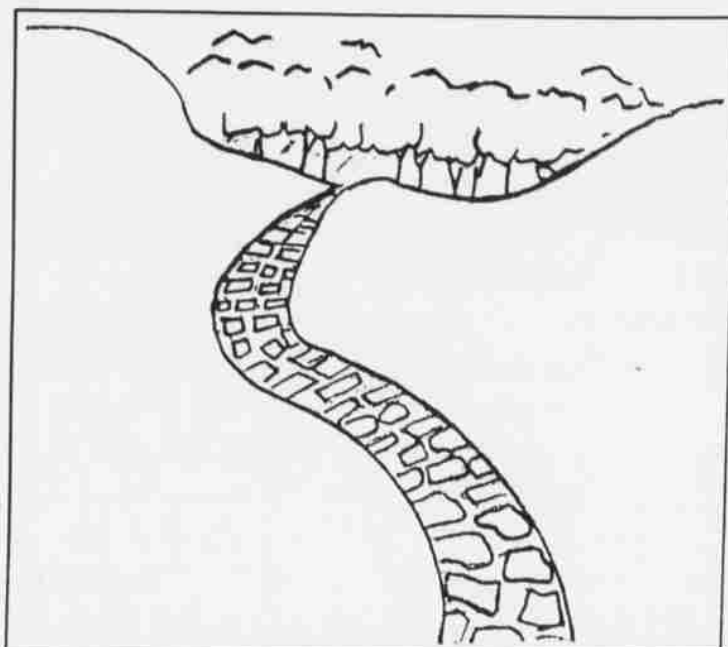


To Oz

by Bonar Tucker



The two letters found in my mailbox this week are filled with such words as editorials are made of. One strongly praises the articles The Yellin' Rebel has been printing and one criticizes our "attack" on Student Government. I have been amused by those letters. Sitting through class lectures, I've pulled them out of my purse to re-read them. Once, before going to sleep at night, I got

out of bed to check on a couple of the words in the dictionary to make sure I was getting their full meaning. It appears someone is grateful to be able to read an accurate (her words) account of the proceedings within the Student Government. The author praised our having the "guts" to keep the students informed, at whatever dismay Student Government offici-

als may encounter and present to us. She stated she had formerly worked within a student government at another college but that she had never heard anything like the language used at Senate meetings at UNLV, nor had she been aware of such freedom of spending as our Student Government "has access to." She mentioned the particular im-

Government senator for embezzlement. Our reporting of that event was viewed as an attack on the government's credibility. He called it "sensationalism."

turned out to be the real prize. Whatever we gather along our "yellow brick roads" is what we'll need to use over and over; more than the diploma which may only get our feet in the door.

posing the recent complaint filed by a local store owner against a Student Government officer.

I find it most interesting that after all is said and done that the result of that Student Govern-

The perception of those two letters differed greatly. And yet,

The letter closed with a reference to Thomas Jefferson's quote to the effect that he valued a newspaper without government over a government without a newspaper. The purpose of a newspaper, she said, is to keep the people informed about the dealings of their government.

"I find it most interesting that after all is said and done that the result of the Student Government story was two letters."

I was informed by their words that these people were absorbing values, or at least questioning them. They were not so intent upon reaching Oz that there was no time to examine the present situation around them. They responded. And I thank them both.

The other letter was a great deal shorter, two sentences to be exact. Apparently, this person is not pleased with The Yellin' Rebel's reporting of the complaint filed against a former Student

ment story was two letters. Hours and hours of checking every fact and nights of keeping our faculty advisor away from her home to go over every aspect of the story, as well as at least a dozen interviews, and now, at the end of the semester, two letters are all that mark the passing.

Admittedly, I am biased about this. I know the story was solid and factual and therefore it was improper to be labeled "sensationalism." According to my Webster's, "to sensationalize is to arouse strong or excited feelings."

Perception is the reality. When we all start on the long (longer for some) road toward that diploma, we could be Dorothy herself heading toward the land of Oz. Our belief is that Oz will bring only good things, just like a diploma is supposed to. But what Dorothy picked up along the way

Judging by the response of only two letters, sensationalism certainly didn't occur here.

Tucker is editor in chief of The Yellin' Rebel

Outrage of the Weak

CNN, the self-proclaimed "World's Most Important Network," features a weekly show called The Capital Gang. The "Gang," a group of journalists and commentators, meets in Washington to discuss current issues and pontificate on whatever suits them. At the end of each show the regulars, Pat Buchanan, Robert Novak, Mark Shields, and Al Hunt let go with their "Outrages of the Week."

Al Hunt, of the Wall Street Journal, chose as his "Outrage" the fact that the NCAA has allowed UNLV to participate in this year's postseason tournament.

As file footage of last year's team slam-dunked to the sounds of Hunt's remarks, viewers across the nation heard Hunt say, "This is the same UNLV that has been synonymous with clandestine cheating in athletics, and it's the same NCAA that imposed a much different penalty on the University of Maryland for first time offenses."

How could this be, that a university so involved in "clandestine" cheating could strike a "deal" with the NCAA when so many other universities have been unable to do so?

Hunt has all the answers: "The message is simple. If you have clout in college basketball -- a UNLV or a Kentucky -- cheat your heart out because you'll only get a little slap on the wrist," Hunt said.

The implication is clear. The Runnin' Rebels are still up against the one foe they can't defeat with an amoeba defense or by running them into the ground; their image. No matter what penalties the NCAA enacts, what punishment the school endures, the image of Las Vegas and Coach Tarkanian's program as being somehow shady is strong.

What Al Hunt, and everyone else with Vegas bashing on their minds, should realize is that in Tarkanian's long battle with the

NCAA there has never been sufficient evidence to "convict" Tarkanian or UNLV.

Rebel bashers should take note that the NCAA has not "let up" on UNLV, but rather took a look at the university, it's players (some of whom turned down potentially lucrative NBA offers to continue with the Rebels), and the

original penalty and determined to reverse its decision. The Lloyd Daniels investigation still hangs over UNLV, and no one doubts that the NCAA, if the evidence permits, will slam the school hard once again.

Hunt is wrong in saying that UNLV is "synonymous with clandestine cheating." There's nothing hidden about UNLV's basketball program, both it's strengths and weaknesses. If the NCAA could have nailed Tarkanian and the school harder, it would have. Hunt should check his synonyms, he just might outrage somebody.

The above is the opinion of The Yellin' Editorial board

"This is the same UNLV that has been synonymous with clandestine cheating in athletics"

Lady Pilot

by Barbara E. Minden

A green flight suit brushed by me as I stood at the end of the shampoo aisle. I shifted a little to allow room, then looked up to see if I recognized the pilot. My husband is an Air Force pilot so "green bags" are familiar. The wearer of this green bag was very unusual and I couldn't help but stare.

The young woman had stopped a few feet away and I could see by her patch that she flew a C-5, the largest operational airplane in the world. Only two percent of Air Force pilots are women, most of whom I've met, so they are no longer a novelty. She was different because she was black.

My consciousness doesn't need raising, I have experienced gender bias many times. But I wondered about her ability to withstand the stresses of attaining and wearing that flight suit. Pilot training breaks some people but they usually wash out long before they wear wings.

I studied her, I'm ashamed to say, looking for any trace of weakness or hesitancy. Flight suits fit snugly, so I could see

her tall body was firm and strong. Her face had the All-American, clean-cut, girl-next-door quality that I knew to be characteristic of Air Force pilots.

She must have felt my laser-like gaze, because she looked up at me. Even through the social embarrassment of being caught staring, I couldn't look away. I had to read her face. She looked directly

"I studied her, I'm ashamed to say, for any sign of weakness or hesitancy"

into my eyes and smiled for several seconds, then turned and walked away.

Without saying a word, she



answered all my questions. She had the look of confidence that comes from surviving one year of hellish pilot training and six weeks of tortuous survival training. That look of total confidence is as much a part of a pilot as the wings she wore on her flight suit.

I thought about her all day. That evening, when my husband came home, I told him about the black, lady pilot. He smiled at me and asked, "Are you sure she wasn't a flight nurse?"

My husband has always been very supportive of every goal I've set for myself. Coming from someone with his orientation, the question reflected the real status of women in our society.

At that moment I knew that the young woman must have had a question of her own when our eyes met. As she walked away from me she probably asked herself, "When will I be able to walk through the BX and not be noticed?"

On that day, women's issues will no longer be issues.

Minden is a junior majoring in communications

Letters Box: Write Us!

The Yellin' Rebel wants your opinions.

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

The Yellin' Rebel
c/o Letters to the Editor
MSU 302
4505 Maryland Pkwy.
Las Vegas, NV 89154

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

Russian correspondence

Dear editor,

My name is Tanya Rasputine. I am 20 years old. I am a student here at the University of Leningrad and would like to get in contact with nice and interesting people from your country.

So, would you please give my address to students of your

university who are interested in a conversation or friendship with me.

I am interested in classical music, modern painting, literature, and travelling.

They should write to me in English or Russian. It would also be nice if they could enclose a photo in their first letter.

My address:

Татьяна Распутина,
ул. Карбышева, д. 4, к. 1,
кв. 103
194021 Ленинград,
СССР, USSR