

Letters to the Editor



Blood for oil

Dear Editor,

The war in the Middle East has turned our beloved America into an icon for corruption—specifically, blood for oil.

As Americans, we must follow the guidelines of the Monroe Doctrine. To extend that doctrine beyond this hemisphere is arrogant blood sport.

All of Kuwait is not worth one American life. You know this is true. Please act on your

good conscience and halt the blind acceptance of George Bush/Sid Rogich propaganda: "There is a new world order." Rivers of blood for financial- and political-gain gas been the way of the world for more years than Bush has been a Republican. That party will do anything to stay in power. The emperor has no clothes.

Garry Palermo
UNLV, Graduate, 1989
communication studies

Prayers and sports

Dear Editor,

The Sports Information Department at UNLV has been making it a policy to ask fans at the Rebel basketball games to stand and say a prayer for the troops overseas. This is a very inappropriate gesture for the university to be making.

I agree with taking a moment to think about our troops in the Persian Gulf, but it is offensive to ask people to pray. As a public university, we need to set an example by not allowing this form of discrimination to occur.

It seems that asking for "a moment of silence" would be a more appropriate gesture, as many other schools are choosing to do at their game functions.

I believe the resolution to the Persian War lies in human responsibility and solutions, and I don't believe that we will end this war by asking for foreign aid from allies in the sky. Students should be able to participate in school functions without a mandatory prayer included in the agenda.

Malanie L. Carver senior,
hotel administration

Students criticize cartoon

Dear Editor,

Giving vent to one's patriotic feelings at a time of war is fairly understandable; however, it is amazing to see the pitiful level to which the editorial quality of our campus newspaper has currently descended.

I specifically refer to the cartoon on page 6 of the Feb. 14 issue that shows Jesus (a good, innocent-looking man) hearing aggressive threats from Muhammad. There are several things wrong with it. First, we are supposedly an academic environment, where we are supposed to seek knowledge and develop some values.

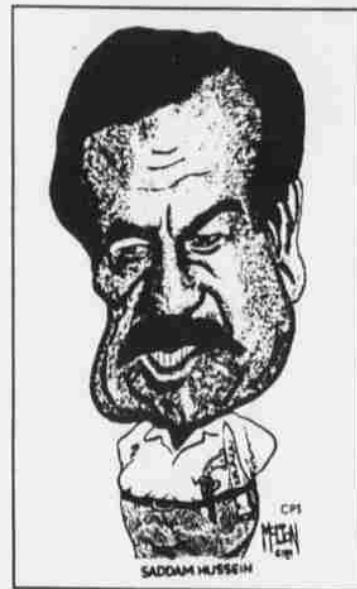
We learn not to heap abuse on specific religions and ethnic groups. This also means that we do not caricature people for belonging to any particular ethnic group or religion as being hopelessly dumb, greedy, evil or violent.

Secondly, we are supposed to lose our ignorance by opening our minds and informing ourselves about what we do not know. You seem to have neglected the fact that Islam, like Judaism, does not permit images of its holy figures, least of all see them purposely reviled. While one is free to draw or write what one likes, it is not anyone's right to publish something overtly offensive in a newspaper that seeks to serve the entire university community.

Also, in view of the diversity of the students and faculty here on campus, it will be commendable for our college newspaper to actually educate and inform students and others about world issues and cultures. Please understand that hostilities are always started by ignorance and lack of communication.

I hope that my remarks will be given some consideration and in the future your contributors will not only consult an encyclopedia to remove their ignorances about other religions and cultures but also to avoid mixing East-European capitals (which they are prone to do every now and then!).

Usman Qazi graduate student



Dear Editor,

A university is a place where the students, from different countries and different religions, receive education. It is very unfortunate that UNLV's only newspaper, *The Yellin' Rebel*, is deteriorating in the sense of intellectual level of attainment. The cartoon on page six of the Feb. 14 newspaper is an open example of such level.

It is true that during war, the emotions against the enemies become high. But I want to remind people that this war is not a religious war between Muslims and Christians; this war is against Saddam Hussein's annexation of Kuwait, a small and peaceful country. There are 28 countries standing side by side with our troops and many are Muslim countries. Also, Hussein is not the representative or a religious/spiritual leader of Islam.

I request that before printing that kind of material, which can change the definition of different issues and increase the hatred for any particular group, please go through it and give one more thought.

I hope that in future nothing will be published before fully considering the issues.

Misbahul Azam graduate student
Department of electrical engineering

The children of Guatemala

by Azzari Calderon.

Editor's Note: Calderon recalled, in part one, how he came across an article about his homeland, Guatemala, and the memories it stirred. He remembered working in the Hospital Roosevelt when he caught a glimpse of over two hundred homeless children sleeping on the street, and the effect it had upon him.

The plight of the homeless children in Guatemala will not change overnight, nor will all the other socio-political problems that are plaguing Guatemala. But maybe some of the problems would be corrected, or at least helped, if the developed nations of the world would stay out of Guatemalan politics and quit helping the government with military and advisory aid. Until that happens, the situation in Guatemala will continue to deteriorate.

The homeless children will continue to be killed, crime and inflation will continue to rise, the indigenous peoples will continue to be massacred, friends will continue to disappear, bombs will explode, and stomachs go hungry.

If the children and all those who suffer in Guatemala could, I am sure they would address all those governments who have let this go on. These countries include Germany, Israel, France, Chili, Argentina, Panama, Honduras, and El Salvador, to name just a few. But their greatest address would go to the government of the United States for supplying, training, and advising the Guate-

malan police force, military force, army, air force, death squads and intelligence agency.

It may seem that the previous paragraph may appear somewhat sarcastic, but it is something that I (along with many of my friends who share the same point of view) feel from my heart and mind. When I talk about Guatemala I can't help but become emotional, if not enraged, depending on the subject. In this case, the case of the article that brought me to write my comments, I read something that I already knew. This reminded me of all those children I saw sleeping on the sidewalk that particular night, which in turn reminded me of a certain homeless boy I once met in San Carlos.

I used to buy him hamburgers while on my lunch break. He was ten years old, maybe, and had no family or home. He was always in an enthusiastic, optimistic mood. The two hamburgers and Pepsi I bought for him each day were what I suspected to be his meal until the next day, though he always denied it. I once tried to give him some money so that he could buy himself something, but he refused it, telling me that the money would make me feel good, but he would feel bad because he didn't ask for it. Also, he couldn't accept money from a friend.

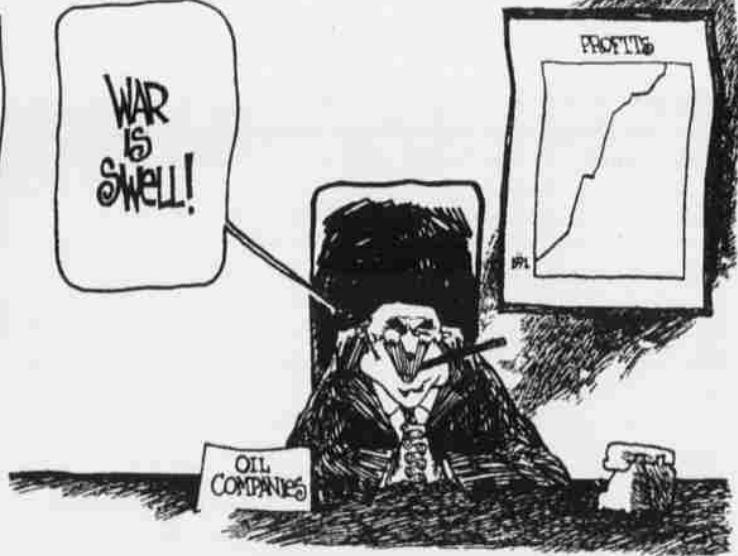
One day he wasn't waiting where he usually did, across from the campus, so that I could buy him his burgers. I thought it unusual, but just passed it off. He wasn't there the next day, or the next either. He just stopped com-



ing. I asked some of the other homeless children that roamed the university if they had seen him, but the answer was always no. While at the Roosevelt, I kept expecting him to show up as a patient, or worse yet, as a victim, but still no sign of him. I thought about checking the other public hospitals and the morgues, but something held me back. Something told me not to check the morgues; that if I did, I would find something that I hoped not to.

Four years have passed since the last time I saw him. He had become like an adopted brother who, in exchange for food, would give me his unique insight on life. Considering his disposition, I find it amazing, even now, how optimistic he was. Being away from Guatemala has made me forget too many things, and it is with deep shame that I have to confess that I can't remember his name.

Calderon is a sophomore majoring in political science and Latin American Studies. He is morning D.J. for KUN



Patriotism—a red, white and blue sale

by Richard Munson

While the war in the Gulf continues, many Las Vegas are showing their true colors—green, the color of money. During this time of war, some are seizing the moment to prosper. Is it right for people to prosper at the expense of others, especially for those giving their lives for our country?

Who is guilty of this? It's the people who have jumped on the bandwagon and are now producing and selling flags that don't stay on the store shelves as long as it takes to make them.

There are people selling T-shirts, including a fraternity on campus, trying to make a quick buck. Oh, but it's in support of the troops. Yeah, right. We, as college students, are tomorrow's leaders, while those students are tomorrow's used car dealers.

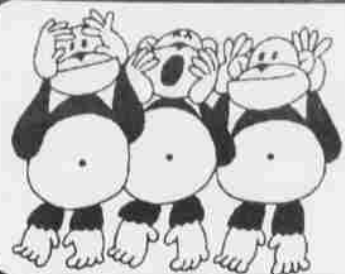
There are also manufacturers of the yellow ribbons they give away but which create a demand for the colors of Old

Glory. By creating this demand, they are capitalizing on the war. As long as the war continues, so does the demand.

Local radio station 98.5 KLUC has been airing "An open letter for Saddam Hussein" — a letter for Hussein's ears? I think not. It's just a cheap ploy to stir emotion and get more listeners. If they really wanted to help, they would let family members of local troops do spots sending "best wishes" to their loved ones instead of the letter to Hussein.

I'm not unpatriotic or against the war—I have friends and a family member serving in Operation Desert Storm. But let's put this into perspective and not capitalize at the expense of others. Because the expense we pay is the loss of loved ones.

Munson is a junior majoring in communications. He is a staff writer with *The Yellin' Rebel*.



Don't ignore the issues when your voice can be heard in *The Yellin' Rebel!* Write us!