

# Press freedom: UNLV needs to make a change

by Bonar Tucker

UNLV's Student Government Senate will be asked to vote on a matter of Constitutional freedom this Thursday in their meeting at 4 p.m. in Moyer Student Union.

The issue is freedom for the press.

The student newspaper at UNLV has been governed for years by our own executive board and senate, creating a situation for possible censorship each year.

In the past when articles have been printed that were objectionable to members of the government, threats of dismissals and pay cuts have been put into action. How can a student reader, who is in essence subscribing to the newspaper through student fees, be able to expect a full story when the newspaper staff is bound by the government members who sign their paycheck?

At the newspaper this year, we have been told on two different occasions by Student Government Publications Board members that if we wouldn't report questionable actions of the government each week, they would probably be willing to give the editors the \$25 a month raise we had requested. Pay cuts were in fact enacted immediately after stories were printed

concerning President Bunin's lack of proof of his eligibility to hold office. Members of the newspaper staff waited, in some instances, five months to receive the money they had been hired to work for.

One should have nothing to do with the other. And the students of UNLV certainly deserve to know they can read the whole story in the paper and know that parts haven't been left out due to a threat hanging over the reporter's head.

In the first place, a newspaper designed by the university to be a learning laboratory should be just that with a proper board of experienced members in the communications field. We have created such a board, with the aid of Senate President Pro Tempore Bud

Benneman, just waiting to be put into action. Voting members on this board include:

- One senator
- One University News and Publications representative

**"A student taking six credits per semester would be paying a total of \$1.15 for 29 issues of the newspaper."**

- One business major
- One past editor of *The Yellin' Rebel*
- Two members from the professional media
- One faculty member from communications studies

One staff member from *The Yellin' Rebel*  
One communications major

This newspaper could become a stepping stone into the field of journalism as it well should be. Proper guidance is needed from those who have already made their errors and successes in the field. This guidance cannot come from students alone who have had no journalistic experience.

Some have said, "If they want independence so badly, let them do it without our money."

Student Government is not giving the paper any money—the students are. We are asking only that a portion of student fees be directed to the newspaper (ap-

proximately enough to pay printing costs or 19.2 cents per credit hour per student). The money needs to go directly to the newspaper without being funnelled through Student Government first. This could be thought of as a "bulk subscription" for the students. The remainder of operating expenses would come from our advertising revenue.

A student taking six credits per semester would be paying a total of \$1.15 for 29 issues of the newspaper.

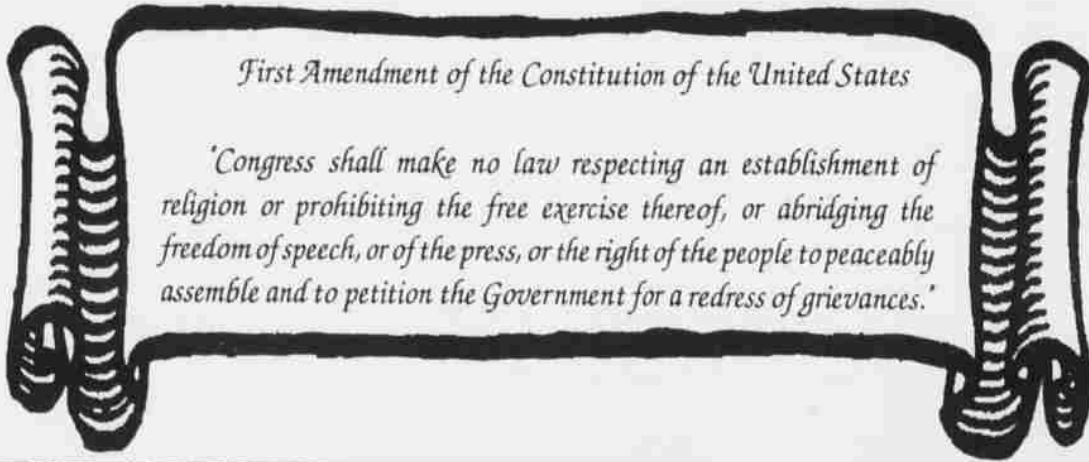
In March, a *Las Vegas Sun* reporter interviewed Kurt Hildebrand, *The Yellin' Rebel* editor for 1987-88, who also had presented a proposal for independence. He said he doesn't believe the Student Government is willing to give up its power.

"If they don't like the horse when they're riding on it," he said, "how are they going to like the horse when they give up the reins?"

President Bunin said to the same reporter, "A newspaper should always be inherently independent of a government."

Thursday's vote will tell a lot about one of those statements.

For this newspaper to be free of governmental control is long overdue.



## Letter to the Editor



### EPA sets the record straight

Dear Editor,

This will serve to clarify some misinformation in the March 7 *Yellin' Rebel* article, "Nothing to worry about, right?" by Deborah Soper.

The radiation monitoring and research program at Nevada Southern University (now UNLV) in the 1950s and 1960s was conducted by the Bureau of Radiological Health of the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS), via a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC).

During that time the PHS was responsible for the Offsite Radiation Safety and Surveillance Program around the Nevada Test Site. In addition to the operational field monitoring portion of the program, the PHS performed extensive food-chain radiation pathway studies in dairy cows, other animals and plants.

The original PHS Laboratory on the UNLV campus is now the Technology Building. The building referred to in the article as the "bomb shelter" is located south of the Technology Building, and housed a neutron

generator for activation analysis of environmental samples. The name of this facility at the time was Neutron Generator Vault.

The building was leased from the university, and when the lease expired in the late 1970s it was returned to the control of the university. All residual radioactive material was removed from the vault at the time control was returned to the university.

When the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was formed in December 1970, certain radiation responsibilities from several federal agencies were transferred to it, including the Offsite Radiation Safety Program of the PHS. The program continues to be conducted from the EPA Environmental Monitoring Systems Laboratory buildings on campus and at the Radiation Operation Center at the La Plaza Office Complex.

One final point of clarification—the AEC became part of the U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA). ERDA responsibilities were later transferred to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The AEC was not absorbed by EPA.

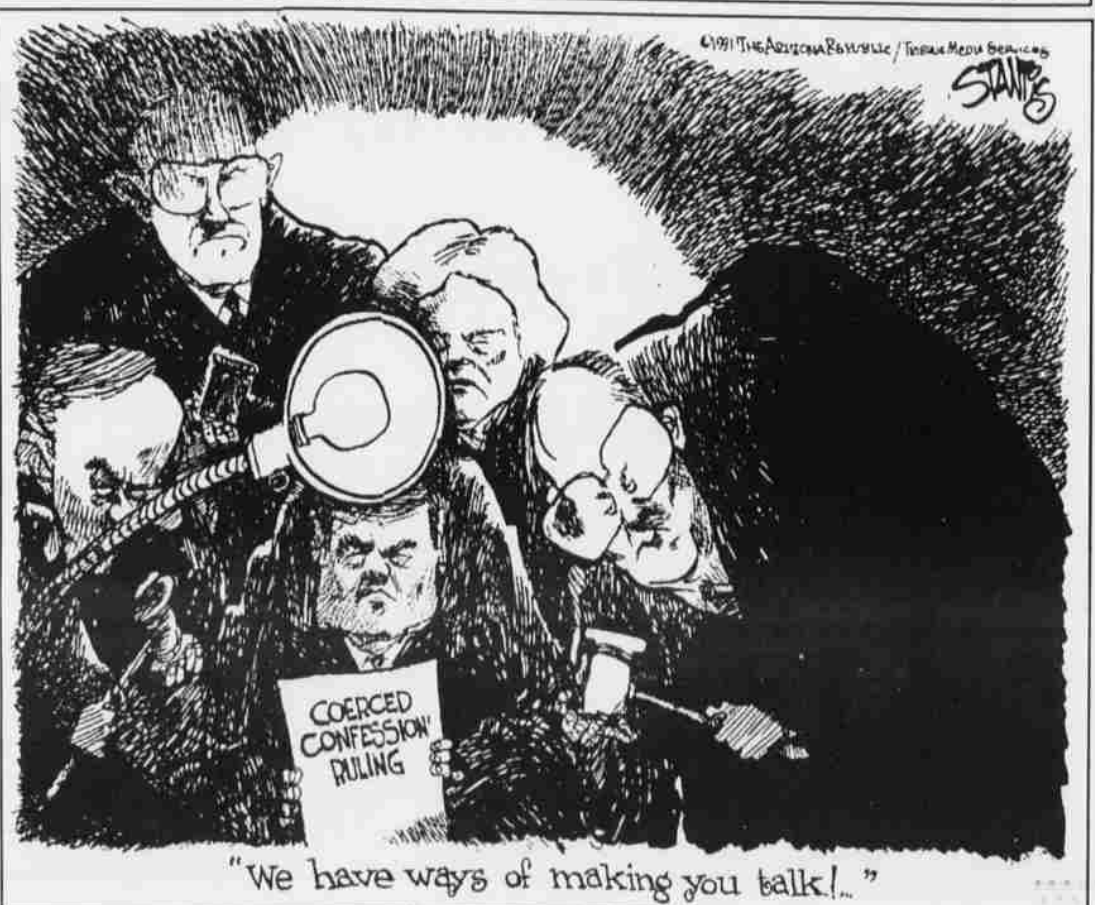
Thank you for this opportunity to clarify this information.

We look forward to continuing our positive relationship with UNLV and *The Yellin' Rebel*.

Sincerely,

Charles F. Costa  
director  
Nuclear Radiation  
Assessment Division

**"The original PHS Laboratory on the UNLV campus is now the Technology Building."**



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HIV is the virus that causes AIDS.

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