

Yucca Mountain issue warrants attention

The supporters of the Yucca Mountain waste dump were hosted at the university during spring break which caused protesters to demonstrate and others to wonder if UNLV is talking out of both sides of its mouth, and what exactly is our stand on this project.

Just why the hell was the university doing this?

Whatever happened to, for, and by the people? Why doesn't anyone ask what we, the students, think about all of this?

Without students UNLV wouldn't be a university, we aren't training to be students, we're training to take over what's left when the fools running things today are finished.

We should be counted in every major university issue.

Some of those working for the Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. government will waltz into Nevada with any ridiculous plan their "all knowing" minds conceive.

Nevada is apparently seen as a wasteland already, because there is no concern for the people in Nevada on this matter.

All of those training for the "real world" now have a chance to prove themselves.

In the real world, the residents of the state of Nevada are being unjustly oppressed by the U.S. government by the fact that tax money is being denied to the people unless the people accept the dominant will of the government which in this case is detri-

mental to the health and well being of the residents of Nevada.

There was a time in Nevada when injustice like this would have been just cause to secede from the union. Today's apathetic society is opening the door for total government domination that will be irreversible when any of us is in a position to do anything about it.

We are the university, we are the people, we are being abused. When are we going to stand up and be the future we say we are? Or is this the future we want, one of no concern for the people, one of wanton government spending, and one of self-destruction?

STAFF BOX THE YELLIN' REBEL

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PHOTOGRAPHERS & CARTOONISTS

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All letters must be limited to 400 words—anything more will be considered an opinion piece. The Yellin' Rebel reserves the right to reject submissions and to edit for libel, grammar, spelling errors, length and writing style.

Letters must be typed and include the name of the writer (unless anonymity is requested for a valid reason), as well as the writer's telephone number, major and year in school.

All submissions must be sent to: The Yellin' Rebel, (care of Letters to the Editor), MSU 302, 4505 S. Maryland Pkwy., Las Vegas, NV 89154.

Less alienation, more forgiveness

CLAYTON'S CORNER

by Michael Ollie Clayton

I watched the CBS Evening News April 10.

The space shuttle's launch had been delayed; Abdu Na terrorists had released Belgian and French hostages by way of Libya's leader Moammar Qaddafi's intervention; President George Bush was ironing out the glitches in his upcoming Summit meeting with the Union of Soviet Socialistic Republics' President Mikhail Gorbachev...and in the midst of all of this a report of racism on U.S. college campuses popped up. The story began: "The fourth 'R' added to the existing three 'R's' schoolhouse trilogy (Reading, 'R'iting, & 'R'ithmetic) is Racism."

Basically, Dan Rather was insinuating that a growing trend of racism was spreading across America's heartland by way of college campuses.

Whether or not this is true I do not know as I have not encountered one single, outright, deliberate act of racism this semester.

If anything, attacks on self have been motivated primarily out of personality conflicts rather than racial slighting.

This is not to say that racism doesn't exist, for it does—and it is not only in the form of racism Caucasian-style.

African-Americans have been guilty of unjustified, wanton acts of senseless, needless racism in the past as well. There is guilt on both sides of the track, and blame should be evenly spread.

I do remember seeing totally innocent white guys harassed and needed because of the color of their skin.

One such incident that comes to mind occurred at the all-black, all-male, Catholic high school I attended. A particular individual, Ferdinand Calvert, who eventually left the school and joined a seminary to become a priest was the individual to which this particular act of black-on-white racism was aimed.

"Roots," the ABC miniseries based on Alex Haley's book (entitled the same) about Haley's family's third class indoctrination into Americana was fresh (burning) on the minds of black Americans across the heartland.

Ferdinand, a rally nice, sedate, lamb-like person, was half white and half black. His father was black and his mother was white, though you'd never know that there was a

mixture of any kind. Ferdinand's Caucasian genes had totally dominated (drowned) his Negroid genes.

Still, Ferdinand's father was black—undeniably Negroid—light brown in color, though shades don't matter.

Anyway, this black guy, Gerald P., came to school after the third night of "Roots" was televised and punched out Ferdinand.

"That's what you get for being a white boy!" Gerald P. proudly announced.

I'll never forget the look on Ferdinand's red, glowing, wet face. All he could say was, "What did I do, huh? What did I do?" as tears streamed down his face.

I can remember this a significant turning point in Ferdinand's life. Recalling the incident saddens me, for there was poor Ferdinand trying to make sense of the blood inside of his veins for most of his first high school year, and at the same time having to make sense out of the unfair external forces around him.

Collectively, acts of racism still don't suggest a growing trend, as Dan Rather and CBS chose to spotlight what I believe to be totally isolated incidents into aggregate statistics, much less a trend.

Incidentally, my best friend and

I, both of us being patently black, spent the entire weekend (April 6, 7, 8) in the company of an all-white scuba diving class (Open Water 2) of which several of the divers were UNLV students. Not once did we feel isolated, alienated, or discriminated against.

According to the CBS News story someone had scrawled the words "Nigger leave!" and "Niggers get out!" on the walls in the hallway of a dormitory at the University of Cincinnati. I consider this especially bad reporting as only one "isolated" incident was spotlighted.

Dan Rather's pronouncement, "Racism is becoming prevalent on major campuses across the nation" did set off an alarm in the minds of those quick to jump on the discrimination bandwagon.

I found two personalities spotlighted during the course of the story particularly interesting: 1) A black girl's confession that she didn't "know that racism existed until" she "went to college." (The fact that groups collectivize because of outward appearance is a right they are entitled to—not being able to break into that circle may or may not be an act of racism unless proven otherwise, but a good try never hurt anybody.) I applaud her parents

for both exposing her to, and sheltering her from the world around her (if that is at all possible). And this leads directly into my next area of interest: 2) The white girl who rightfully/righteously claimed that she shouldn't be held responsible for the acts that her "ancestors committed over one hundred years ago." She does have a point...

Now I am brought full circle. How so? Well, those isolated acts of racism that are ushered in are ushered in by those who have "learned" racism. It isn't inherent to be racist. It is a learned behavior, a learned attitude, if that term can be used.

All tied in a one knot, parents, peers' parents, and information disseminators teach, spread, and uphold racism as a *tabula rasa* ("blank tablet") exists when a child is born. This proves somewhere out there is a horde of racists still festering like a pus-filled sore...picked, pricked and dripping.

Diagnosis? A little less alienation on one group's part, and a little more forgiveness on another group's part—perhaps, but certainly not a cure-all.

Still, common ground must be reached!