

Independence at last

by Bonar Tucker

When I read his letter I felt I'd found a real friend.

Last week *The Yellin' Rebel* received a letter from an accounting major who wrote "A newspaper is not designed to please its government. Rather, it's there to be a watchdog over it." And, "Despite their financial pressures and various other efforts to stop you, it is good to see that you have continued to deliver."

A million thanks to that reader for writing the words that made me stop to analyze just how far we've come in spite of all the hassles.

Throughout the past semester, a lot of mud has been slung and names have been directed toward this newspaper. (A review of just about any senate minutes will verify that.) But slowly, things seem to be changing and the newspaper is gaining ground on what rightfully belongs here.

Changes are taking place with the very individuals who denounced our existence earlier. One who pasted untrue statements about the newspaper all over the walls of MSU in October recently called asking for a job as a writer. One who referred to the staff of the paper as "a flock of idiots" is now generously donating his time and

efforts to free the paper from government control. Those who nearly "blew their gaskets" when mentioned in the stories that questioned Student Government's involvement in a theft at a party shop have now mellowed to the point of almost being cordial toward the staff in spite of continued coverage of their actions. Threats of lawsuits for "misquotes" have nearly ceased (rather difficult to misquote when transcribing directly from a tape recorder.) Even

"This newspaper has earned the respect it is receiving."

some laughter and gaiety have replaced foul language during senate meetings.

It almost resembles, do I dare say, a respectful situation?

And this newspaper has earned the respect it is receiving.

The Yellin' Rebel will close the 1990-1991 school year with a surplus of approximately \$50,000. That's nothing to sneeze at. The fact that money will remain after operating expenses are paid indicates that we're competent enough to handle our own business dealings. A surplus like that, after paying bills totalling nearly

\$150,000, shows that students who work here must be doing something right.

We have also learned that the computers that produce this newspaper do, in fact, belong to us. The same computers have been used as a prize to be awarded to the winner after a long, debilitating tug-of-war. Threats of removing them from the newspaper's possession came if independence was gained. The policy made by the former Publications Board Director to allow Student Government members access to the computers can now be voided entirely.

These computers, we found out, were purchased from the money *The Yellin' Rebel* made from advertising revenue. They did not come out of Student Government fees, as we have been told so often.

This past Saturday, the Judicial Council at UNLV voted 7-0 to allow the newspaper to handle its own affairs. That means we will now, after months of problems, be able to get our employees paid and handle our own business, being autonomous from Student Government. After going all the way to the governor's office to fight the imposed pay restrictions, we were equipped with the knowledge that it was illegal for Student Government to cut the pay as they had done to our employees and it was



Illustration by Robert Sundin III

also illegal for them to refuse pay for hours worked.

Of course, all these positives gained don't mean we'll be sitting on easy street. There is still a lot of work to be done. And there are still the diehards.

One letter in particular comes to mind, printed in our March 7 edition. The writer, a Student Government director, took it upon himself to deny a "vote" of independence for *The Yellin' Rebel*. The writer actually declared himself a political science major and a junior at that.

Apparently, this bright fellow has missed a few classes. The political science major might have

known that the independence we require cannot be neatly packaged up and awarded if we are good little boys and girls.

The freedom of which we speak already exists. It happened about 200 years ago. It is called the First Amendment.

"Congress shall make no law...prohibiting the free exercise...or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press..."

Perhaps all the trials we've experienced could be looked upon as a crash course in newspaper operations.

And with the backing of the First Amendment, I'd say we're on our way.

Reflections on a wartime soap Considering joining a convent

by Ilana Fiorenza

"It was like 'Knots Landing,' just a continuous saga every week where you could miss weeks of it and pick it up right where you left off," said Elaine Rosen, a senior communications major. Opinions at UNLV about the war in the Gulf have been mixed, yet most students seem to have been less than pleased.

"TV news coverage was a joke," said Marc Sperberg, also a senior communications major. "I went back to where I always go which is to the newspapers."

William Dunn, a freshman, asked, "Whatever happened to 'Why are we in Kuwait in the first place?'"

It did seem like the media got caught up in the hype of the war. Some of the media, in their attempt to be first on the scene, sometimes sacrificed accuracy and details.

"They centered too much on Middle East analysis and updating you a hundred times over on

what's going on," said Dayna Cramer, a communications junior. "I just want the facts, and if there's no facts, then don't tell me anything."

"I think we were inundated," said Marc Sperberg. "Information overload. It got to the point with the television media that I missed things that were important because I was shutting everything out by then."

Still other students had a different point of view. "My opinion has changed some since the war started, but now I would have to say they're doing a pretty good job apart from glorifying things quite a bit," said Adrian Whistler, a COS junior.

"The media have done a very good job given the constraints that they have been working under," said Vicki Bertolino, a journalism teacher at UNLV. "They haven't been really getting deep enough into what has been going on...For the most part the media have been a bit too one-sided."

A communications senior, Milan Martinique, added that the

war pushed other significant news back. "The war in the Gulf, from a historical point of view, will not be nearly as important as, say, what happened in Europe or with the re-unification of Germany."

Frank Ponteur, criminal justice junior said with some disgust, "CNN was the biggest propaganda for Saddam Hussein...The media are always complaining about censorship, and I agree with them to a certain point, but giving away positions and tactics is going to kill people, that's different. The media has a responsibility."

It seems that regardless of individual opinions, most of us faithfully watched the wartime soap opera anyway. "I was glued to it," admitted Elaine Rosen. "I had cable put in my house so I could watch CNN. I've watched more television since the war began than I have in my whole life."

Fiorenza is an English major and a reporter with *The Yellin' Rebel*.

A vote cast for apathy

by Rick Nielsen

The votes are in and counted, and the primary elections are final. Amid the array of controversies clouding the Executive Board, the question of presidential eligibility, the use of profane language, and funding for *The Yellin' Rebel*—to name a few—there have been new developments.

The disqualification of several candidates is yet another episode in the continuing saga of "CSUN: Rebel Government Without a Cause." Sounds a little disrespectful to say the least, but what sensible student could develop a supportive view in the light of the constant accusations and problems emanating from Student Government?

Sit down and buckle your seat belts kids, I am not through yet. Remember I said the votes were counted? The most disgraceful

and shameful event to date is not the controversies, or the disqualifications, or a few "f-words"—it is the vote count.

The actual number of involved and concerned student voters taking time out from their busy, busy, schedule reached a grand total of 1,460! That's 730 a day, and although it's perhaps higher than the last Executive Board election, it's still pathetic.

When it comes to the really important stuff, such as Homecoming, turnout naturally increases. The total number of students here is near 18,000. So let's do some simple math and figure out what percentage 1,460 is of 18,000. That figures in at 8.1 percent. OK, so I used a calculator, but at least I voted, even though one my choices was disqualified.

The oldest expression of personal freedom in the United States

is the right to vote. I am sincerely shocked that no more of the student body chose to exercise that right.

We could hash it out in heated debate over whom or what to fault, but I blame an apathetic student body. If this kind of turnout happened at the next U.S. Presidential elections, Pat Paulsen's chances could never be better!

Any students who are dissatisfied with any aspect of Student Government and did not vote, have no one to blame but themselves. If you don't protect and stand up for your rights, someone will inevitably step on them. You can still redeem yourselves though, the final elections are coming up. Show some backbone, make a difference. Vote.

Nielsen is a hotel major and a reporter for *The Yellin' Rebel*.

I believe I am a good person. I play trumpet in the concert band. I decorate cakes quite well. I am kind to my family. I love children. My looks are quite adequate, although I'm not often mistaken for Miss America. I work full-time, go to school full-time, and still find time for my friends when they need me. I often feed the ducks at Lorenzi Park during the winter when I'm afraid they'll go hungry. Really, I'm a very OK person.

Why, then, do I feel so unappreciated by men? Is it perhaps because they're deficient in judgment and good sense? Could it be that men don't know a good thing when it walks up and bites them on the buttocks?

No, I don't go around biting men on the butt. And I don't usually feel this way. I am not a thick-ankled feminist. It's just that I've had a rude awakening this week from an incredibly insensitive man and, since March is Women's History Month, I am expressing my feelings.

I went out Saturday night with this man. I thought we both had a great time. But this man—and he knows who he is—has now for three nights in a row stood me up.

The first night, Sunday, he asked me to give him a call, and said maybe we could go to the driving range. I was going to be out until about 4:30, and I told him so.

"What if it's too dark then?" I asked.

"Then we'll do something else."

Silly me. I thought that meant we would do something. So I called at 5:00. I called at 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, and 10:00. No answer. At 10:15, he told me he'd gone for dinner at his roommate's parents' house. He asked, "What did you do tonight?" I remained calm.

The second night, I started doubting him. He told me some friends had come into town, and

that he was going out for dinner with them. He wanted me to come over after that. I was to call him at 10:15 or so to make sure he was home.

"Come on over," he said. "But my friends and I still haven't gone out. You can stay for a few minutes, but then I have to go."

I remained calm.

The next day, he asked me to call him—"we'll get together." When I did call at 11:30 a.m., he asked me to call him later. At 2:15 p.m., I called. No answer. At 3:45, no answer. At 5:30, he told me that he and his friends were leaving in half an hour for a basketball game. "What are you doing tonight?" Was there perhaps a pattern here?

I wonder what Sid is doing tonight. Whatever it is, it's not with me! I have no time to spend with a man who doesn't appreciate me. The convent is sounding better every day.

WRITE US!!!



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
MSU 302
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.