

Art Buchwald

What make Jesse Jackson such a simple man is that he has so many simple ideas. I love his most recent one where he wants to sit down with the terrorists and negotiate the release of the hostages in the Middle East. Jesse believes all it takes is understanding and good will to persuade Middle East kidnapers to give back the people they are holding.

"Hi, I'm Jesse Jackson and I'm here to talk you people into returning to me the Americans you're holding."

"Lie down on the

ground with your nose in the dirt."

"Hold it. I am ready to reason with you. Don't you remember the last time I was in these parts you gave me a Navy ensign hostage?"

"That's because he was black and we wanted to embarrass Ronald Reagan."

"I, Jesse Jackson, I am somebody, I'm willing to make a deal. What do you people want?"

"A truckload of dynamite and a free parking place in front of the American Embassy in Beirut."

"Be reasonable. How about a boatload of Ritz crackers and two dozen Ralph Lauren suits?"

"Who told you that you could come and see us?"

"I came here because we're brothers. I am a man of God and you people are men of God and you are committing a sin holding the Americans in captivity. I am willing to continue this conversation, but first you must take that machine gun muzzle out of my nostril."

"Jesse Jackson, may a thousand Mayor Koches fall down on your head. You want to make a deal? We desire a 747 airplane."

"Are you going to fly

somewhere?"

"No, we want to blow it up. We haven't blown up a 747 since Khomeini was a pup."

"Listen to me. Let me tell you why I need you. I'm running for President of the United States. It would be quite a coup for me if you released the hostages in my custody, because it would show that terrorists deserve a better press than they're getting. Can we negotiate?"

"We will let you have the hostages if we can sink two American aircraft carriers in the Persian Gulf."

"Well, at least you are starting to talk seriously.

I'm not in a position to grant you this request, but I will pass it on to the people in Washington."

"We want the entire Kuwaiti royal family delivered to us tied up over the humps of camels."

"I'll also transmit that. The fact that we are discussing terms is a big plus. I don't think it's necessary to take that pin out of the grenade you're holding to my stomach."

"You know we don't like you, Jackson. You sound like a big know-it-all."

"I'm very likable. If I get to be President I'll invite all of you to the White House for a state dinner."

"How much money will

you give us for the hostages?"

"I can't pay ransom, but I could arrange to wire every terrorist's home with cable TV."

"It's not enough. We need arms and explosive devices and hand-held rockets."

"None of those things are out of the question. You have the right as have-nots to want the same weapons the haves have. Please give me the hostages so I can go back to the United States and tell them that face-to-face diplomacy with well-meaning terrorists really works."

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

I wish to respond to the recent *Yellin' Rebel* article concerning CIA recruiting activities on our campus. Specifically, I wish to counter the overly positive views of Mr. Thomas Cassese, Director of the Career Placement Office. In opposition to Mr. Cassese, I believe that employment with the CIA includes serious professional and ethical drawbacks which our students need to be aware of when they interview with "the company."

CIA employment, although well-paying, can, in a real sense, limit future professional development. The CIA hires many foreign language majors at the baccalaureate level. Yet, once employed by the CIA these same people may never be able to visit countries which speak their language of study. For example, it is doubtful that CIA Russian language specialists will ever be allowed inside the Soviet Union. On another level, the same is true for Political Science and History majors who have specialized in a particular

country or region. Yes, working for the CIA you will earn a good salary, but you may never know first hand the country you have studied throughout your undergraduate and graduate education. Such a lack of "personal experience" with a country could, for example, lead an employer to hire someone else as their overseas business consultant.

On an ethical level students should at least be aware of the less than honorable past of the CIA. At this point let me say that Mr. Cassese's comment that the CIA is "...looking for people who can deal with people." is at best cruelly ironic. Since 1945 the CIA has overthrown democratically elected governments in Guatemala (1954) and Chile (1973). It has also engineered various political assassinations, and has violated our own United States Constitution. The CIA may indeed, to quote Mr. Cassese, "come in with some excellent opportunities," but inevitably such opportunities will involve crucial

ethical questions. Students should think about their own values, and research the history of the CIA, before they seek employment with "the company."

In closing, let me say that the students should have the right to interview with the CIA on the UNLV campus. Students should also have the right to protest the CIA's presence in Las Vegas, and to use the opportunity to educate the campus community as to the nature of the agency. Finally, it is our duty as administrators and professors to present a balanced view of the CIA in order to help students make the correct employment decisions. Overly positive views of this agency, which fail to note the professional and ethical drawbacks to CIA employment, ultimately fail to provide students with the information they need to make such a crucial career decision. Students must make the decision, but we educators must insure that they do so in a wise and informed fashion.

Todd A. Diacon

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Dear Editor

Mr. Brennan's one-sided and cursory approach to issues has once again been displayed. In the April 22 issue of *The Yellin' Rebel*, Brennan wrote an article glorifying and praising a rather controversial figure in the Foreign Language Dept., Dr. John Lindberg. Of all the professors on the UNLV campus to laud, why has Brennan chosen to highlight Lindberg?

Before writing this letter, I had originally wished to set up an appointment with Brennan to discuss this recent article. I left my name and number at *The Yellin' Rebel* office on April 25. On April 26 Brennan called me, and as soon as I mentioned the article he immediately became defensive and abusive. He questioned not only my motives but my academic ability. After having spoken to me in a belligerent tone and not having allowed me to get a word in edgewise, he hung up on me. Is this how responsible jour-

nalists or even decent human beings conduct themselves? Could it have something to do with the fact that Brennan is currently one of Dr. Lindberg's Latin students?

In this article Brennan states that "during his travels, Lindberg had fallen in love with the United States..." If this be true, then why is it that Lindberg is still not a U.S. citizen? Lindberg's classroom conduct as well as his pedagogical philosophy and application thereof are questionable at best. Brennan seems to indicate that Lindberg is witty and creative in the classroom. Dictating sentences and having students translate them from English to Latin is hardly creative and certainly not inspiring. Brennan is neither a German major nor a foreign language major. Brennan is also neither an authority on the study of foreign language, linguistics, nor pedagogical philosophy. On what source is Brennan basing his claims?

Dr. Lindberg is a Professor of Foreign Languages. This is a very

distinguished title and shows that Lindberg is a learned man; however, this title does not necessarily mean that Lindberg is a good classroom instructor. Charges have been brought against Lindberg in the past questioning his classroom conduct. At that point in time I was under the impression that if a student was not capable of dealing with Lindberg in the classroom, it was either due to complacency or incompetence on the part of the student. I have since learned that intellectual elitism has no place in an institution of learning. The whole idea behind education is to help people grow and develop to their full potential, into open-minded forward-thinking individuals. This commitment to education must be met by both the instructor and the student. A professor who teaches for the benefit of the gifted few in his class and allows the persons who really need help and guidance to fall behind is not living up to his end of the commitment.

Scott T. Melton