

OPINION/EDITORIAL

The Small Picture

by kurt hildebrand

editor

The last week or so has brought a lot of grief to *The Yellin' Rebel*, it has also brought a resolve to defend that which is basic not only to the newspaper but also to the populace at large.

The freedom of the press should not be defended by members of the press alone, but by every individual. Yet, it is the press that ends up having to defend it, because it is the press that uses it the most.

What is freedom of the press? Is it the freedom to speak freely on subjects both of popular and private concern?

Is it the freedom to speak your mind, no matter who hears or what they think about it?

Does it just apply to the press, or does it apply to other forms of communication?

Does it apply to the broadcast press?

In some cases it does, in others, the courts say it doesn't.

But what about ideas, can you limit ideas?

There are laws in this country that make it illegal to plan the overthrow of the government for whatever reason.

Yet, the United States was founded when the legitimate government was overthrown (okay, so we didn't overthrow the king in England, but we did overthrow him as far as we were concerned).

When the people decide that the current system doesn't work, and there is no legitimate recourse to revolution, then it is the people's right to plan that revolution.

Regardless, it is not the freedom of the press that is limited in this country, or it shouldn't be.

It is the consequences of that speech which are the problem.

Any individual who is slighted by the press has the same recourse, the courts.

For while congress may make no laws abridging the freedom of the press, the courts can interpret this to mean whatever they want.

Well, maybe not whatever they want, but it has been

said that the constitution says whatever the Supreme Court says it says.

Thus, every citizen has the right to challenge whatever is in the press in the courts. No other body is competent to handle it.

Laws, and the threat of laws, are not the answer to problems with the press, the answer lies in reason, and in letting the law do its work.

A free press is a requirement for any participatory form of government, whether republic or democracy.

Without it the citizenry is not aware of what goes on within the government, and therefore is not able to make reasoned decisions about what is going on.

In his *Outline of History* H.G. Wells blamed the fall of the Roman Republic not on the greed of a few, not on the pressures of trying to operate an empire, but on the lack of a press to inform citizens of the republic about what was going on.

This is a strength we have that the Romans didn't have, but it is a fragile thing indeed. It must be defended with every breath. If not, it will end, and then we will all be a little poorer.

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.

Thanks

Dear Editor:

This is an open letter of thanks for all of you who

took time from your valuable Saturday last week on the 17th to join us in front of the Thomas and Mack in laying down all that beautiful sod. The south berm along the main entrance looks like it's had grass on it forever.

You did great work! If we'd had all the sod we needed, and if all the berms had been prepared for planing, we could have done the whole thing in one day. I never saw such hard work and such cooperation. Thank you!

Those of you who didn't get a chance to come out

should keep your ankles taped, however. There is more sod to be laid down soon, and Sod Party II is on the horizon. Be prepared!

Dr. Robert Maxson
UNLV President

Taste War

Dear Editor:

This is concerning the article about night clubs, by Carmelita Sanchez, in last Friday's newspaper.

I have been waiting for this moment-(which I sensed would follow soon after

her biased letter to the editor about one of my recent articles)-the time that Carmelita Sanchez puts both feet in her mouth. (And who knows...? They probably fit).

For the record, I am not one of her stereotyped girls of the Las Vegas Club and Sorority scene with sprayed bangs and a sports car. In fact, the only time I wear Reeboks is to do aerobics. Since she felt it had so much bearing in her retort to my article, I feel it is necessary to mention that I am also a native of Las Vegas.

Is it really a sin to go to a club to dance, play pool, or meet people...or does Carmelita have ulterior motives when she goes out? Speaking for others also, I find spending weekends out in the company of friends much more fulfilling than doing it vicariously through MTV all by myself.

Carmelita also failed to mention the clubs that feature live bands, like the Moby Grape, Krackers, and the Main Gate. These clubs have turned out bands that have been featured on local albums or their own albums.

Carmelita should remember that Las Vegas is more famous for its title as the *Entertainment Capital* and not a *Glitter Gulch*. By the way, though it is a trite phrase, I still believe it holds true: Only the boring can get bored...

Babs Goldberg

Thanks for the Help

Dear Editor:

During the past week there has been a heated conflict between the *Yellin Rebel* and CSUN. When the dust had settled the staff had the chore of get-

ting a paper out on Friday. On my way up to the office I ran into a CSUN senator and a good friend of mine, Cathy Giff. Never being up to the office before, she asked me to take her up to see where the paper is made.

After apologizing to the staff for the events of the senate meeting she asked if she could help. If you read Friday's issue you may have noticed her story regarding Derby Daze.

I felt that her actions showed a true loyalty to the students at UNLV.

Instead of doing ignorant things such as posting signs around the MSU degrading the *Yellin Rebel* and its staff, she helped to get the student paper out on time.

I feel that in the future everyone should work together and improve instead of lower themselves to a childish level as that of the immature person that felt it necessary to make the classless signs.

After all, maybe next time he will be on probation again.

Mike Keller

