

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

This letter is concerning a certain personal ad printed in the classified section of the April 12th edition of the *Yellin' Rebel*. To refresh your memory, it was first and foremost in the Personals section, about 15 lines long, and contained strategically placed boldface words to achieve its diabolical purpose. Also, more specifically, it was a direct attack against a particular UNLV student, berating her good name. Not only was it an entirely fallacious piece of libel defaming her character and reputation in the eyes of her friends and instructors, but it contained a good deal of obscenity, too. To the astonishment of myself, several students and faculty members, the fifteen-or-so typewritten lines were laced with penile imagery and made numerous infantile allusions to the mammalian breast. I'm writing this because I believe several questions need to

be asked and answered without delay.

Students, did you know that your *Yellin' Rebel* unthinkingly printed this "haiku-of-hatred?" Faculty, are you going to put up with irresponsible actions such as these? Finally, and most importantly, I ask the *Yellin' Rebel* staff: How could you slap that student — all us students — in the face like that when we entrust to you, twice-weekly, that awesome power of the printed word?

To clarify matters, the personal ad in question was written by a group of UNLV students who only signed their initials, most likely for fear of misspelling their names. The *Yellin' Rebel* did not write it, but just served as a mindless vehicle for printing it — in its entirety. As for the victim, she is reasonably jaded and understandably feels a considerable amount of remorse about the whole ordeal; not even time can successfully take that pain

away. But as I sit here writing I cannot help but wonder if this damaging incident is just the tip of the iceberg, while a more terrifying, underlying issue lay in the depths below.

Since the publishing of the April 12th edition that particular personal ad has stirred up much controversy and brought up some questions about the parameters of the Personals section. Just how far do the outer limits of what can be printed in the *Yellin' Rebel* stretch? When approached with this issue your student leaders responded somewhat reminiscent of those zany but confused Keystone Cops.

Let's start at the bottom and move up. *Yellin' Rebel* Advertising Manager Connie Scordato, the person directly responsible for the printing of the personal-in-question, ironically stated that "the personals will only be printed if they do not contain lewd and obscene

language," only to later admit that she had "made an error in judgement." Open mouth, insert foot. Even more absurd, current *Yellin' Rebel* editor Kurt Hildebrand did not even know the particular personal ad was published; almost immediately ugly visions of Reagan telling the country he "didn't know anything" about the Iran-Contra scandal comes to mind. Furthermore, CSUN President Kirk Hendrick was overheard commenting that student papers at UCLA & USC print worse. What kind of twisted rational is that for our student body president to take? And finally, when I confronted Dean of Student Services Ackerman with a copy of the paper, upon examination he gave me a disturbed, quizzical look and then muttered something about it being "a high-schoolish display."

I believe this is a legitimate crisis for the university. Let's not give the

rest of the country what they expect of Las Vegas — glitz and sleaze; we can have fun and still be a class act. I feel that incidents such as these are steps back for the growth of UNLV, whereas examination and affirmative action by our students and student leaders can afford us a quantum leap forward in our goal of becoming a respected and accepted academic institution. But until then, the problem does not lie with NCAA, the Eastern Sportswriters, or Saturday Night Live, the devil lies within. The decision whether or not to engage in improper activity will ultimately depend on the ethics and morality of the students community, in concert with well-guided student leadership. Elimination of prepubescent tirades from the student newspaper and other types of positive action on campus will not only make a UNLV degree worth more, but will make

alumni proud to call themselves UNLV Rebels.

As I conclude this scathing letter-to-the-editor, I feel a sense of satisfaction for stepping forward. So, instead of just scribbling my initials below, I think I'll sign my full name.

Ramond Tangredi
Former Senator(S,M,&E)

Editor's Note: Your accusation is justified and some of your questions deserve answers. I will not attempt to excuse what happened, it was deplorable and we have taken steps to see it never happens again.

In the future, I would welcome an opportunity to speak personally with a reader any feature to appear in print. I regret I did not get an opportunity to speak with either Mr. Tangredi or the person in question. For future reference, my number is 739-3478 or come on up to the third floor.

Kurt Hildebrand

Moyer Student Union Student Leadership Position Open for Application

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1. Lecture/Seminars
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2. Experience in campus activity implementation and currently enrolled at UNLV in good academic and conduct standing.
3. Be able to work with other coordinators and board members

General Responsibilities:

1. To plan, organize and promote cultural, educational and recreational activities for the UNLV campus
2. Must attend all meetings and programs throughout the year

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1. Interviewed and appointed by the chairperson of the Union Board, Director and Program Director of the Moyer Student Union

Renumeration:

1. \$100 monthly stipend

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