



Jane's addiction

The story of a woman dependent on disorder

by Ilana Fiorenza

"Jane says, I'm done with Sergio. He treats me like a ragdoll."

(lyric from Jane's Addiction's *Nothing's Shocking*)

"A couple of years ago, I was a basket case. I'd cry at work. I'd cry everywhere—constantly, everyday, all the time, no matter what I did," Jane said, now 23 and able to smile most of the time. Jane came from an abusive and dysfunctional home. Her mother, who was also a substance abuser, physically beat her as a normal part of life. Jane also had to deal with physical and sexual abuse from most of her mother's six husbands.

"It's hard to go against everything you've been taught as a child," she said. "My mother was abused by all of the men in her life. I saw this and thought that it was the way it is supposed to be."

So, when Jane grew up, she found someone to fulfill this destructive need, this thing she equated to love, in the form of an abusive hus-

band, Richie.

"I thought that proved he loved me. If he didn't love me, he wouldn't hit me," she said, reflecting back on her relationship. Every time it happened she would say it was the last time. Every time he did it, he would promise never to do it again.

Six years later, Jane has finally been able to break out of the cycle of domestic abuse that began with the memory of being three years old and witnessing her mother being beaten.

Battered women as well as the men who beat them seem to follow many similar patterns and characteristics. "He would time me when I went out to the grocery store," Jane said.

Jane felt the problems were her fault.

"I used to apologize for everything," Jane said. "I even apologized for finding out that he was cheating on me. I cared more about him than I do about myself."

Jane had a baby with Richie during their relationship. She said that it is because of Richie Jr. that she began to turn her life around. She began to seek help

through a local domestic crisis agency and today feels ready to try and counsel other battered women.

"Many women who are abused don't know how to get help and many women don't even realize there's a problem," she said.

Like an alcoholic, she said, it's a matter of re-channeling one's entire life. "It takes everything you have to make a change," Jane said.

Looking back, she admits that "Three years ago, I saw myself turning into my mother. Today, if I feel like I might lose my temper with my little boy, I see my mother's face and I stop. We just call a 'time out'."

"I used to be miserable, but it's like I was dependent on it. Like my counselor at the crisis center said, I was 'dependent on disorder.'"

"I was thinking just the other day, God it's been a long time since I've cried. It's a struggle every day, but I do it and it gets easier."

Help is available and begins with a phone call. The Domestic Crisis Shelter's 24 hr. hotline is 646-4981. Their counseling number is 877-0133

UNLV is made more attractive to 'top students'

by Dennis Chen

According to Len Zane, director of the Honors Program, during the mid-80s UNLV found itself desperately needing top high school seniors to compete with the nation's top universities. The new university president, Robert Maxson, had a vision of plugging the state's "brain drain" with his pet project, a Valedictorian Program with an Honors Program which was suggested by Ken Anderson, then student body president, and a committee from the College of Liberal Arts.

Margaret Elardi agreed to fund the Elardi Nevada Scholarship with \$1 million. Qualifying valedictorians from Nevada, who decided to attend UNLV, were given \$10,000 to be used for a period of four years, allocated in semester installments. After having exhausted the Elardi fund this year, the scholarship has been renamed the Elaine Wynn Valedictorian Scholarship, in honor of its new patron.

A committee was formed to create the Honors Program and set down

guidelines and requirements. As of now, a student participating in the Honors Program should have a score of 28 or higher on their American Collegiate Test, a score of 1200 or higher on their Scholastic Aptitude Test or be of the top five percent in their class, and maintain a 3.3 GPA once admitted into the program.

The average GPA of Honors Program students is 3.64 and their average stay at UNLV is 4.3 years.

In 1985 UNLV launched these two programs specially designed to retain Nevada's top students, the Valedictorian Program and the Honors Program, each vigorously recruiting talent and brain power for the university.

Most of the valedictorians and honor students on campus see no remarkable qualities in themselves. They claim the only distinguishing aspect which has allowed them to succeed seems to be a seriousness and dedication toward their school work and their grades.

Steve Tell, an honors freshman, said his life philosophy was "to learn, not to vegetate." He said that he was taking better advantage of his education than most

students.

"If you are dedicated, you can do anything," said former valedictorian freshman Susan Seegmiller.

Former valedictorian Martha East, a sophomore with a double major in marketing and management says she enjoys the diversity of people at UNLV, echoing the sentiments of most of those interviewed.

David Syzdek, a sophomore in the Honors Program and "teetering on the edge of burn-out," nevertheless still enjoys campus life. "I think it's really cool," he remarked enthusiastically.

Freshman Edith Laramore, who participates in the Honors Program says she does not feel challenged by her courses and seeks excitement in on-campus extracurricular activities.

The Valedictorian Program and the Honors Program successfully recruited these top students and UNLV strives to provide an attractive enough campus to satisfy even the most fickle student among them. These students said their hard work and diligence have paid off.

I am not the Prof

View from 'Over the Hill'

by Georgia Babb

This is the second article in a two part series. Babb is a sophomore majoring in English and a Yellin' Rebel staff writer.

There are many of us moms on campus. We are what I call "user friendly." Guess where I learned that phrase. Friendly, honest and approachable, other students instinctively seem to know we carry Kleenex, safety pins, pencils and now—extra scantrons! Sometimes the mom in me comes out at unexpected moments. Wiping down a bathroom sink in a flurry was one such time. Another occurred after I had heard the F-word for the umpteenth time and whirled around to reprimand the burly football player. At least I didn't ground him.

Part of college life is making philosophical state-

ments to the world. Bumper stickers and T-shirts publicly announce, "Apartheid is a Crime!" or "Furs Kill Animals." A homemade one, such as my daughter's, reveals, "My mother made the Dean's List at UNLV." (How about it Dean? You get the bumper stickers made and I'll work on making your list.)

Personal notices from the *Daily Occupation Herald* are better than HBO. Here are some of my favorites:

"Juju, I wuv ya. Call me yours. Love Baba."

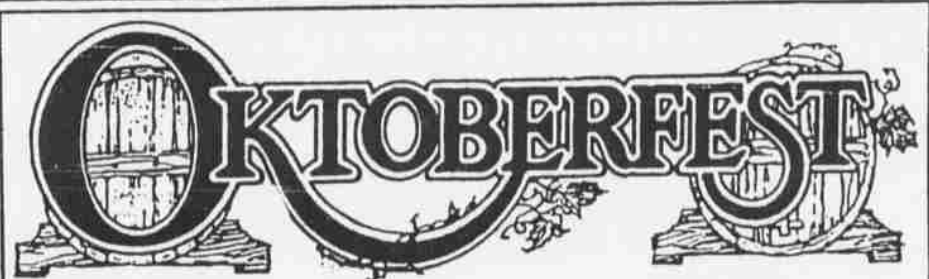
"Atom—Don't be so un-electric. Don't lose your electron. Yo, yo, yo, Heartthrob."

Some weeks later: The Reference Librarian Hotline had been busy for hours. Research does not have to be boring I told myself as my fingers dialed the local "Oldies" radio station. Half an hour later, I was seated in a

soundproof room playing tunes from the 60s. "Speak to me, Bob!" I shouted as the Dylan CD played on. A local DJ was kind enough to let me in after I flashed my Walter Drake business card. (\$1.50 buys 300 cards, a real steal.)

Embarrassing moments haven't quite faded from my memory. Now I know there are no dancing fraternity brothers from Lambda Chi. I can venture deep into the library and not get lost going around the circular staircase. Do other students have moments like these I wonder?

Meanwhile, trouble in paradise. My Pizza Express card is just about full and my family is trying to adjust to my seventh year as a sophomore. They will have earned a degree along with me. My major? Super-woman Studies!



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