

OPINION

Last Picture

by kurt hildebrand

editor

I know you have been waiting for this moment for the last year, the moment when I would have to shut-up and get along down the road, the last hurrah, the world-famous-editor's-last opinion-column of all time(I got the trick of linking all my words together to describe things from Seamus).

This is it for the Small Pic, there won't be no more.

Well, enough of that. The previous two paragraphs were as much to get me motivated to crank this thing out as to warn you that this is it.

This is the sort of column I dislike writing, the kind I told myself I wouldn't write unless I had something really important to say.

But, then it came time to face the blank editorial pages, and I began to ramble on occasion. Or sometimes, I would write a column to point out some wierd fact about UNLV or life (did you ever notice that Jocko sounds like an Austrailian Robin Leach?) or a column about some fictious friends and their fictious adventures in the 80's (I liked doing those best).

One thing I have never written, is an editorial in

my life, I can't seem to bring myself to write anyone's opinion but my own, one thing which I have taken flak from the staff on.

There is so much to say, so many good-bye's, so many thank-you's, so many good-luck's.

We have done a lot of work up at the paper this year, and it is difficult to say good-bye to people you have worked so closely with for so long. But, there is nothing to do but start at the top and work my way down.

I would like to thank my managing editors, Steve Kapellas and Mike Keller. It looks as though Mike will be my successor in this position. I would like to take this time to recommend Mike to you, the readers. I like to think that with each smooth transition, the paper improves. As long as editors are talking to one another, it cannot help but get better every year.

About Steve. He has made a splash in an institution which does not often afford an individual to do so.

I have taken classes and worked with Steve for most of the latter half of my college career, and I have been thoroughly impressed with his energy and dedicatiion to the paper and to me. I rib him

on occasion, but that is because I like him. I wish him luck with his life and we will party on graduation.

Then there is my ad manager, Connie. I wish I had a nickel for every question she has asked about the ads.

"Kurt, why didn't the date run for this ad," she asks every day. But, that is her job. And she is the best I have ever seen at it.

Thanks baby, hope you make it next semester.

I would like to thank Karen Splawn for being news editor, it is one of the toughest jobs on the paper. When Kapellas became News Editor, he asked me what his job was. I told him it was to take hell from the managing editor. Karen you have completed that task admirably.

To Chris, it has been fun. It is kind of neat to have a partner in crime, that way you always have someone to blame when they're not there. Watch your head (clock).

Seamus, wait a second, do we have someone named Seamus here? We must have, his box has been emptied. No, really, good job, and good luck down south.

There is one guy, who has been with me for a year and a half. Jon Ansok. He is leaving the paper this year to focus on his studies. Best of luck, and I hope you have a

good time up in Tahoe. You got to be the best, and then you left. My sentiments exactly.

Dr. Cloud practically volunteered to advise the paper this year. I like to think our close association before I came to work for the paper was instrumental in bringing her experience and journalistic ability to bear on the paper's problems (of which I was, often as not, one) when I, and some of her other students, became involved with the paper.

To Karen Hall. We have been working together for two years now, and it has been one hell of a ride. I guess it is time for both of us to get off now and graduate. Good luck.

To Paige, Gary, Randy, Robert, Steve and Lisa, without you guys, the news in newspaper would be sadly lacking. I have been there and it isn't much fun in the trenches — but then again, I am not into having much fun. I guess that is why I keep writing.

To Bruce Claver, your advice has been invaluable to me over the last year. When I had a question about what is going on with the Greeks, you are the one I went to. You had a lot of good tips for the paper.

Then there is the production staff. God, guys! We wouldn't have made it through a semester, much

less the entire year without you. Jodi, you have lasted longer than any typist we have had since I got here. You have also brought some good people along with you. Have a circus.

Dave Zanotti, you taught me more than all the tech manuals in the office when it comes to the machines. Ron Zayas used to say that he who can control the machines can control the newspaper. That may no longer be true, but it is true that as long as you continue on staff, it will get better and better.

Tami, you haven't been here very long, but you have already made an impression.

Then there is Nancy and Gretchen. You two have provided me with information, companionship, and a safe harbor when the storms struck. Good luck to you both.

In the last year, these people and others, who are now gone, have provided me with the opportunity to be the editor of this publication. However, there is one group without which, none of this would be possible, and that is you, the reader of this paper. You are the most important person in the entire operation, because without you, none of this matters. So, to you, the students of UNLV, I say thank you and good luck. Have a good life.

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Humor

by

J.R.

