

Newspapers aren't nice

The Yellin' Rebel has recently caused anxiety among certain members of Student Government. Several editorials have been denounced, and the paper has been accused of being biased.

Somehow, during a senate meeting, the idea that a newspaper is supposed to print "nice" things came up during the discussion. A member of Student Government asked why the paper never printed "nice" things.

The answer is simple; newspapers aren't nice.

Newspapers cause friction. Newspapers say things people don't want to hear. It wasn't nice of Review-Journal Editor Sherman Frederick to print the controversial column about Baby Adam. It wasn't nice of a pair of journalists to uncover the Watergate scandal and topple the Nixon presidency. It wasn't nice of journalists to show the dead and dying of Vietnam.

Newspapers report news, and reserve the right to comment upon the news in their editorial pages. Nowhere is being "nice" any less appreciated than the editorial pages of a paper. If the paper upsets somebody, and does it well enough to truly raise a storm cloud, it's doing, at least, part of its job.

Being nice matters not at all, being fair matters greatly, and being correct matters most.

The members of Student Government who feel slighted by the paper's treatment often fail to recognize that The Yellin' Rebel covers all the pertinent news surrounding the university. Student Government is clearly a boon to many students, and fulfills an enormous role in making the average student's journey through the university system an easier one.

Class notes, redbooks, typewriters, dozens of events, activities, and programs; an endless list of positive things can be found originating with Student Government, and these subjects see their fair share of print.

Within the government are serious problems, both in the management of certain branches and the leadership of certain boards. The Yellin' Rebel has questioned some practices of the Student Government, but has yet to see any sign that the problems are being dealt with rather than ignored.

Until that happens, certain members of Student Government will continue to wonder why the paper "never prints any nice things" about their actions.

The future—a sucker bet

by Gabriel Campisi

I heard he accepted bets on anything, no matter how questionable or bizarre, so I decided to try my luck and visit him.

"Anything goes, kid — I just cashed in over \$4,000 from those scumbags watching the tube over there. They bet there would be a terrorist attack on the Superbowl during the first half of the game. There wasn't. I won. I collected."

Willie the Worm had a reputation for being the only bookie in town who took bets on anything but sports. I asked him if there were any rules.

"Either an event happens or it doesn't. It's that simple," he said.

It seemed easy enough, so I put a hundred bucks on the table. I wagered that the pollution problem around the world would alleviate itself by the year 2000.

Willie almost choked on his cigar. "I'm not sure you belong here, kid. At the rate things are progressing, it'll become nearly impossible to step out of the house without having an oxygen tank surgically attached to your lungs by 2000. The complete annihilation of the rain forests and timberlands will contribute vastly to the rapidly thinning oxygen in the atmosphere. Combine the world's lack of support in aiding this problem with the already existing squalid pollution of the major cities, and you'll die before you see the situation corrected."

All right, forget pollution. I bet him a hundred bucks there would be a cure for AIDS by 2000.

Willie shook his head. "AIDS will no longer be a problem in 2000

— it'll be a fact of life. The government's failure to sponsor research with the virus still in its infancy stage will leave over 90 percent of the earth's population mortally infected with the deadly germ. The average person will not be expected to live past thirty-five!"

I wasn't getting anywhere with this guy. I bet him global warming would be a thing of the past by 2000.

"Are you nuts? By 2000, the hole in the ozone layer will grow several hundred miles in diameter, causing the sun's rays to bombard the earth with constant radiation. Major icebergs will shock the world by separating from their mainlands in the Arctic Circle and Antarctica due to the warming. When the coastlines across the globe begin to swell, sinking several small islands in the process, the United Nations will declare the entire world a disaster area."

I was quickly running out of topics. I suggested we bet there would be no more homeless people in America by 2000.

"Mark my words, kid. By 2000, the homeless will declare themselves a separate ethnic group. Their population will multiply over 750 percent as more and more people helplessly fall victim to the harsh realities of living on the streets. Government officials will finally confront the situation, although too late, when many of them find themselves becoming homeless as well. This will come as a result of the federal deficit's

growth into the billions of trillions of dollars — an amount beyond comprehension. Eighty percent of government employees will lose their jobs."

We couldn't agree on a wager, so I asked him to name the bet.

Think before opposing war

by Sabrina Ward.

Operation Desert Storm is certainly the talk of the campus lately. Listening and participating in the conversation myself is something I find unavoidable.

It is appalling to realize the lack of support for our troops in the Persian Gulf. I hear more every day about anti-war protesters and it burns me up inside; although, I must note that I do recognize every citizen's right in the U.S. to voice their opinion. But what some people are forgetting is one small fact: we were granted the right to freedom of speech only because of those who fought that right in the past. Our country is founded on millions who were willing to pay the "ultimate price," their lives, for the freedom of all.

So I ask those of you willing to

attack President Bush and his decision, to take a moment and seriously consider what you are protesting. Of course no one wants war, including myself, but unfortunately some ac-



quired in order to sustain our standards of living. In order to continue "sitting-pretty" in a country where we can essentially do and have anything we desire, force in the Middle East is neces-

sary. If the United States were to sit back and idly observe Saddam Hussein (So-Damn Insane) slowly conquer countries in an attempt for absolute tyranny, we would, as a country, simply be advocating his political way of thinking.

Think before you protest this war; I am not asking you to support the issues of the war, that goes beyond anyone's right to enforce. Rather, put your energy into the "support of our troops" if nothing else. They need to know that everyone here at home is behind them and what their positions in the United States military entail them to take.

Ward is a junior majoring in English.

Letters to the Editor

Unfair ticket policy for part-time students

Dear Editor,

On January 28, I went over to the Thomas and Mack to pick up my student basketball tickets. When I arrived, after standing in line for 20 minutes, I was told that, because I was part-time I could buy my tickets at half price on Jan. 29.

I went back and looked in The Yellin' Rebel advertisement for tickets and it said nothing about being part-time and the

policy. So I called the president's office, and she referred me to Dennis Finrock. He wasn't in and his secretary referred me to the student union. The student union referred me to student services who referred me to Student Government.

Finally at the Student Government, the Student Government president said he thought part-time students received free tickets and he would look into it.

My main complaint is in the advertisement in the paper. It did not mention the policy about part-time students, therefore I spent the better part of my lunch hour for nothing. I don't know who made up this policy but I don't think it's fair. I'm taking 9 credits and I think that I should be eligible for free tickets.

Michelle Frame
Junior, Education

A student's suggestion to President Maxson

Dear Editor,

Often in work situations, the group of people working in an office become attached to each other and work there not only because their job is interesting, but also because it is a place to be among friends.

Many times in production facilities such as The Yellin' Rebel newspaper, the dedicated men and women employed spend the majority of their day working, as

opposed to a 9 to 5 situation. These people tend to be those most interested in what they're doing and stay long hours because their job also serves as a form of entertainment.

During the university's plan to expand UNLV by creating more buildings and restructuring office areas, I would like Dr. Maxson to consider creating a new office building for production centers like the paper, Quicksilver and the printing plant.

Regarding the friendship, the interest in the paper, and the long hours that the dedicated workers at the newspaper spend in the office, I ask that my proposed new office building have a second floor with separate dorm rooms so that Yellin' Rebel employees and others may enjoy more thoroughly "living on the job."

William Holt
Freshman, English



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
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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.

Opinions expressed in The Yellin' Rebel are those of the writer or the staff and not necessarily the Student Government.

then, of course, it'll be too late." No way. I knew a sucker bet when I heard one. I pocketed my hundred bucks and walked away.

Campisi is a junior majoring in philosophy.