

The Small Picture

by kurt hildebrand

editor

I don't smoke, but that does not mean that I feel that others should give up their way of life because I don't do something.

I don't ride motorcycles, but that doesn't mean I am going to lead a campaign to eliminate them.

I don't own a gun, but that doesn't mean that I would deny someone else the opportunity to own one.

I don't go to church, but that doesn't mean I want to close all the churches.

I don't get on people's cases for doing things that I think are stupid, because

there are plenty of stupid things that I do.

There is one thing that I do not do that I wish other people would also not do, and that is try to force, cajole, sell, and annoy other people into doing something that they would not normally do.

There is something about free will that appeals to my sense of fair play.

There is something in free will that says to me, "this is the way human kind was supposed to behave."

This includes the freedom to utterly destroy yourself without some do-gooder coming along and

telling you what you can and cannot do within the confines of your own skin.

This is why I dislike laws that attempt to legislate morality.

I buckle my seatbelts, but it is nobody's damn business to tell me to buckle my seatbelts. I do it because I know first-hand what the consequences are.

Some people don't know for themselves, some people will never know for themselves.

And until someone does find out for themselves, they rarely, if ever, actually listen to what someone tells them about what they should do.

This is why other people who in their self-righteous, self-important, holier than

thou kind of way try to make laws that will force the people who don't want or feel like doing what they should to do it.

Smoking is another thing.

Sure, I accept that second-hand smoke is worse than first-hand smoke, it make sense. I also accept that a person's right to do what they will extends to the tip of their nose.

However, tolerance of others is a cornerstone of civilization. Otherwise, we start taking rifles out on the freeway and blowing holes in other people's cars.

I for one, tolerate smoking because I don't feel the need to annoy someone for their bad

habits, and I expect the same treatment. Something about throwing stones in glass houses, or being the first one without sin or something like that.

Editor's note: Charlie Gordon's Christian Learning Center is due to be shut down in the next few days. I have read all the stories we have written on this subject and while I understand the difficulties involved.

Though the University really is obligated to close the center and sell it, I cannot help but think that it looks pretty bad when the broadcast media get ahold of the story and boil it down to its basic components.

That is, the Foundation is closing the Lear-

ning Center down to sell the property to buy books for the Library.

That is what is happening, and there is not much that can be done about it at this late date. The university cannot afford to maintain the property, and cannot ignore the wishes of the person who donated the property.

This is the definition of a tragedy.

Another tragedy is that with the exception of the Yellin' Rebel there has been virtually no coverage of the event until now. I won't say that earlier coverage would change the outcome, but it would have been a nice change from John 316 Cook

Guest Editorial

by phillip daquino

engineering student

There are many things happening in the Engineering Department. I would like to dispel some myths and misperceptions about the SME College, and to inform the readers of the Yellin' Rebel about what is going on in the Civil-Mechanical Department.

First of all, contrary to the way movies and television have portrayed engineers and scientists, we are just like everyone else.

I think the reason we have such a reputation is that the vast majority of the SME students really bust their tails studying and doing homework.

It is very difficult for most of us because almost everyone in the college works either full or part-time, and a large percentage of the students are married and have families.

It is not surprising then to see why it takes almost six years to get a degree in Engineering.

The students on my side of campus do care about what is going on with CSUN and the Yellin' Rebel, but there isn't enough time in the day to go to classes to study, to

work, to have relationships, and to also be involved with other aspects of university life.

Over 5 percent of the total students (including the grad students) on the UNLV campus are in engineering.

Most of you know that the Thomas Beam Engineering Complex is under construction, and is supposed to be ready by the Fall of 1988. Its approximate cost is \$14.7 million and it will originally encompass 101,000 sq. ft. with two future additions it will be a complex of 190,000 sq. feet.

One of our students, James Brewer has been involved with the construction of this building.

Last month he gave a guided tour through the building for all the engineering students.

The Robot Arm Research Project involves the faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates. The United States Army gave the CE-ME Department \$1.3 million to develop an elastic robot arm.

Allison Krueger, a mechanical engineering senior, does most of the programming to tell the arm how and where to move.

The easy part of the project is picking up an object with the end-effectors (hand). The hard part is designing an elastic arm that will go to the correct position to pick up the object.

There are other active engineering organizations, and they all do different things because there is not as much overlap of students in these organizations as some CSUN senators might think. The most active organization in engineering right now is NSPE, and that can be greatly attributed to the president of NSPE, Tammy Fountain.

There are four active

student organizations from the CE-ME Department with similar names, but are very different organizations: ASCE - American Society of Civil Engineers, ASME - American Society of Mechanical Engineers, WISE - Women in Science and Engineering, NSPE - National Society of Professional Engineers.

ASCE just went to a conference about current topics affecting Civil Engineers for a week in Anaheim, California. ASCE is a national organization and so is ASME and NSPE, but students are not actual members of these organizations until they

graduate and become a recognized professional engineer.

Last month the national and student chapter sponsored a dinner and the guest speaker was Jerry Tarkanian, UNLV's head basketball coach.

ASME just recently held officer elections since most of the officers are graduating this semester. The current student chapter president is Bill Albert.

WISE is open to anyone in the College of Science, Math, and Engineering. The male members are known collectively as WISE GUYS.

WISE has had female speakers come in and talk

about problems that affect them as professionals.

NSPE is involved with the paper canoe race and the repainting of the green line and green footsteps on campus.

The actual canoe race is tentatively schedule for early April. We are also trying to get a study area for the engineering students.

The reason why all these organizations are involved and active is that we are trying to serve the needs of the students now, and to prepare them for life after college.

