

The Yellin' Rebel wants independence

Student paper seeks to stand apart from Student Government

Independence. Self-determination. Freedom.

The Yellin' Rebel newspaper has joined the universal battle for free expression. A proposal sits in the hands of Student Government—a proposal that will grant independent status to the paper.

What that would mean is that the money it takes to produce the student paper would no longer be funneled through Student Government, and the editors of the paper would no longer have to answer to the very people they cover while bringing students the news. It's a move that is long overdue.

The paper has always had a bizarre relationship with the Student Government overseeing the paper's production. The players have changed over the years, but the essential facts have remained the same.

Although The Yellin' Rebel earns almost enough in advertising revenue to fully support the paper, it is Student Government

who controls the money.

Student Government is responsible for paying the bills. Student Government doles out the funds that pay editors, writers, copy editors and typists their meager earnings (most people involved with the paper earn less than \$100 a month for many hours of effort).

In order for an individual to become a member of The Yellin' Rebel staff, their application must first be approved by the appropriate members of Student Government.

If an employee or ex-employee has a gripe against the paper, the complaint is filed with and heard by Student Government. Any disciplinary action comes from Student Government. Student Government can fire members of The Yellin' Rebel staff.

Yet it is also the members of Student Government who create a good percentage of the news!

As reporters, we cover senate

meetings, committee meetings and any significant developments in Student Government, and try to do so fairly and accurately without sounding as though we're pandering to the folks who pay the bills. At the same time, editors

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and reporters may try to prove their independence by standing up to Student Government by concentrating on stories about them.

Talk about conflict of interest!

It can be maddening. The fact that reporters are people, and subject to the pressure of trying to please the folks who pay them,

and the fact that Student Government is an immensely human organization, with all the faults and frailties that go with being so, is enough to see that independence is long overdue, necessary and beneficial to all involved.

This was a carefully determined step by the staff of The Yellin' Rebel, and not some hastily thrown-together idea. Co-editor Richard Crow prepared the proposal the better part of last semester, and feels confident it covers all the issues involved. During the research necessary to compile such a proposal, many editors of other student newspapers were contacted and spoken with.

Most of them couldn't believe that our government runs our paper.

Explanations of how this situation came about pale in the light of current statistics. When Student Government and The Yellin' Rebel were first bound together,

the university was tiny compared to now. Perhaps then it served its purpose, but the idea is ludicrous with a university of more than 18,000 students.

The Yellin' Rebel wants to be independent of Student Government, and thinks it's about time it is allowed to do so.

It would benefit the students because a paper unencumbered by restrictions placed upon them by a government is a better paper. It's a constitutional right for citizens to have access to a free press without the threat of censorship.

The Yellin' Rebel urges all members of Student Government to carefully consider the proposal in their possessions. Read it. Think about it. Vote for it.

We all have much to gain and nothing to lose.

opinion of Yellin' Rebel staff

Letters to the Editor

Dear editor,

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, WILPF, has been empowering women for 75 years, according to Phyllis Rubin, development director of the organization. Founded in 1915 during World War I, Rubin said they are working not only to stop the gulf war, but to remove the conditions and mentality that allow all wars to happen.

For years, and particularly since Iran took U.S. hostages, the U.S. prepared for an American-staffed military base in Saudi Arabia. Supplies and infrastructure (roads, runways) were put in place, waiting for a "crisis" to "justify" troop deployment.

As the Cold War was ending (even Robert McNamara called for a 50 percent cut in U.S. military spending), the multi-billion dollar industry panicked. In what appears to be an effort to dodge disarmament opportunities in Europe, the U.S. is transferring troops and weapons from there to the gulf.

The historical roots of the Iraq-Kuwait border dispute lie in European imperialism. After World War I, British-designed national borders intentionally denied Iraq a gulf port. Kuwait was chipped off a corner of Iraq and fabricated as a country by the British to reward a friendly sheik.

To create a favorable political climate to deploy U.S. troops, suddenly President Saddam Hussein is demonized by Bush.

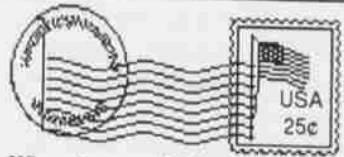
When he used chemical weapons, the United States and its European allies were implicated in selling them. But now, war hysteria and accompanying anti-Arab racism has spilled over, heavily impacting people of color in our country.

Racism accounts for another important factor. The common U.S. soldiers are disproportionately the poor and people of color who often join the military for job training and college tuition benefits, opportunities not widely available to them in our institutionally racist society. It is they who disproportionately die "for their country" in war. Meanwhile, President Bush vetoed the Civil Rights Act of 1990.

Bush is correct to object to Hussein's disregard for international law, but his rhetoric rings hollow, given the U.S. lack of reaction to other countries' invasions or occupations, including our own.

While the United Nations Security Council agreed to the economic embargo of Iraq, the massive U.S. troop lift was done independently, without United Nations approval. The United States is using the United Nations to create the impression of legitimacy for its military intervention, while still owing \$750 million in U.N. dues!

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom will be holding marches Jan. 26 in San Francisco and Washington, D.C. to stop the gulf war.



We don't care, we're the university

by Gary Puckett

Students at UNLV who registered for the spring semester using the TOUCH registration system recently (very recently) received the bill for this semester. In my case, my bill arrived on Jan. 10 and I know of at least one instance where it arrived on Jan. 11. This came as no great surprise except that late fees will be assessed if payment is made after Jan. 18. In other words, students are allowed all of a week to make payment on this bill or they will be charged extra for being late.

A one-week allowance to make payment on any bill would seem short, but with the amounts of these bills, it seems outrageously short. Students taking only one course for three credits are billed \$138, while those taking five courses for 15 credits are billed \$690. An allowance of only a week for payment before being late is absurd, especially for bills of this size.

A deferred payment plan is available in which a student can pay half the bill by Jan. 18 and the rest by March 1. However, nothing is mentioned about this possibility on the bill, and it is only available to those students taking seven credits or more. This does nothing to aid a student who works, is taking two classes and has received a bill for \$276.

Also noteworthy is the fact that the university hasn't sent out grades (as of Jan. 16) for last semester. Students are considered "late" and assessed a "late fee" with only one week to pay their fees, while the school administration takes four weeks (or more) to send out grades. This not only illustrates a gross discrepancy in policy, but it presents

"Students are assessed a 'late' fee with only one week to pay their fees, while the school takes four weeks to send out grades."

a serious problem for some students.

There are some students (especially those who are close to graduation) who may wish to see their grades before registration for the new semester. If a poor grade is given, they may want to repeat the class, but with the present situation, they won't know until after, or immediately before, payment of fees.

Economic factors also spell trouble for students trying to avoid this late fee. Although the news has been predominantly

war-related lately, the economic news has been all negative. We are in a recession. Unemployment, even in Las Vegas, is sharply on the rise. Students recently laid off from their jobs will find no comfort from this school's abrupt late fee policy.

Unlike the power company or the gas company, extensions are not given and, as previously stated, deferred payments are only for those taking more than six credits. The policy is, "You pay now, or you pay more."

Finally, it should also be noted that this semester arrives right after Christmas. Students (who are nearly always on tight budgets) are like everyone else in society. They spend money at Christmas and are usually strapped for cash after the arrival of the new year. It is more difficult for students to meet monetary deadlines now than at any other time of year.

These complaints may seem trivial. The penalty for being late is not substantial. However, being considered late after only a week is disturbing, and not getting grades after all these weeks is frustrating. Perhaps the school needs a new definition of the term "late."

Puckett is a staff member and copy editor at The Yellin' Rebel.

A COUNTRY WHERE WOMEN CAN'T DRIVE, CAN'T SWIM IN THE SAME POOL AS MEN, ARE STONED TO DEATH FOR ADULTERY, HAVE ONLY THOSE RIGHTS GRANTED TO THEM BY THEIR HUSBANDS... YOUR JOB: PROTECT THE STATUS QUO.



WAR! WHY?

A TEACH-IN FOR UNDERSTANDING

WEDNESDAY

JANUARY 23, 1991

11AM to 4PM - MSU 202
7PM to 9PM - WRI 103

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND A DAY OF DISCUSSION AND NETWORKING