

Proposal may be shot down, but the fight is just beginning

The Yellin' Rebel Opinion— Although former Editor Richard Crow has labored since September to design a plan that would free the paper from governmental influence, The Yellin' Rebel has waited until now to bring it before the students.

The reason for this is simple. The paper is totally dependent upon the good will and kind hearts of senators and Publications Board members. At their discretion, these Student Government officials may terminate, sanction, or reprimand the people who work at The Yellin' Rebel.

Although the paper earns enough to pay its own expenses, Student Government controls the funds. They okay the checks. They spend the money. They call the shots.

It will be Student Government, ultimately, that decides the fate of the paper.

The Yellin' Rebel staff, knowing full well the uphill climb they faced, had tried to be nothing but fair in its treatment of Student Government and the powerful handful of students who dominate it. This hasn't always been easy.

Stories that have outraged certain members of Student Government, most notably the recent story that implicated high ranking Student Government officials in an alleged theft, were checked

and doubled-checked, sources verified, with every detail measured against verification before ever seeing print. The time such a story takes is mind boggling. Hours of effort are read in mere moments.

The Yellin' Rebel has maintained the highest journalistic standards during this tender, tightrope-walking time. Any story about Student Government—and

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there have been many—without adequate verification was thrown out. Many others were put on hold, or shelved, because the very individuals involved were the same people sitting on review boards, disciplinary panels, or merely in charge of dispensing the funds needed to make the paper appear every Tuesday and Thursday.

Student Government, on the other hand, has been anything but

kind, or even courteous, in its treatment of the paper. Several reporters, after breaking stories that dealt with members of the senate or presidency, have felt the hot ire of Student Government officials.

One of the most vocal critics has been President of Student Government Joe Bunin. Although he is not a member of the Student Senate, Bunin attends the meetings, often interjecting most of the comments heard during a typical session.

From this highly irregular platform (does President Bush attend the senate meetings and put his two-cents in whenever he feels like it?), Bunin has lambasted several reporters with remarks that have ranged from mildly insulting to outright hostile.

Bunin, reacting to the story concerning the possible robbery, accused reporter Chris Kindred of not identifying himself as a reporter and violating the standards of journalistic ethics.

In response, Kindred filed a formal complaint against Bunin with the Student Government Judicial Council. The Council declined to hear the case, citing a lack of jurisdiction.

Kindred and others have often felt the sting of being insulted in a public forum with no recourse or retaliation available to them.

Senate President Pro Tempore Charles "Bud" Benneman at the Dec. 6 meeting said that Kindred "...is an absolute idiot."

One of the most daunting aspects of the Yellin' Rebel dealing with Student Government is that certain members of the government refuse to own up to their actions. In relation to the story concerning the alleged thefts, Entertainment and Programming Director Liza Gripenrog denied,

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during a senate meeting, ever having talked with the Yellin' Rebel, and claimed that the quotes were manufactured.

This was not true. Gripenrog spoke with Yellin' Rebel reporters at least three times before the story ever saw print.

Abuse aside, Student Government now wants more control over what the students read. As recently as Jan. 24, the editor of the paper was informed that the Office of Student Information Interim Director, paid directly from

Student Government, will be printing news from Senate meetings on the OSI page, which is an advertisement for the promotion of same. The Yellin' Rebel was accused of being biased and printing misinformation.

It is ironic that, during the period in which many stories were held back, and even killed as the editors negotiated the razor's edge of trying to report the news while pleasing the people who often make the news, Student Government has accused the paper of being unfair.

The message is clear: newspapers and government simply do not mix.

Until The Yellin' Rebel is free of government entanglements, Student Government will be a concern. There is no other choice. Stories will run; double-, or even triple-checked for verification. All of them accurate. All of them unbiased. All of them factual down to the final period.

Some of them may be damaging to certain members of Student Government.

After riding a razor's edge for many months, The Yellin' Rebel has decided it cannot profit while depending upon the good will and kind hearts of Student Government. The razor has been allowed to fall.

The above is the opinion of the Yellin' Rebel

Point of View

interviews and photos by Dustin Bermingham

What is your opinion of the Gulf War?



Mike Quick
Junior
Management

Peace isn't free—our soldiers have to pay for it. Protesters need to realize that the soldiers are just doing their jobs, so instead of protesting we need to show more support.



Michelle Horn
Sophomore
Business

I think we should definitely be fighting this war. Our troops are getting a lot of support and I respect them for being there. Saddam Hussein should be killed and once we find him, he probably will be.



Vickie Bliss
Sophomore
Business Administration

I think the way we're going about this war is all wrong. Bush says we aren't going to fight with one hand behind our back, but we are. I think we should bomb more heavily, then go in with our ground troops.



Charles Jones
Freshman
Hotel Management

I don't like it. We have teenagers fighting, but they don't know what they are fighting for. It also seems that Saddam Hussein has a lot up his sleeve, and he is going to give us more than we expected.



Rachel Julian
Freshman
Undeclared

I support Bush's decision to go to war. Saddam Hussein cares nothing for any kind of life. I don't think the government is letting us in on everything that is happening in the gulf.



HEY STUDENTS!!!

The Yellin' Rebel is YOUR paper so get involved! If you would like to submit articles, send letters to the editor, draw illustrations, or participate in the distribution of the paper, please come to the Yellin' Rebel office. 3rd floor, MSU.