

Letters to the Editor



Lawyer power

Dear Editor,

The manufacturers and business people have as much political power in Japan as the lawyers have political power in America.

It is no accident that in Japan, business and manufacturing are strong while lawsuits and lawyers are weak. In America the lawyers and lawsuits are strong, while business and manufacturing are weak.

The abusive problems that lawyers cause will begin to be addressed when the public becomes more aware of the amount of political power that

lawyers control.

Lawyers are very powerful. However, their vulnerability far exceeds their power. Everything lawyers do depends on what the laws state, what the courts rule and how the constitution is interpreted. When the public begins to examine the power of lawyers they will also examine how lawyers, intentionally or unintentionally, benefit themselves from this control of power. They will not like what they find. Good changes will occur.

T. Severa
Aurora, Co.

Class act

Dear Editor,

I'm a 20-year-old freshman attending UNLV for my second semester.

I spend a lot of time studying at the library on campus. I try to find someone I know who also needs to study, because I fear the long walks at night between the library and the parking lot.

On Jan. 31, I was with a friend of mine at the library, waiting for campus security or the "phantom shuttle service" to arrive. As we were about to leave, we decided to ask someone to escort us. The first person to walk through the door was one of the biggest men I'd ever seen.

As he got closer, I noticed the serious expression on his face. I was about to change my mind about asking this massive man for anything when he warmly smiled and said, "Hi, how are you doing?"

I called ahead to him and asked if he'd mind walking us to our car. Once again, he smiled and said, "Sure."

As we walked we spoke of different problems facing UNLV, especially the fear of walking on campus at night, and he seemed genuinely concerned about the problem. We also found that his name was Joel.

He walked us to Lot 3 in the Thomas & Mack and made

sure we got in safely. When we found out he was parked out by Maryland Pkwy., we felt really bad because my car is only a two-passenger vehicle. He just waved his hand and said, "Have a nice night."

The next day I called around UNLV and found that Joel is a senator for the College of Physical Education and Health.

I've had a few bad experiences with Student Government in the past and have been following the stories about the problems with President Joe Bunin and other crises that adorn the pages of *The Yellin' Rebel*. However, I'd like to give Student Government and the senate a word of praise. It's people like Joel Kostman that give you a good name. He didn't have to go out of his way to help us, but he did. He didn't have to walk us all the way out to our cars, but he did. He especially didn't have to listen to us complain about the problems we face as UNLV night students, but he did.

If you people in Student Government would stop worrying about the trivial things (articles that inform the student body about the dark side of Student Government), you could make more of an impact by electing senators like Kostman. He's a class act.

Lisa, freshman

Desert Storm: the Movie!

by Anne Racel

It's complete with "sorties" that sound like a walk in the desert at sunset, and Patriots—ahh—Mom and apple pie. Don't forget "Support our Troops" and "moral war" slogans, which appeal to baby boomers for whom the memory of Vietnam is still fresh.

What do the "bad guys" have? Scuds. Sounds downright dirty and disgusting, huh?

When the soldiers came home from Vietnam, they were not treated as heroes by the general public. They were greeted with scorn. The men were held personally responsible for the atrocities committed in an unpopular war.

Current times have brought a change in thinking. Now we're trying to compensate for the miserable way in which we treated Vietnam veterans.

That attitude has held over to the current war. "Support our Troops" slogans remind the

men and women now serving in the Middle East that they will be welcomed home with open arms.

But like most rallying cries, this one is being taken too far. To oppose the war, in the mind of those proclaiming this slogan, is to oppose those serving in the military.

And to add to the "rightness," Bush has declared this a "moral war." We are the "good guys," he claims.

Since the beginning of time, people on both sides of a conflict have claimed that their deity was behind them. This made their cause "right."

I cannot support this war. Nor can I support any war. What meaning is there to the word "civilization" if we solve our conflicts by battle? How can any war be moral if it involves killing people?

I, for one, stand now to say, this is enough! We must learn to find peaceful solutions to our problems.

Make good or make tracks

Senate President Pro-Tempore Charles "Bud" Benneman introduced a bill on Feb. 14 that is designed to clear up the problem of ineligible students serving as Student Government officials. The bill would remove grade verification from the senate and turn it over to the CSUN business manager. The reasoning Benneman used for this proposal was that the business manager was 1) a nonstudent, professional person, and 2) already closely associated with Student Government affairs.

The Yellin' Rebel commends Bud Benneman for taking a step toward proper verification of grades, but doesn't think the current proposal is sufficient to correct the inherent problems with the system.

The current policy was recently revealed as being all but ignored. When questioned on the process of verification with regard to the eligibility of current members of the Executive Board, Senate President Gina Polovina was unsure who was in charge of verifying grades. She thought that Vice President in charge of Student Service Robert Ackerman had been routinely doing it, but he denied the responsibility.

The implication was clear: no one was actively, routinely checking that certain members of Student Government had completed the minimum number of credits and had a G.P.A. of 2.0 or greater. The process had broken down.

What Benneman's proposal addresses, however, is only half the issue. While mandating the business manager to check grades, it does not address the obvious conflict of Student Government people checking up on Student Government. There is an awful lot of "wiggle room" in Benneman's proposal.

According to Benneman, the only individuals who would know if all Student Government officials had proven their eligibility are themselves Student Government officials. Although the business manager is a professional, nonstudent "overseer" of Student Government's monies, the very fact that Student Government pays that person's salary gives the business manager a real interest in Student Government affairs. For that reason alone, Benneman's proposal will not work.

There must be an impartial determination of a student's eli-

"The implication was clear: no one was routinely checking that members of Student Government had completed the minimum number of credits and had a G.P.A. of 2.0 or higher."

gibility to serve as a Student Government official. The Yellin' Rebel would like to see full, public disclosure of verified grade point average and credits earned. The Privacy Act of 1974, in fact, prohibits the business manager from making this information public. The act does not prohibit voluntary disclosure, however, and since running for office is clearly a public affair, The Yellin' Rebel would like to see the senate move toward a policy that will work on all levels rather than merely addressing a few of the questions that have come up.

Mandatory public disclosure of earned credits, and grade point averages, for all members of Student Government is the only policy worth pursuing. Student

Government is a voluntary thing, and no one wants senators and directors who cannot handle six credits per semester and maintain a G.P.A. of 2.0 or higher.

Student Government President Joe Bunin would do well to initiate this policy. In response to the front page story that questioned his eligibility to serve, Bunin's only public comment was to the effect that he was a tough opponent, and that in scrapes such as this, he usually wins.

Despite the fact that the entire matter would have been put to rest had he done so, Bunin offered no mention of having the proper credentials to serve, and gave no indication that he was willing to produce any evidence that the charges were incorrect.

What President Bunin might not realize is this: in battles such as this he may, indeed, win. He has certainly proven his toughness as an opponent many times in the past. But if he "wins," without simply proving that he is, and has been, eligible according to the rules, we all lose.

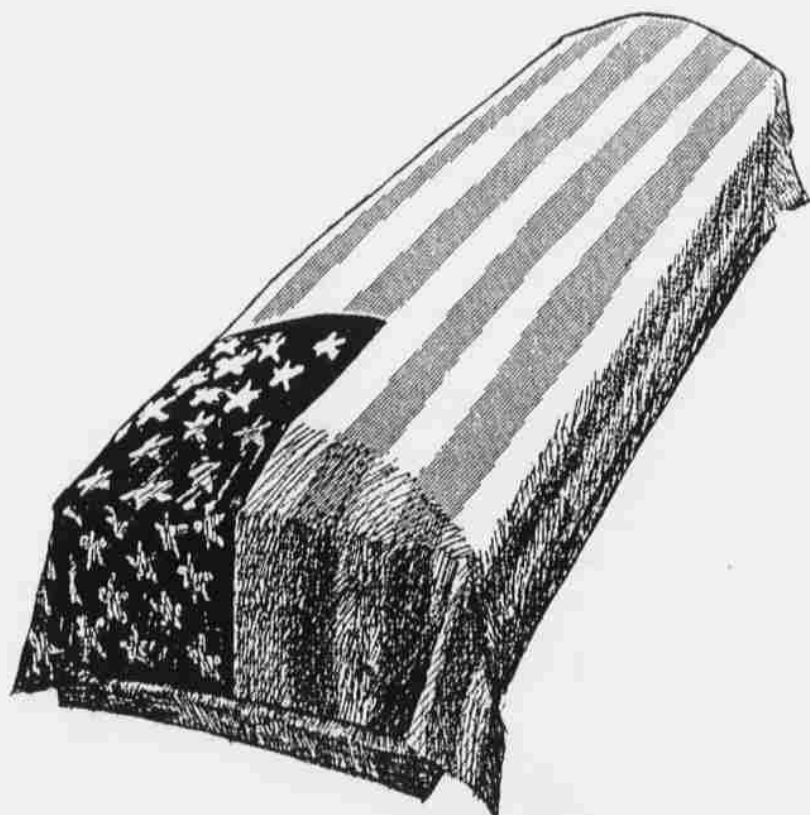
In other business:

The Yellin' Rebel welcomes Monica Ricci as new Publications Board director. The Pub. Board has come under attack in recent weeks, and been mired down in a morass of inefficient operation and poor management. Ricci has no easy task ahead of her. A complaint has been filed that the entire board has been unconstitutional and this complaint should be reviewed by the Judicial Council. The Yellin' Rebel hopes that her presence and leadership will help the Publications Board overcome the problems of the past.

The above is the opinion of
The Yellin' Rebel.

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When Johnny comes marching home again, hurrah, hurrah...