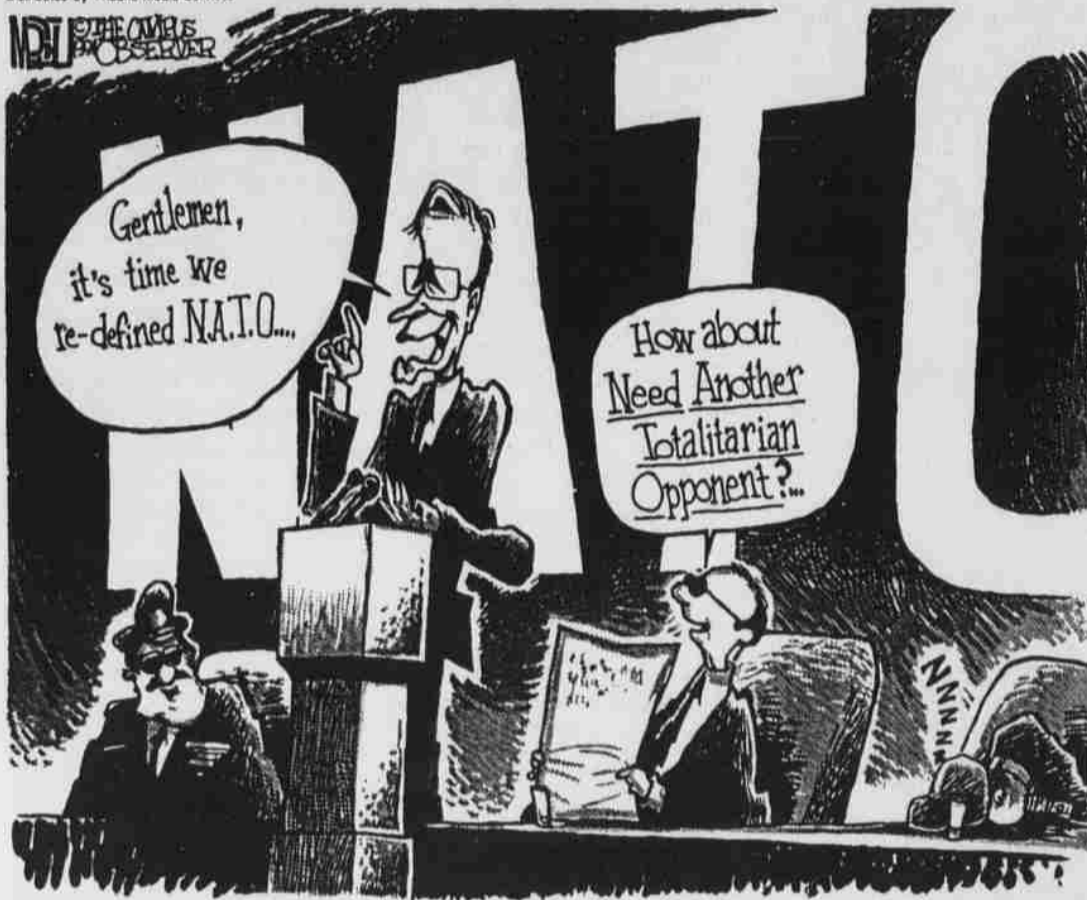


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The crisis is now

by Gary Puckett

We at UNLV are facing a dire threat even as this newspaper is being read. The state legislature has mandated that the administration at UNLV submit a budget reduction plan of 8 percent for the year 1992-93. The necessary funds to be cut total almost \$12 million. The consequences of this cut will be phenomenal.

Everyone at this school—students, faculty, workers and administrators—know that the situation, as it exists now, is less than desirable. Classes are

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would cease to be. It is almost unthinkable; like trying to imagine California after it falls into the ocean.

To avert this disaster, we must all sacrifice. Last week, the faculty voted overwhelmingly (30-2) to defer a pay raise. Students must follow this example and accept a fee increase. Such a proposal will be about as popular as a dentist with AIDS, but we must accept it. The

amount of increase is not yet determined, but it will be significant. The alternative to a fee increase is just not acceptable.

This is the time to put aside disagreement

and accept the necessary increase to be proposed by the administration. Arguments that funds have been misallocated, even if true, are not important now. Perceptions that the administration "should have seen it coming," even if true, are not important now. When one stands in the face of a tidal wave, one does not discuss methods of irrigation. Even the reality that some will be denied access to the university, due to the fee increase, must be accepted when faced with the alternative which would deny access to even more.

In the face of this crisis, we at UNLV must come together and back the proposed increase. The budget cut is a threat common to us all; students, faculty, employees and administrators. Student Government leaders should take the unpopular position that a fee increase is a must and encourage students to accept it. Students should accept it, even though it may impose hardship. The alternatives are unthinkable.

Idealists can afford to make casual comments

A Pro-choice advocate addresses realism

by Donna Crail-Rugotzke

In our society, one of the rights we take for granted is the right to privacy. We expect to be able to conduct our lives with little or no intervention from the government. Yet, if *Roe vs. Wade* is overturned, many women will lose their right to privacy. Women will have to live with the government controlling their reproductive systems. The invasion of the body is the ultimate invasion of privacy.

Mr. Monokroussos, whose opinion about abortion was published last week in *The Rebel Yell*, would have us believe that privacy is not an important issue when discussing abortion. But then again, Mr. Monokroussos is a man. His right to privacy is not being challenged. He doesn't have to worry about the possibility of being forced to give birth to a rapist's child. He doesn't have to worry about giving birth to a child he doesn't want. He can afford to be casual about women's reproductive rights. Women can't.

Mr. Monokroussos also seems to have a casual attitude about women's lives. In Tuesday's *Rebel Yell*, he in-

dicated that he does not care about the women who will die when they seek an illegal abortion. Does taking a pro-life stance mean your concern for life ends at birth?

Mr. Monokroussos argued that a fertilized egg is the same as a five year old child. If this is true, then the egg should have the same rights as a five year old. The egg should be given the same legal protection. If a woman has a miscarriage, then the police should treat it like a homicide. They should investigate to make sure that the woman didn't jump off of any chairs or take any hot baths (both of these methods are ways of terminating pregnancies). If a man beats a pregnant woman, he should be charged with felony child abuse and attempted murder. If she miscarries, he should be charged with murder.

Women and couples should also be able to claim the unborn as a deduction on their income taxes, which the IRS does not allow. We presently have lawyers that represent children. We should have lawyers that represent the unborn. Could a fertilized egg sue its mother? Could the mother sue the egg?

Would the penalties for killing the fertilized egg be the same as killing a five-year-old? In many states, the punishment for murder is death or life in prison. Our courts and prisons are already overcrowded. Presently, many states have to let

prisoners out before their sentences are up to make room for more prisoners. If abortion is made illegal, room will have to be made for women and for their doctors. So who are we going to let out? Will it be the drug dealer who sells Crack to pregnant women? Or maybe it will be the child molester.

Will making abortion illegal protect the unborn? Maybe it will and maybe not. Let's look at Romania, where both abortion and birth control were illegal until recently. Many people were forced to give birth to children they didn't want and could not care for. Many of these children were dumped in orphanages where they received little care or love. Could something like this happen in the United States if *Roe vs. Wade* is overturned? I hope not, but one cannot know.

Perhaps the interests of future generations would be better served if we worried more about the present. We need quality prenatal and postnatal care for all pregnant women, regardless of economic status. We need to clean up the environment so that future generations will have a place to live. We don't need to condemn women.

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