the status of academics vs. athletics at UNLV.

The editorial was

delivered by the Vice President and General Manager, Jim Behling.

In it, Mr. Behling praised UNLV for the foundation of the engineering program and for its continuing growth. Then he said that the quality of education at UNLV was ranked only adequate, though improving.

In the second half of the two-part editorial (kind of a mini-series and a docudrama put together) he said UNLV was ranked 201 out of 208 colleges and universities in how

well it balances athletic and academic priorities.

Then the man goes on to talk about one of Tark's recruits.

It seems the man missed a couple of classes and the media found out about it (good thing channel 13 doesn't hang around the newspaper; we would see editorials about how Dr. Barbara Cloud was stressing journalism before academics).

A few days after this major news story about an athlete's attendance broke, the athlete left

UNLV.

Then there is the question (a question is always easier than a statement; it is harder to interpret the editorialist's stand).

"Was this a case of University President Bob Maxson stepping into the picture and saying: 'No more academic embarrassments, Tark?' We hope so."

He ends the editorial with another sunshine ending, saying that this is another sign of progress at UNLV.

Isn't it special.

## Guest Editorial

by seamus brennan

staff writer

Vietnam is enjoying a surge of popularity these days. An abundance of books, movies and, now, even a television series guarantee it is a subject that is, once again, in the public eye.

This is good. After a period of silence, time needed to heal deep wounds and allow the passage of years to aid objectivity, there are questions which must be asked and, however painful,

answered.

A recent edition of "60 Minutes" featured a story on a course at the University of California, Santa Barbara, dealing with the Vietnam War—unique because it invited Vietnam veterans to speak on their perspectives of that conflict.

Last week, armed with Sony's latest, smallest, lightest, mini-cassette recorder, I prowled the campus with a list of questions and conducted an extremely informal poll among fellow students to

see if there was any interest in a class of this type being offered at UNLV and to try and gain some general insight into their attitudes on the subject.

I should first report that the the questions were generally met with massive indifference. The prevailing attitude was well characterized by one student's response: "We made a mistake, the war was costly. We lost. I read the book, saw the movie, watched the TV show, got bored, went to bed. Amen. Let's forget it."

It seems the impact of

the violence and the graphic presentation of the realities of our foreign policy on the lives of a people is causing an emotional reaction similar to that of witnessing a violent and fatal car wreck. We see the torn bodies. They are dead. Bury them. It is enough.

It is not enough, according to Dr. Len Zane, physics professor at UNLV and a reasonable man. Interviewed (trapped) while feeding his infant daughter, Dr. Zane has allowed me to paraphrase his comments (primarily because I need-

ed both hands to keep his daughter's attention while he fed her). It is not enough to know that the war was wrong. There is truth in the statement that those who do not recognize the cause and nature of their errors will be forced to repeat them.

We must understand how, what sequence of steps and what mind-set led to this tragedy. Towards that end, a class of the sort described could be very effective in making the effects of a misguided foreign policy immediate and real to students not familiar with the subject.

It is frightening to see the harm a well-intentioned people can cause. The United States is a powerful country, the instruments with which we attempt to help are blunt, not precise. If we are to be a light in this world we need to gain much skill in our use of them

Even in our sleep  
Pain that we cannot forget  
Falls drop by drop upon  
the heart  
Until in our own despair  
against our will  
Comes wisdom

Aeschylus

## Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

You continue to amaze me. You are a fine writer and the paper looks great. but you editorial on Friday about the Executive board and Senate Agenda's was

shallow and not well researched.

The issue of a dead week does not affect a handful of students, but each and every one of us. Anyone who has had a regular test on Friday and two finals on Monday would say that a dead-week is a big issue.

For the broader question of why Kirk and I changed our agendas, I offer this. Not one Senator has ever been to a Faculty Senate meeting. Every aspect of university policy passes through the Faculty Senate or one of its committees. The CSUN Senate should at least know who the Faculty Senators are and where they are coming from.

Why is this a Senate Meeting? Student government needs to show its solidarity and the dead-week issue is a good start. By showing our solidarity student government will have a better bargaining position for issues like the book buy back policy and a true dead-week where no classes meet.

Most Senators understand this and are going to attend. The agendas give Kirk and me some enforcement power over Senators and Executive Board members. Believe me; we need to show solidarity on common student issues, otherwise, very little will be accomplished to meet student needs.

Thank You,  
Steve Evenson  
Senate President

P.S. Furthermore, there are not three agendas out, only one. I am not going to remove a senator for not attending a meeting.

