

February 18, 1993

## Abandoning King neglects women in the student body

BY ANNE DAVIS MULFORD

As the liaison between the Womyn's Festival committee and the Entertainment & Programming division of Student Government, I have been negotiating with Lisa Zentner, E&P director, since January regarding the funding of a keynote speaker for our event in March.

We originally wanted Angela Davis but were warned that she would be viewed as "too controversial" and perhaps not well-known enough to be funded by the Student Senate. Zentner told me King was scheduled for the same week as our festival and we began discussing a joint effort. No publicity was printed until I received two separate messages that King would indeed be funded as our keynote speaker. This was almost three weeks ago now. Zentner called last Tuesday to say there was a problem and I could attend the Senate meeting Wednesday.

Two and a half hours into the Senate meeting the Senate went out of order to skip our issue and address other business. Finally, returning to the actual agenda, a few remarks were made, a video of King was shown and we were allowed to speak on behalf of our choice and the festival.

The attitude of the senators was negative or indifferent from the start. Several of the senators admitted later they had made up their minds against our proposal well in advance. Their questions veered wildly away from the issue of funding King's address. I pointed out that King would be a perfect bridge between African-American history month and Women's history month. I reminded the Senate that we are not requesting funding for any other part of the festival. However, I did mention many of the workshops (parenting, sexual harassment, substance abuse) would be of interest to men and we hoped they would participate. At this point several of the senators reverted to adolescence, snickering and rolling their eyes as if I'd made some "naughty" remark.

Many of the senators have a problem being associated with a "Womyn's" festival. Sen. David Turner admitted this to me privately. I remind you that more than half of this student body is female and these boys are supposed to be representing all of us. Unfortunately, the women senators appeared meek, disinterested, and dominated by their biased and overbearing male counterparts. Isn't it in your best interest as women to support a function that celebrates our strength and creativity, and to bring a female speaker who can address the issues

of inequality we all face every day of our lives?

Sen. Turner, the only black senator present, spoke vehemently against bringing King to campus and told me he sees himself as a "human being first, an American second, and a black man third." Is this an accurate reflection of how the black student population views themselves? I would think you would take every opportunity to present intelligent, educated, articulate members of your community as positive role models for all of us.

Here is a tragic missed opportunity and for what good reason? How is it that being the daughter of Martin Luther King Jr. is somehow a detriment rather than an asset, particularly when it comes to publicity and drawing a crowd? There are easily as many people on campus who do know who Ms. King is (compared to those who don't) and there are many who would like to find out. In regard to your reference to the "fabled" glass ceiling, it is not a fable, not if you are anyone other than a white male, and I believe you (Turner) do not fit into the category of white male. Maybe we do have something in common after all.

Once the real concerns of the senators emerged and the debate began, we were no longer yielded the floor. Therefore our answers to their concerns went unheard.

E&P essentially "spent" the money without the final OK of the senate. This is a legitimate source of aggravation and the reason most frequently cited against funding our speaker. However, this is a problem to be worked out between the Senate and Entertainment and Programming. The senators were unable to rise above their anger in order to serve their constituency by funding a speaker that would be of benefit and interest to students, faculty, and the Las Vegas community.

Both the Senate and the festival committee are in the business of service; they are to speak on behalf of, and benefit for, a larger community. This is not an easy job. Your senators lost sight of what it means to represent the student body responsibly and to be of service to the community who have entrusted them with such power.

## Senate decision based on funding breakdown

BY JAMES YOHE

Congratulations to James Ballard whose wonderfully written letter of opinion last week described me to a "T!" Ballard's mystic insight into my thoughts and fears should win him accolades throughout the psychoanalytic community. Even more impressive is that Ballard has never met me, was not at the Senate meeting and was relying on second-hand information!

Ballard, sociology is obviously not your strong suit. Your incredible argumentative skills should serve you well in other fields, however. Your innovative argument, "you don't agree with me therefore you're a sexist, a racist and afraid," puts this issue into perspective.

In reality, your remarks are non-productive, rely on false information, and ridiculous ignorance. The Senate's actions not to fund Yolanda King are based on the UNLV administrative arm, specifically, the Women's Center which is under the branch of the vice president for Student Services division. My question is: "Why did they themselves only budget a total of \$1,000 for their project and then solicit Student Government to fund \$6,000 plus?"

Second, the name of Yolanda King was not recognizable to most students that I informally surveyed. It was only after I clued students as to who she was (Martin Luther King, Jr.'s daughter) did I find some spark of recognition. That is where the remark, "Why should we spend \$6,000 on the daughter of a dead man?" came from, (which was later misquoted). Yes, I said it. Earlier in my remarks I also clearly

stated that it was my opinion that King has said nothing new or innovative on the issue of civil rights and solely relies on her father's legacy for her credibility as an accomplished speaker.

My major consideration on this issue regarded the funding. A student organization is allowed a total of only \$500 per academic year; how can elected student representatives tell proven and worthy student organizations they can only receive \$500 for the whole year while knowing we had given \$6,000 to the Womyn's (with a 'y') Committee to pay for their keynote speaker?

The "big-dollar" events that Student Government's Entertainment and Programming council has recently sponsored have also not been worthwhile in my opinion. Turnouts have been notoriously low and do not warrant the expenditures anymore. But that is another issue.

These are the real reasons why funding for the speaker King was not approved, not because Sen. David Turner, student development, and I are trying to "show what big boys" we are, and noy because the festival uses a "y" in its name.

Our decisions were made based on information gathered from our undergraduate constituents, previous events, history and testimony obtained during the hour and 17 minutes before the majority vote was taken on this issue. So we voted on the facts, not by following suggestions like yours to "somehow also make the school look good." Contradictory to your unsolicited psychoanalysis, I do not fear women (with an "e"), festivals (which use a "y"), being perceived as politically incorrect or your feeble name-calling.

—James Yohe is a student senator for the college of business and economics

Opposing Views

## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor submitted to *The Rebel Yell* should be 250 words or less in length. *The Rebel Yell* strives to publish all student submissions. However, we reserve the right to edit letters as necessary.

## Seniors are a valuable resource

In our telephone conversation of Feb. 1, *The Rebel Yell* was informed that persons over 62 are invited to sign up for classes tuition-free—on a space available basis. Senior citizens are allowed to register for classes only after every other UNLV student, graduate and undergraduate, has had a chance to do so.

In the Feb. 2 editorial you imply it is unfair "...when other students are struggling...one of the most affluent groups in society gets its education free." While it is true that after a lifetime of work, paying taxes to support state education and raising families, some seniors are among the more affluent in our population, the majority of the

people I work with are on a fixed income. Additionally, there are only 350-450 senior citizens taking advantage of tuition-free classes out of a student population of 18,000.

Please reconsider what appears to be an "age-ist" perspective. We cannot afford to waste a valuable resource—our senior population—during these times. Exposure to the perspective, opinions, and life experiences of people substantially older than yourself increases diversity and aids in "turning out better students."

Patricia Tupper-Heggie  
coordinator,  
Programs for  
Older Students

## Let the fans stand

Good day. I have a few comments regarding Daniel Duffy's commentary, or should I say whining, about UNLV fans in the Feb. 9 edition of *The Rebel Yell*.

First, unlike you, who get tickets with no movement besides writing your name on a piece of paper that allows reporters to get tickets hassle free, I camp out like a true fan to get mine. Stupid? No, I just care.

Second, I can stand any damned time I want. Why don't you stop conforming to the diamond-wearing, klaker-wannabees, don't-know-a-single-player's-name crowd that seems to plague UNLV hoops?

I say give all lower level seats (at least one side) to students

only. Other universities do it. I'm not saying dish out the alumni, but change. God knows I wouldn't be attending this school without the alumni's support. Bless their green.

Last, you said we shouldn't be like Duke. Yeah, right. Get real. Ever heard of the Final Four? The Rebels have been there several times lately, if you weren't aware. And they play North Carolina, Virginia, Florida State, Georgia Tech...Gee, I wonder how they would stack up in the Big West? Just a tad bit tougher than Pacific.

You want school spirit? Start scheduling tougher teams in non-league games. Duke can still be No. 3 with 5 losses because they do that (i.e. Michigan, UCLA, Kansas). More fans will come I promise. Stop making sociologi-

cal comments about fans and their hair, watch the game, Ann Landers.

Start standing for teams other than Georgetown, who suck besides Othella Harrington, and is nowhere to be seen as a powerhouse anymore. God gave us college hoops, let's reap its rewards. Because I want Dick Vitale here, NOW! Oh, I forgot, he's at Duke.

P.S. UNLV has to learn how to play scrubs or when these guys get into game situation after all those fifth-year seniors are gone, they might as well go play for Slippery Rock.

Andy Searcy  
sophomore

Editor's note: Like other students, Dan Duffy was at the T&M at 5 a.m. for ticket distribution.

The Rebel Yell

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Rebel Yell is now accepting applications for photographers for the spring semester.

Students interested in a columnist position should call or leave a message for Rob Weidenfeld at 895-3478 or in Room 302 on the third floor of the MSU.

Please send letters to:

The Rebel Yell-STS  
4505 S. Maryland Pkwy.  
Las Vegas NV 89154

Or stop by MSU Room 302.

