

# Too much talking, not enough writing

*People are failing to get their message across to the public*

by Gabriel Campisi

I don't think I can remember a time when there have been more people calling our offices here at *The Yellin' Rebel* than these past few weeks. The people have only one thing on their mind—to complain or express their concern that something doesn't strike their fancy.

Actually, there's nothing wrong with that. But it would benefit everyone a lot more if these people would take the time to sit down and write out their complaints or concerns on paper. This way, they could mail them in to us, and we could easily include them in our "Letters to the Editor" column. Thousands of people would be reached.

While many news stories have emerged as a result of these phone calls, others have never seen the light of day. That's because many callers are concerned about issues that affect them personally.

Most of the issues are based on a person's direct opinion or emotion. Many of them are based on a person's dissatisfaction with a certain event or situation.

It would be futile for our reporters to attempt to write a story out of another person's experience. They would never get the same feel for the article as the person who actually went through it. The reporter would be writing in third person, making the article less personal.

Besides, editorials and opinions are supposed to be written by the person who possesses such an opinion in the first place.

I had a woman call me recently, expressing her concern for the well-being of the students on our campus. The woman had her purse stolen from under her nose as she read a book in a Wright Hall hallway.

Because theft is a pretty common problem on campus, her predicament didn't make a very exciting news story. But it definitely had potential for a thought-provoking editorial or "Letter to the Editor."

Why? Because the poor woman's entire life was in that purse when it got stolen—her credit cards, driver's license, keys, documents, and more importantly, her financial aid money for school. Also, the idea of someone having enough audacity to steal a person's belongings when they're sitting right next to them is a pretty scary thought.

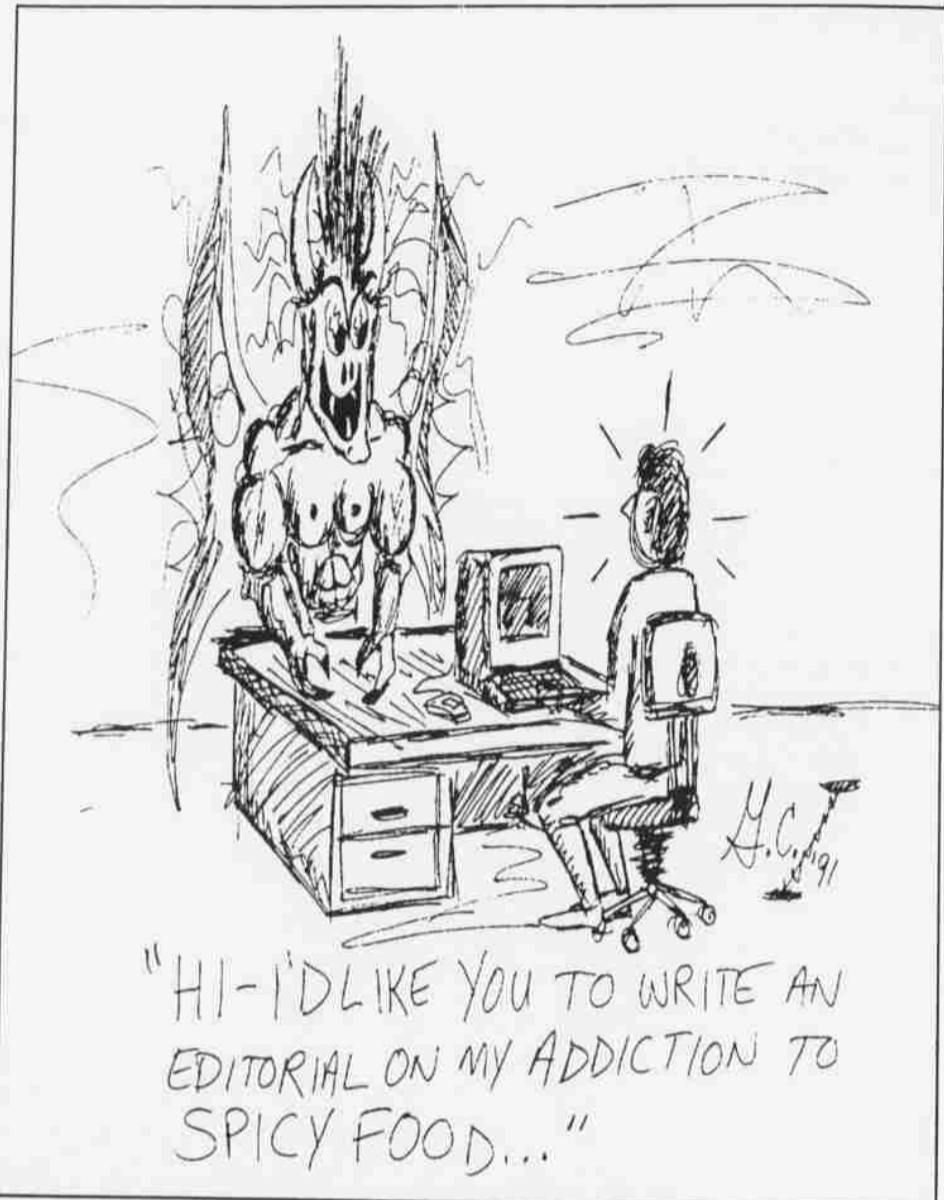
I sympathized with the woman on the phone, but quickly explained the best thing she could do was express her concern on paper and mail it in to me. This way, it would be an editorial piece and would have described her feelings and emotions about the situation as she felt them, not as a reporter would interpret them.

She agreed, but felt a reporter would do a better job anyway. I set her up with a staff writer, but the woman still has not come in to have her full story told.

If and when she comes in, I'm sure it will be an interesting piece to publish. But it will never be the same as if she wrote it herself.

People need to start writing in their complaints and concerns. By simply calling us over the phone, they're not assuring their

**By simply calling us over the phone, they're not assuring their opinions will be told.**



G.C. 9/1

Come on, people, let's see those letters.

Campisi is Opinion Editor of *The Yellin' Rebel*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Research project a slap in the face to Nevada

Dear Editor:

I was amazed and appalled by the article describing the actions of Bob Loux of the Nevada Nuclear Waste Project Office who hired a "science philosopher" (now there's an oxymoron) from a small school in Florida to do a "research project" on Yucca Mountain.

According to the story, this alleged researcher compared the proposed Yucca

Mountain repository with a low-level nuclear waste site in Kentucky. The story also mentioned she received \$2,500 for her report.

Something seems very suspicious to me when the head of a Nevada agency has to go clear across the country to employ a "science philosopher" to do "research" that it seems could have easily been conducted by a University of Nevada-system professor. Is this the type of independent, objective

and scientifically based "research" that we are to expect from our state? Perhaps Mr. Loux does not believe that our University facility is capable of handling such tasks!

Could it be that our "science philosopher" is the only person who Mr. Loux can trust to produce a report with a result he wants? Mr. Loux says we can't trust the Department of Energy. How can we trust him?

Joe I. Mills

### Rebels only ones to blame for their mistakes

Dear Editor:

On Sept. 10 a story entitled, "Conspiracy? The answer is revealed here," appeared in *The Yellin' Rebel*.

For those who were fortunate enough to miss this article, I'll refresh your memory: Mr. Hurlburt elaborated on the so-called "reward" being offered for the information on the conspiracy to have Jerry Tarkanian removed as head basketball coach at UNLV.

Give me a break! Anyone who blames the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* newspaper for this conspiracy ought to stop and smell the cactus. Those people who do, must have been out in the sun for a few too many

minutes.

If my understandings are correct, the *R-J* never tried to recruit Lloyd Daniels, never left phone bills unpaid, never gave Richard "the Fixer" Perry tickets to Rebel home games, and was not at fault for showing photographs of players in hot tubs of known felons.

Why is it that whenever something bad is written or spoken about UNLV, people have to write articles that blame newspapers or other media outlets.

Do you want a solution? Accept mistakes, take them in stride, accept punishment, and move forward. Why do we, as a university, have to go back to the past to

blame others for our mistakes? Sure people will suffer, but so be it. We broke the rules and didn't get away with it.

If the 1990 National Champions or the 1991 team is remembered for all the controversy, so be it. How many other universities will be remembered for winning one title in a row?

Now about that \$10,000 reward nonsense, go build a new parking lot, I can't find anywhere to park!

David Grisar  
Junior, COS

Some people say the Democrats have no chance in '92

Some people say the war with Iraq is not over

Some people say Clarence Thomas is not qualified for the Supreme Court

Agree? Disagree? What do you think?

Whatever is on your mind, we want to know about it! Write to:

The Yellin' Rebel  
Attn.: Opinion Editor  
MSU 302  
4505 S. Maryland Pkwy.  
Las Vegas NV 89154