

OPINION

Small Picture

by kurt hildebrand

editor

I got a taste of bureaucratic bile the other day, and I would like to share it with you.

I called on Nancy, our business manager, and checked the stature of *The Yellin' Rebel* account and had a long talk with about the nature of budgets at UNLV.

"Nancy," I asked, "if I made a whole lot of money for the paper in advertising and wanted to use that money to re-invest in much-needed equipment, could I do it?"

"Yes," she answered, "if you had the budget authority."

"So, what you are saying is that if we made millions of dollars (hypothetically) and we

wanted to spend it on, say, a new building for the paper, I couldn't do it."

"That's right."
"But, if we didn't make any money at all, we could buy whatever we wanted."

"If you had the cash," she answered.

"Let me get this straight," I answered, "if we wanted to buy something and we had the money, we couldn't because we didn't have enough budget authori-

ty?"

"Yes."

"But, if we wanted to buy something, and we didn't have any money, we could, except for the fact that we didn't have any money?"

"Right."

"What if we had one of the machines blow up on us and had to replace it?"

"Then we would shift the budget authority from an account which wasn't making any money, and therefore wasn't spending

any of its budget authority, to your account."

"So, basically, what you are telling me, is that if the paper makes a whole lot of money, we can't spend it. But, if the paper doesn't make any money, we can."

It gets worse, but I can't go into that now. What I can go into is the advantage to a free-enterprise system, where the money which is made by a business, can be spent by that business to improve

its service.

However, money made by a government, has to be spent or it ends up being taken away at the end of the year, and the people who make up the budget for the next year will cut the excess out.

The Rebel has the worst of both worlds. If we make money, we cannot spend it (or part of it, a definite improvement over the old days). If we lose money, the paper doesn't come out.

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degree programs require four years of study to obtain a degree in that field. In Engineering a student is considered lucky if he (or she) graduates in four and a half or five years. And that is taking 12-15 credits per semester and summer sessions. I have talked to Engineering students who tell me that they can graduate in four and a half years if they work hard. Translated this means year round school--all summer session offered--no breaks. These Engineering students were students who began the Engineering program in Calculus I. For those students who are not able to start in Calculus I and have to take pre-calculus or trigonometry and then pre-calculus the time spent in the Engineering program increases.

Sound scary? It is. No, I am not in favor of reducing the requirements of the program. I also don't think that these requirements are unreasonable. What I do think is unreasonable is to expect students to put in the amount of work required to graduate with a Bachelor's degree a year early in other fields to graduate a semester or a year late with the same degree in Engineering. If the Engineering program must take five years to obtain a four year degree it should also alter its curriculum slightly to afford students a summer off or at least a non-Engineering elective if they want one.

And before the administrators of the College of Engineering start patting themselves on the back for finally escaping from the College of Science and Mathematics and getting their own building too, they should consider steps to facilitate the learning of those students who are dedicated enough to continue with the program and help them avoid burning out or worse--becoming Mathematics or Physics majors.

Amber Gray

TAKE CARE

Dear Editor:

The situation seemed innocent enough. It probably was, for all I know. But then again, it may not have been as innocent as it seemed. It may be that I am writing this only because I have common sense enough to take precautions against such seemingly innocent situations.

The situation went like this (does it sound familiar to you?): I had parked my truck in the north parking lot next to White Life Sciences building and was walking across the lot to get to my night class. This parking lot is quite dark so I try to park as close to a light as I can. The lot was also quite empty save a few cars. As I was walking across the lot, a man drove up next to me and said "Excuse me, can you tell me if this is Beam Hall?" I told him "No, it isn't, Beam Hall is

on the other side of the campus." The man indicated that he had a map of some sort and motioned for me to come closer to the car (I had been keeping a safe distance from it), but I told him just to take Maryland Pkwy. to University Rd. To get to Beam Hall.

Just then a campus police car cruised by. The man saw the car at the same time that I did. Quickly he said "Thank you" and drove away. It wasn't as innocent as it seemed. It is quite possible that the police car's appearance saved my life.

Like I said before, it is quite possible that this incident was just as innocent as it seemed, but it is just this type of situation where unsuspecting women are abducted, and college campuses are a

prime location for this type of crime.

The campus police do what they can, but they aren't necessarily going to be around everytime a student goes to or from her night class.

The only thing women can count on is their own awareness and common sense. Awareness of their surroundings (parking under lights, being aware of people in the area or the lack of, etc..) Common sense not to approach too closely to a vehicle if someone asks a question or needs directions.

Women need to take every precaution available and constantly be alert to the situation they're in if they want to keep themselves from being harmed. Simple precautions such as having the car keys in hand as they

walk to their vehicle can make a big difference. If a woman is fumbling through her purse looking for her keys, she cannot be alert to her surroundings and would be an easy target for an attacker. Also, women should always check the back seat and floor of their car as they get in. Some attackers will break into a car which they know a female will be returning to by herself, then hide in the back and wait for the woman to drive off before making their move.

The point of this column is not to alarm women, or to make people think that there is a high crime rate on the UNLV campus. The point is just to make women aware of the fact that they must use common sense in all situations, whether they feel

threatened or not. This applies during the day as well, but especially at night.

Fortunately, there is not a high crime rate here at UNLV, but nationwide, college campuses are a prime location for crimes such as abductions and rapes, and we all have to protect ourselves as best that we can, and the best way to do this is through common sense and education of just what to be aware of and what precautions to take. This message can't be repeated too often and hopefully, if this message is heard enough, more and more women will use their common sense, and fewer and fewer women will become victims of these crimes.

Allison Bierley

