

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Private Eye

by seamus brennan
staff writer

Saturday morning rolled out of bed and hit the floor with the same leaded density and urgency as a super-size Winchell's cinnamon roll plunging through the depths of the stomach before finally coming to rest in the vicinity of the small intestines. I was late. My editor was waiting. I was truly repentant for the wretched excess of the previous night and wanted to be forgiven the tormented physical agony and terminally late deadline I was

experiencing...immediately.

Showtime! I took three aspirin, drove to a 7-11, bought and consumed one 42 ounce size coffee, stopped at McDonald's, bought and consumed three regular cheeseburgers, stopped at the machines on the library first floor, bought and consumed four large cookies, one candy bar, and two Diet Cokes, jumped my heart running the stairs to the second floor, hit the desk for software and, feeling a lot better now, I'm ready to start this, only...

For once, I'm not sure what conclusions to draw (the bottom line). I've been working on this for too long, too many days and the best I can do is to offer you questions, undigested, like so much raw meat. You'll have to come to your own conclusions...anyway, I'm moving fast; deadlines, economy of time and space, pursuit of the male-female dialectic, etc., so try and keep up.

I attended two forums in the past weeks: the Martin Medhurst lecture on Propaganda Techniques in Documentary Television and the Professional Society of Journalists sponsored First Amendment forum.

The first was the Medhurst lecture. He is, by his own designation, a rhetorical critic. He is influential, intelligent, has earned high honors in his field. Medhurst believes the purpose of criticism is to enlighten the public, to shed light on the daily barrage of information each is expected to consume.

His talk compared two different television documentaries, both covering the same topic, to illustrate various techniques used by film makers to, either consciously or unconsciously, manipulate audience response on a particular subject. One documentary had made

very effective use of most of the techniques identified by Medhurst, the other used only a few and was more objective in its tone.

Surprisingly, it was the former which had won prestigious awards, the latter had generated harsh criticism and been labeled a "journalistic hit piece."

I had always thought the documentary form was, by definition, to be based on documents, therefore, objective in nature. Medhurst's analysis was non-judgemental. He did not criticize the blatantly biased one as I had expected. This was confusing.

Seeking clarification, I

waited till after the lecture to speak further with him.

I asked Medhurst which was the better film (ethically), if not the more persuasive. In response he stated that he thought the possibility of an objective documentary was non-existent. As soon as a camera angle is chosen, a shot framed, lighting designed, the film ceases to be objective.

He sees documentaries in the same light as our adversarial system of justice; each side, viewpoint, aggressively and singularly argues its own perspective. Somewhere in this media dialectic the truth may be found. This was startling.

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.

Cheers

Dear Editor:

A big cheer for Steve Giddings' editorial. I didn't know that those sports guys had it in them.

His column expressed quite well the view I have held throughout this war between the CSUN Senate and *The Yellin' Rebel*.

It sickens me to think that those snivelling prima donnas think they have the moral right to control a school newspaper (ignore their beaureaucratic ability).

As the "watchdog of the government" *The Yellin'*

Rebel should be extra critical of CSUN, especially in the editorial/opinion section, without having to worry about their jobs or having a journalistic opportunity taken away.

This is America, Damn it, I don't care what Senator McGinty thinks about the first amendment. With her whopping 31 vote landslide with no opposition and her views of freedom maybe she should enter Central American politics.

I do agree that the typographical-spelling and grammar errors are really annoying, but those can be taken care of with a good proofreader. Personally, I have found the headlines quite unimaginitive, usually coming from a line in the story, and fact straightening takes merely a retraction or corrective paragraph.

The only objection to the whole paper (well, maybe not only) is Babs Goldberg's columns, but even those seem to be getting a little more interesting. Isn't Babs Goldberg a good name for

a senator's wife?

Babs and Carmelita should have a hot oil wrestle off at the Sports Pub this Friday. It would add some real entertainment, in addition to all the things they mention in their stories. Besides, the only real reason for going out is to get totally trashed!

Keep up the good work.

Richard Gibson

Quality

Dear Editor:

Kurt, in last week's conflict over *The Yellin' Rebel* there is a point I would like to make sure no interested individual should miss.

I am not concerned with your on-going conflict with the CSUN Executive Board.

I am concerned with the aesthetic and intellectual quality of my student newspaper.

I feel that the student newspaper has been spiralling down into the depths of journalistic inadequacy, and I will show numerous examples if you care to observe them. The

First Amendment and freedom of the press are supernumary to his society and one of the democratic system's most important watchdogs. The question that I have to ask you and your editors is "do you understand that there is a serious question as to the quality of the paper?" Are you an interested individual?

John Anthony Fazi

Same Old, Same Old

Dear Editor:

I see from the local papers that not much has changed in the turgid history of student government versus the campus newspaper. It has unfortunately long been one of UNLV's few traditions that every year the student government attempts to trash the newspaper. The problem always is that those fourth-rate politicians have nothing better to do than harass the paper. They need a hobby or at least something important to do.

On the bright side, as

you probably already know, editors and reporters have a tremendous advantage over the pointy heads downstairs. The paper staffers are learning real skills that will help them in obtaining employment in the real world. Not so, for the student politician. After all, when is the last time you saw a job listing that had as a basic requirement: must be a power-mad jerk?

The key to being *Yellin' Rebel* editor is to know that they are all envious: They would all rather be Editor and would be, but for the fact, they have no imagination, no talent and they are too lazy. Hang in there and fight.

Sincerely,
Donald Beury, esq.
Yell Editor 1976-77

Alpha Kappa

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in regards to our up and coming campaign "Just Say No To Drugs."

We the members of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, are planning to launch off a "Just Say No To Drugs" campaign in the Junior and Senior High Schools around the Las Vegas Valley.

In this campaign we will speak out against drugs and their effects. Also, we will be issuing out pamphlets outlining the dependency and effects of drugs, substance abuse among teens, self-esteem and the different outlets, funded and non-funded around the Las Vegas Community.

I am pleased to announce that we will begin this campaign Friday, November 6, 1987. It will be in the courtyard of the Moyer Student Union at UNLV beginning at 12:30 pm. We will be presenting a Step Show and issuing out our pamphlets "Just Say No To Drugs" at that time.

Floyd J. Henderson
President of Kappa Alpha Psi
and coordinator of "Just Say No To Drugs."