

Congress conspires to defraud public

by Vicki Bertolino

The following editorial was written in response to Representative Barbara Vucanovich's statement defending her position during the current budget negotiations.

To Barbara Vucanovich and all Congressional Representatives:

You attempt to justify your stand in this latest Congressional scam to con Americans out of their earnings, and the States out of their rights, by telling us, your

lic that Congress truly supported getting their home back in balance. You never really supported Gramm-Rudman except rhetorically so that you could garner votes for reelection, just like every other Congressman on the hill.

Then to have the gall to tie your pay raise to an ethics bill is the greatest insult you and your conspirators have forced upon the American people. I'd like to see average workers be able to tell their bosses, "I'll become an ethical employee if you'll raise my salary."

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constituents, "We must cut out unnecessary special interest spending and take the checkbook away from those who are addicted to federal spending."

You are absolutely correct! And we must start with addicts like yourself and your colleagues (or should I say conspirators?).

You want to take money away from the very people who hired you, who pay your salaries and your mounting bills, yet you voted yourselves the biggest pay raise in the history of this nation.

How, in good conscious, can you claim, "I was an early supporter of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget-deficit-reduction bill enacted by Congress in 1985," to balance the federal budget in five years? Had you indeed been a supporter of this bill, you would have urged a repeal of the Congressional pay raise; in fact, you could have taken the lead and demanded accountability on the part of every member of Congress. In addition, you could have urged a pay cut and staff reduction instead to show the American pub-

You cannot buy ethics; people are either ethical or they are not. You, my dear, and your conspirators have no right to be in an office of public trust if you have to be paid to be ethical.

And now you have the nerve to charge the bills that you, Congress, have created, to primarily, the working class American, under the guise of a "negotiated" agreement. This is an outrage compounded by your continual claim, "I feel compelled to set the record straight on this complicated matter."

The operative word here is "complicated."

A budget out of balance and the methods needed to correct it are complicated only because you, our Congress, want people to believe it is complicated. You have convinced a majority of Americans to believe that they, our common citizens, cannot possibly comprehend the "complicated" nature of running their own government, but that you, their elitist representatives, have those special abilities.

You don't!

Any person who uses their mind and common sense, any person who takes the time to check the income and expenses of the government (when you are willing to open the books to us, your bosses), can easily determine how to reduce the federal deficit and start bringing government in balance without adding taxes or taking away from defense or programs that benefit all Americans.

We must:

- Reduce the size of the federal government by reducing the number of assistants, aides, and office staff of every Congressman, program, and agency.
- Cut Congressional salaries and retirement pay; after all, the average citizen must work at least 20 years, attain the age of 55 or older, and have partially invested in their retirement programs before they are able to retire at a set amount not directly tied to their salaries, as is the case with Congressional retirement plans. Better yet, change the law and make Congress pay into Social Security (nice, the way Congress always exempts itself from such programs).
- Discontinue the "franking privileges" of free postage and printing costs afforded to Congressmen.
- Disband programs and agencies that have outlived their usefulness or are simply not needed, such as the agency established during the 1930's to bring electricity to every community in the United States. The last time this agency serviced a community was back in 1964, yet the director and staff continue on the public dole.

- Withdraw support from the thousands of unnecessary research and government-financed programs that were clearly identified by the Grace Commission, who documented the waste at \$180 billion.
- Stop awarding contracts, especially in the aerospace industry, to corporations who openly, and arrogantly, pad their bills and continue to do a poor job, costing not just money but lives!
- Stop supporting the entire world! We are like parents who give their children money and material items rather than teaching them how to become self-sufficient. I am not advocating an isolationist philosophy, but we can no longer afford, nor should we be expected, to feed, defend, and pay every other country's bills.

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I plan to fight hard to ensure that incumbents like you are voted out of office and that your replacements start acting like the visionary statesmen who should be running our government. Though far too many Americans have given up the fight, there are still many of us who are willing to fight for our freedom and against a Congress and President who are making our country into a totalitarian collective slave state!

UNLV must take steps to protect the environment

As concerned students and alumni, we have noticed that no steps have been taken at UNLV functions to use environmentally safe products or accommodate the disposal of recyclable materials. We recently attended the Homecoming picnic at the Moyer Student Union Building on Oct. 19 and were disturbed by what we saw.

Because of the impact of Styrofoam on the ozone, Styrofoam plates and cups should not be used at university functions.

According to J.D. Hair, president of the National Wildlife Fed-

eration, "One Styrofoam cup contains approximately one billion billion (1,000,000,000, 000, 000,000) molecules of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC). Each CFC molecule will destroy approximately 100,000 molecules of ozone."

Containers should be provided for recyclables such as aluminum cans. Through a few simple steps, the university can demonstrate some measure of environmental responsibility.

Bryant Hess, Rich Harding, Mike Nys

Yellin' Rebel) left out a candidate's photo and it was your fault, don't try to justify what happened. You should never have mentioned this item in your (Crinite's) editorial—it made you, not the candidate look bad.

Yes, mistakes happen, but a large part of being a mature, responsible professional is to admit when something is your fault—no matter what the excuse.

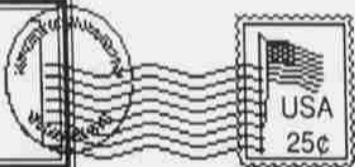
I think The Yellin' Rebel's editor should look at the senseless, whining "editorials" you people are writing. He should start inspiring all of you to search for worthwhile topics and demand

you make your point more clearly.

Lisa Story, UNLV Alumna communication studies

Crinite had pointed out in her editorial that 1) The Yellin' Rebel inherits "traditions" which are unwanted and unappreciated, such as the Homecoming coverage, and 2) she clearly admitted our mistake concerning the photo omission and apologized for any damage it may have caused. If that's not professional and to the point, what is?
The Editors

Letters to the Editor



Yellin' Rebel editorials said to be lacking

Editor's note—the following letter was written in response to Tina Crinite's editorial (Oct. 23) about Homecoming.

Welcome to the real world of journalism! Sometimes you have to write articles you just don't want to write. It's your job. Sometimes political pressure is involved. That's life.

Maybe if you and some of The Yellin' Rebel staff would quit whining about your problems, you could objectively view your roles as student communicators. Maybe then we could read some worthwhile editorials that make a point! Most of the editorials I have read in your paper this semester have not made their point, or have been about insignificant problems that "really bother" one of you.

I'm also tired of the criticism directed at the Homecoming candidates, who campaigned very hard for something they believe in. Perhaps no one re-

ally cares about this outdated tradition, but the candidates and the members of the organizations they represent did learn from the Homecoming campaign.

They had to plan campaign strategies, organize personnel and resources, and speak to people on an impromptu basis. These all require valuable skills that can be transferred into the "real world," and real jobs.

I also think that you and the other writers are missing an important point when you compare the Homecoming elections to the senate elections. Maybe if the senators had gotten off their butts, walked around campus, and introduced themselves to people, perhaps more students would have voted in the senate elections. The Homecoming candidates talked people into voting—they didn't just hang fliers and posters.

Also, a lesson in life you need to learn is that when you make a mistake, admit it. If you (The

Letters Box:

Write Us!

The Yellin' Rebel wants your opinions.

Letters should be approx. 300 words, and have name, address, phone number, major and year in school. Send to:

The Yellin' Rebel
c/o Letters to the Editor
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To accommodate as many letters as possible, The Yellin' Rebel reserves the right to edit all letters for space and clarity.

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