



From the Editor's Desk:

Bits and Pieces

Before I start my regular Editors Desk column I would like to spout off a little anger at what the NCAA did to UNLV's basketball team recently.

How utterly unfair can an organization be? They have dealt us a blow below the belt. Surely a 13 year old infraction does not deserve this type of punishment. Who pays these people in the NCAA anyway? Maybe that sports reporter in L.A. who keeps writing untrue stories about Tark's program is also their banker. What is going on? Has anybody ever thought of investigating the NCAA to find who is pulling their strings? If anything was to be done it should have been to fine Tarkanian, not to punish a team having nothing to do with the infraction.

The timing also stinks. Are they getting revenge for our school's triumph this past season or is it fear that we will repeat as champions since it looks like we will have one of the strongest teams returning next season?

I have a lot of questions. I just wish I knew who to ask that I could rely on to answer me truthfully. I don't think I would find that person in the NCAA. Unfair, Unfair, Unfair.

Well, with that said, the last few weeks have been fun, haven't they? Things are happening all over the place: in politics, in the weather, on the university campus and in law.

First of all, lets look at politics. The president really shook the republican party recently by stating that his administration would have to raise taxes. This after his famous "read my lips-no new taxes" speech during the 1988 presidential campaign.

The state and local republicans who have to run for office this year at first couldn't believe their ears; but after it sank in they bowed their heads and wept in realization that their great republican leader had just shot them in the foot and pretty much ruined their chances of winning any type of election this year or possibly for the next few years.

The republicans didn't stay down long. They circled the wagons and got on their soap-boxes and are now trying to tell us that everything wrong with our country was caused by the democrats. They blamed the democrats for the S&L crisis, the bad economy and the trade deficit, while they took credit for the fall of communism and everything good that has happened to our country. Personally I think it takes a little of both sides for the good and bad to happen.

I have to wonder if the president had this planned from the beginning. Are we to believe he just realized that in order for America to remain afloat his administration would have to raise taxes.

Is the president (a die hard conservative) becoming a (gasp)

Liberal? Watch out, here comes the big "L" word. Whatever his reasons are, he couldn't have picked a better time. By doing it now, it gives him two years to recover from the turmoil.

On the local scene, the city's journalists, are going after the local power structure. Haven't they heard of respect for the good 'ol boy system of government? Not only did they have a field day with the Lurie-Hall land deal, now they find out that city officials are using their city cellular phones to make hundreds of personal phone calls totaling somewhere around \$76,000. One person had made 180 calls on his phone; one even to a strip joint. Hmmm, probably just a wrong number.

Here on campus, ARA is remodeling the MSU food area, plus the new dining commons is almost done. I think the overall appearance is a great improvement.

Barbara Greenspun and her family gave a \$2 million donation to the UNLV Communication Department for teacher research and scholarships. The gift was given in the name of Hank Greenspun, the late, great publisher of the Las Vegas Sun newspaper.

Thanks to the Greenspuns. We needed it. We could use more like Hank. Now let's talk about a new journalism school.

Lately the weather has not treated us Las Vegans too kindly. Here in Vegas, if we get a sprinkle, it floods. If we get more than a sprinkle, we get flash floods.

No type of city planning has been able to cope with the problem. Maybe it is because we keep building in natural water channels that are there for a reason.

When you're in a valley, water always seem to seek the lowest point of the basin and it doesn't care what is in its way. Anybody got any ideas?

In the Supreme Court, they have been busy. They decided it is okay to burn the flag because if you try to stop someone from doing it you are stepping on their first amendment rights. What is more important, a piece of cloth or our right to freedom of speech? I'll take speech, thank you.

On abortion, they gave the problem back to the states plus they want teenagers to have their parents' consent. Isn't this passing the buck? Would somebody make a decision please; hopefully a compromise.

*Richard Crow*

Richard Crow



OFF-CENTER

with JOSEPH WHEELER

The mail arrives and I want to hide. I don't know how it happened but my name is on every list used by the "Save the World" crowd when they're looking for money the WORLD WILDLIFE FUND, GREENPEACE, SAVE THE WHALES, KOKO THE GORILLA NEEDS YOUR HELP...I get 'em all.

So far I haven't sent money, but I'm convinced of one thing: we're doomed. The planet is a mess, and I think I know why.

The wrong people are in charge of certain jobs.

Why are the rainforests disappearing? Because the people burning them are good at it. Why are whales endangered? Because the whale hunters know their business.

As long as these folks are in charge, the planet is in trouble. But what solution can be found to the problem of having the wrong people doing the work? Simple. Get rid of these efficient, productive people and hire the incompetent.

Take, for instance, one such job: Rainforest Burner.

Some job. Imagine the want-ad for this position:

"Applicants must demonstrate the ability to handle lit torch. Cigarette smokers encouraged to apply. Flames guaranteed to be user-friendly."

Why are professionals doing this job when it does so much damage? If the current crop of hardworking Rainforest Burners are allowed to continue, we may all end up sucking air that tastes like it came out of a car.

Let former S&L Directors become Official Rainforest Burners. If they run the rainforests the way they handled our money, the world will soon be covered by foliage. Committees would be needed to halt the sudden outbreak of oxygen.

This could work. Why are experts shooting whales? The whales don't stand a chance.

Let the Hubble Scientists shoot whales. That nearsighted

bunch might actually find a whale and get a shot off. Having a 1.5 billion dollar telescope may help, but the odds of hitting the thing are slim.

They would, of course, be held up by a lengthy study to determine where the oceans are.

This applies to all sorts of problems. Get the right people doing the job and everything will take care of itself.

The PETA people are a problem because their fanatical concern for animals has made them care little for human beings. Bobby Berosini has problems because he was seen beating his animals backstage. Solution?

Let the PETA people be in Berosini's act.

He could probably teach them how to ride a unicycle and no one would really care if he banged out a rendition of the Anvil Chorus on PETA people's heads.

Meanwhile, there's a S&L somewhere waiting for a clever orangutan...

Computers

Today I would like to talk about one of my favorite subjects, computers. Computers are our friends, or so they tell me. Maybe it's just me but I get nervous when people start talking about hardware and software. It's all to phallic for me.

But seriously, computers are getting smarter and smarter everyday. Just think, in eleven years computers called HAL will be going berserk and killing everyone in sight. Isn't progress wonderful.

I don't want you to think that I have anything against computers. I work with them everyday and everyday they tell me just how stupid I am.

ME: "Okay computer lets save my work."

COMPUTER: "I'm sorry Chris, I can't do that."

ME: "I said, 'Save my work dammit!'"

COMPUTER: "Your input is completely illogical and irrational Chris."

ME: "Same my work or I'm gonna smash your hardware!!!"

COMPUTER: "Work is being saved."

Sometimes you have to get tough with these suckers. Let them know who's boss.

This all takes it for granted that you can actually get the information that you want INTO the computer. People tell me all the time that computers are better than typewriters. HA! When the power goes out, typewriters won't forget 12 pages of a term paper that's due at noon the next day.

I haven't used a typewriter in months though. This is to keep form being laughed at by a younger generation who have been raised on computers. Imagine the response when I pull out that old Smith and Corona.

"What is that?"

"Where is the mouse?"

"Does it run on batteries or do you have to wind it?"

So I packed my trusty, rusty typewriter and began the long journey to computer enlightenment. I felt like such an idiot. Here I am in a class surrounded by kids barely out of their diapers and I

couldn't even turn the fool thing on.

The next thing I knew they were throwing around terms like megabytes, bits and ritz. They told me to plug my software into my hardware and to compare my input with my output. I was so confused. I was just waiting for a message such as this to flash on my screen,

"Congratulations you have successfully launched a preemptive all-out nuclear strike on Bakersfield, California."

Now it's months later and I can sling computer lingo with the best of them. I can hunt down viruses, spell check and I can even...PRINT. My parents are so proud. That's what they sent me to college for.

Well, that's the end of my OUTPUT. I think I'll transfer my FILES down to the STUDENT UNION for a little INPUT. Maybe there, I'll run into a RANDOM VARIABLE and our HARDWARE and SOFTWARE will be COMPATIBLE.

by Chris Orr  
Contributing Editor