

Professors should be kept in check

Many students overly respect their teachers

by Gabriel Campisi

Have you ever encountered a professor who seemed to have no idea what planet he was on? What about the subject he taught? Did he seem to learn it from his students?

I'm sure everyone at one time or another has encountered a professor they wanted very desperately to stomp with a jumbo

jet. Usually, students feel this way because it's their fault—they don't pay attention in class. But other times, it's with good reason.

Last semester I had a professor who not only turned my hair grey, but simultaneously made it fall out. It was the time I real-

ized my professor was a completely incompetent moron. Unfortunately, by the time I found this out, it was too late to drop the class.

The 100 percent free-drop period had passed and I didn't feel like flushing

on the board (the course was formal logic).

To top it off, he would include the most difficult problems (ones he couldn't figure out himself) on tests.

The class quickly fell into a black hole of confusion. But no one ever stood up to this guy. They would get bad grades on their tests, and take it with a grain of salt. Not once did anyone blame it on the professor. Not once did they question his teaching habits.

This is something that is too common with students on this campus. They believe that just because a person has the title, "professor," he is God-almighty and whatever he says, goes. They

feel if they're totally lost because of the professor there's nothing they can do about it. If the professor is confusing, tough.

These beliefs are simply not true. There are many things a student can do about a professor who doesn't seem to know his own name. First of all, take the complaint to the professor himself. If that doesn't help, take the complaint to the respective department.

If you still aren't convinced you're being treated fairly, work your way up the ladder. Go to every person's boss, until you get to Robert Maxson if you have to. As a last resort, if no one is willing to help, bring your complaint to *The Yellin' Rebel*—if it's legitimate enough, I'll make sure the public reads it.

In my case, I confronted my professor when I felt he wasn't doing a good job. When I got my first test back,

I felt he wasn't being fair about a few questions he marked wrong.

"When did you teach us this?" I asked him. "Where in the book does it ever mention this way of figuring out the problems?"

The professor quickly tried to explain as best he could that he had indeed gone over the material.

"Fine," I replied. "Then why did everyone in the class get it wrong?"

It never dawned on the professor that the entire class had gotten it wrong. When he realized this fact, he went back and gave everyone extra credit and made the grading curve even greater.

Every time after that, I kept the professor in check. I made sure to read the chapters in the book before we ever actually touched the material in class. This way I was always a step ahead of the professor, correcting him

every other minute instead of the other way around.

To make a long story short, no one I knew walked away with an "A" in the class. But considering the abundance of "Ds" and "Fs" that were handed out, I don't think I would have walked away with a "B" if I hadn't confronted my professor. He knew very well I was taking his class seriously, and more importantly, he knew I was very dissatisfied with his teaching.

Students should realize they have the upper hand when dealing with professors. After all, we are the ones paying their salaries, we are the ones feeding their families, and we are the ones paying *them* to teach us.

Campisi is
Opinion Editor
of *The Yellin' Rebel*

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student receives attention after publishing complaint

Dear editor:

This letter is written as a follow-up to my previous letter, published in *The Yellin' Rebel* on Sept. 10, regarding the poor treatment I received from the Department of Public Safety and others when my car battery died.

I would like to thank Dr. Robert Ackerman, vice president for Student Services, for following up on that incident. Dr. Ackerman and I discussed some possible solutions to problems such as these. I was impressed by his sincere concern and willingness to implement changes that other

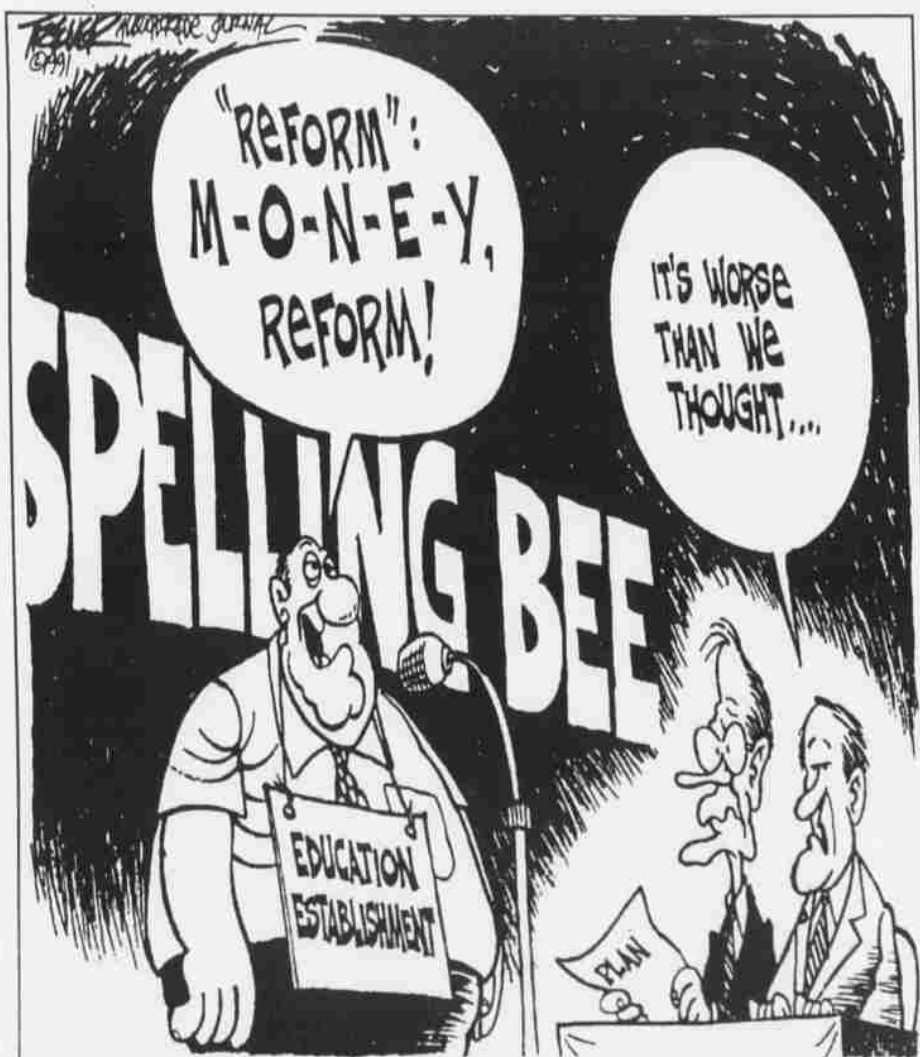
students would benefit from. Thanks, Dr. Ackerman, for showing you care!

Georgia Babb
Sophomore, English

WRITE US!!!

The Yellin' Rebel wants your opinions. Letters should be 200 words, and have name, address, phone number, major and year in school. Send to:

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c/o Letters to
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world!

Some people say
aliens live among
us!

Some people say
the Democrats have
no chance in '92!

Some people say
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rapist!

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Agree? Disagree?
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about it!
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