

OPINION

\$000.00, before taxes

by William T. Holt

After applying for a \$2,625 Guaranteed Student Loan (GSL) for the Spring semester of 1990, I have been notified that I will receive \$600 in the Spring after receiving only \$1,035 in the Fall.

Excuse me for this rather lengthy complaint, but a unique history is required in order for me to fully communicate my message.

I, as a student, understand

same amount, but I was granted only \$1,035, before fees. I found that a question on the ACT that I had answered "Fall" really needed a "Fall/Spring" answer in order for me to get the full amount.

The following is a two part series exemplifying why I am a perfect example of a struggling student:

Part One

The \$1,035, before fees, was

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that the GSL is used by students as semester get-me-by/expense money. A student usually has time for only a part-time job that pays at or less than \$5 per hour. I understand, too, that assistance from UNLV for credit and book fees can come in the form of scholarships, Pell grants and supplemental loans. Students also have the option of acquisitioning money from parents and from what is left over from their part-time jobs.

I have taken two GSL student loans. The first, in 1989, I received the full \$2,625 and did quite well with it. The second time, in 1990, I applied for the

completely eaten by the monster called credit hours, the special fees monster, the late fees monster and the emergency loan monster. It was by luck and after elapsed time that I was finally allowed to "let" the cashier take all of my money in the form of two checks, which I was briefly able to admire by signing them.

Part Two

Ways that I might have been helped

A. The Pell Grant

I received none. My mother's income exceeds the minimum by exactly \$100. This means that my mother must be able to help

her son because of her massive income.

1. Why she can't help

My mother has been financially insecure while continuing to raise my brother by herself in her \$600 apartment and satisfying the requirements to maintain city life. She has barely been able to send me \$40 per week for food while buying her clothes at the used clothing store.

2. My two-year internship of being independent

I am not officially independent according to records on the 3rd floor because I am still in the process of earning my two-year internship of living on my own while paying for my own rent and food. I have about a year left.

B. The good job

I do have a part-time, or three-fourths time, job that pays \$5 per hour. However, I have the misfortune of having a job that allows UNLV employees to be in charge of paying me.

In my past three months at the UNLV Yellin' Rebel newspaper as classifieds manager and office clerk, I have been paid approximately \$000.00 (before taxes). I am also, along with the rest of the staff writers, having technical difficulties in being compensated for writing stories, such as this one.

This has been due to, first, the misplacement of my EDOC (Employee Document or the Allow-Student-To-Be-Paid) form by Mr. So-and-So, Jr. of student government. Second, time had become a factor during the five-to-twelve-desk obstacle course required for documents to reach their proper destination. Would, perhaps, UNLV

prefer I pay rent to stay on the third floor of MSU six hours a day?

The \$400 per month from the UNLV job that I don't get, minus rent, food, expenses, plus a little help from my friends and family, roughly equals negative \$300 per month.

Forward

I figure that if I can take nine credits in the Spring, my \$600, before fees, will just barely make it, providing credit and book fees

stay the same. And if I'm lucky, I'll be paid some day by my job and be able to stock up on enough 29-cent frozen burritos to last me through the rest of college.

And I hope that if I become a professor here at UNLV, I will be paid so that I can buy some more burritos and have enough left over to pay off my student loans.

Holt is a freshman majoring in aggravation



The family web

by Jeffrey D. Allen

In order to receive the proper perspective of our probable entrance into WW III, we need to review the chronological aspects that have led to the Iraq Crisis.

In 1948, George Herbert Walker II, financed his sons' opening of an oil development company called Zapata Oil. The young attorney that handled the firm's legal business was James Baker. Today, the son is this country's president and James Baker now serves as U.S. Secretary of State. This clique goes back even farther. Baker's father and grandfather handled legal work for Bush's father and grandfather in the Soviet oil development program of the 1920's.

In 1953, Great Britain seized, with U.S. approval, the southern provinces of Iraq, subsequently renaming it Kuwait. Kuwait, Bahrain, and other countries were formed as part of the Gulf Emirates as a tool to disperse any monopoly by one nation. This was an attempt to blackmail the world

economic structure. Iraq's retaking of Kuwait now threatens this structure.

Meanwhile, drilling rights in Bahrain are owned by Harken Energy Corporation of Dallas, Texas. The firms' director and major shareholder happens to be President Bush's son George. George Jr. is also Harken's special \$120,000 a year consultant.

It doesn't take much intelligence to realize Harken's \$1.1 billion a year revenues are at risk with the present Iraq crisis. Various industry analysts have yet to conclude how Harken gained the rights to Bahrain's oil. The firm was small-time and unknown; until Bush's son George signed on.

If it is hard to believe that Kuwait was originally a British colony, then consider this; when Iraq

seized the Bank of Kuwait in August 1990, it found the vault to be empty. Why? Because the Bank's assets are located primarily in the Bank of London.

Meanwhile, until recently, Iraq has been an ally of the U.S. for the past decade. Iraq's military buildup has been assisted in part by arms contributed by the U.S. during the Iraq-Iran war during the 80's.

Saddam Hussein was a bedfellow of the U.S. so long as it suited

special interests described as "National Interests." Noriega of Panama and Marcos of the Philippines are other U.S. bedfellows during the last 10 years. Our country's integrity is in shambles because of the White House's willingness to kiss up to criminals.

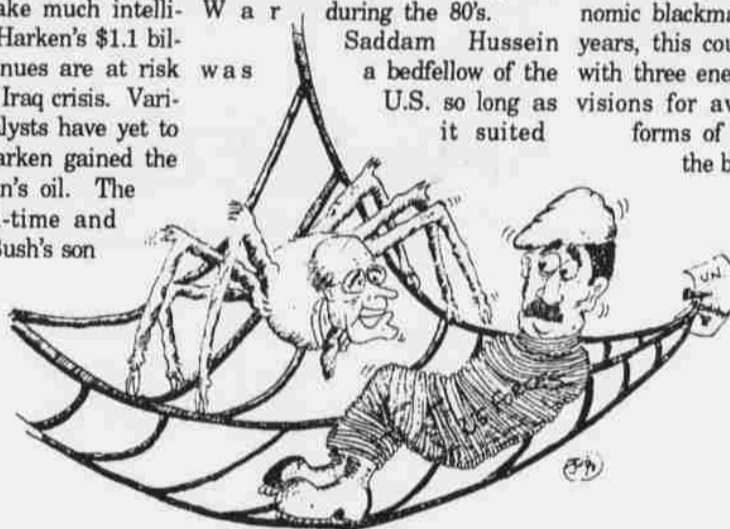
Furthermore, it is construed that Washington wants to make this country susceptible to economic blackmail. In the last 25 years, this country has been hit with three energy crises, yet provisions for available alternate forms of energy remain on the back burner. In fact, this country has no written energy policy, despite alternate forms available which include wind, geothermal, hydroelectric, biomass, hydrogen and solar.

At best, token effort en-

ergy projects seem to be the rule to stifle complaints against administrative inefficiency. Solar power remains hard to exploit and monopolize and thus accounts for only .1percent of electric power in the U.S. As for hydrogen, the lightest, most common element in the universe; the combination with oxygen produces pure water as the only waste product.

Alternate oil imports could be conceivable through trade with Mexico. With the world's eighth largest oil reserve, the border is only 475 miles from Las Vegas. Wouldn't a defined, diversified and innovative national energy policy break us from susceptibility from any attempt at national (and Global) economic upheaval? Of course, a lack of dependency wouldn't be to good for those who have American economic assets in the Middle East.

Allen is a junior majoring in finance.



Skateboards and freedom

by Marc Sperberg

On my way to the library I witnessed an unusual event. A group of five or six kids being forced off the university property by campus police. They had been skateboarding.

The officer said over his loudspeaker, "You kids — get off the university property before I take the skateboards. My policy is to give one warning, then take the boards."

The young people, about 14 years old, mumbled their discontent among themselves with no profanity or disrespect towards the officer.

The officer responded, "Don't think I won't do it (take the boards). Try me."

The kids left quietly. Because I'm planning a career in law, and was on my way to the library to study for a Consti-

tutional Law exam, I immediately thought to go to work as an advocate for the defense. I talked to the kids.

They told me this happens on a regular basis. They said that there was a statute that barred skateboarding from public places.

"The community in general, and the university specifically, needs to get behind some positive reinforcement for the youth of Las Vegas."

The kids said that although the city has been promising a skateboarding park ever since passing the law, it has yet to fulfill its promise.

They were on campus to participate in a movie being made by students. The alternative, they said, was to skate in busy park-

ing lots and on the city sidewalks.

I found the officer who handled the situation and asked him, respectfully, to explain his actions. He said that there had been a number of accidents between university pedestrians and skateboarders. Also, there may be

some liability involved for the university if skateboarders were hurt on campus. He referred me to Chief Hollenbeck for more information on specific ordinances and university policies.

Not caring very much for restrictive laws, I felt satisfied with the university's justification for

denying skateboarders access to campus. I decided to forget it and get back to work on my exam.

I couldn't help but wonder if we sometimes send the wrong message to our kids.

On my list skateboarding is far below drugs, alcohol, vandalism, and other criminal behavior. Besides the officer's concerns, it's healthy and challenging for young people.

We need to support more healthy types of activities in Las Vegas. If there is a need for funding, let's address it. It couldn't be more than we spend to punish and incarcerate juvenile delinquents.

Requiring a registration sticker for skateboards, similar to those used on bicycles, could be a possible solution. Possibly, with increased accountability, skateboarders will increase responsibility.

What about low traffic areas around the university being reserved for skateboarders? There could be specific times allocated to them on weekends.

There is more at stake here than skateboarding. The community and the university need to get behind some positive reinforcement for the youth of Las Vegas. While the skateboarders are here, we can foster an appreciation of the university and higher education in general. We can make UNLV a place where teenagers want to be.

At a minimum, we would be providing alternatives to the other forces that tend to corrupt our youth and pervert the morality we try so hard to convey to them.

Sperberg is a sophomore majoring in communications