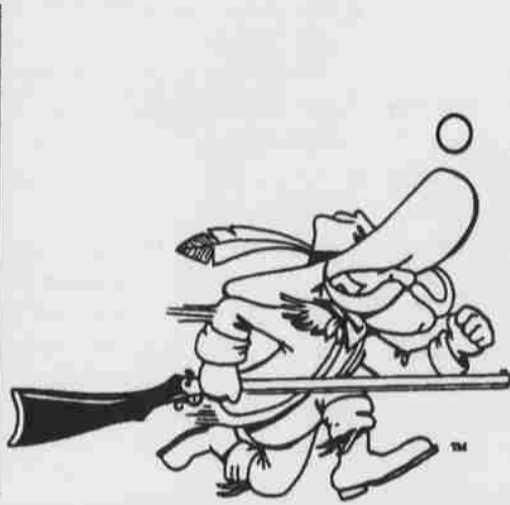


PERSPECTIVE

REBEL YELL



FROM THE SAP
Every Tuesday and Thursday

opinion: n. an idea or judgement held as true or valid

Long summer leads to change at Yell

by Jay Sapovits

Does anyone remember LaMont Biscuits?

He no longer writes at the *Rebel Yell*. Nor does the man behind the pseudonym, Dan Duffy. Instead the former Managing Editor of the *Yell* has retired from the college newspaper industry a bitter man.

The story of Duffy's departure is long but good. It was the talk of the *Review Journal*, *The Las Vegas Sun*, *Casino News* and on the fourth floor of the Humanities building all summer. Duffy pleaded conspiracy to anyone yet to meet Van Gogh's fate.

Last year the *Yell*'s editor was Ched Whitney. He did an excellent job but, he and the news staff alienated Student Government by reporting stories less than flattering about Student Body President Joel Kostman and Senate President Bud Benneman. That wasn't good for Duffy, who directly served under the graduating *Yell* editor.

There were three candidates for the vacant editors position: Dan Duffy, Tony Llanos, and Mike Carrigan.

Only Duffy and Llanos were real contenders for the position, each for different reasons.

Duffy was a newspaper guy. His experience is hands above current editor Llanos. But Llanos (my boss) is a nice guy, good interviewer, and most importantly, friends with UNLV Student Body Joel Kostman. But over the summer Kostman told John Gallant of the *R-J*, the two were nothing more than "acquaintances."

The *Rebel Yell* Advisory Board appoints the new editor-in-chief. The make-up of the board was changed last semester. Two professional members of the media were removed, and two more students were added.

That's where the controversy begins.

Duffy insists he was a victim



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of conspiracy by Kostman and Benneman to not vote for him as editor. But University News Bureau Manager and advisory board member Tom Flagg wouldn't affirm that.

"There wasn't anything in the way of proof," Flagg said.

But Flagg did concede that Student Government got their way in the end.

"It certainly went the way Joel Kostman wanted it to go," he said.

The old regime, Duffy and Whitney, felt that Student Government sought out particular students to sit on the committee.

According to former *Yell* advisor Mary Hausch, who didn't have a vote in the hiring of a new editor, the students on the advisory board were told to vote for Llanos.

"There is no doubt in my mind that it was set up for the most qualified person for the job to lose," Hausch said.

"All of the people with professional knowledge voted for Dan Duffy. The people who walked in off the streets voted the way they were supposed to vote."

Hausch added: "Joel Kostman stood outside the meeting to make sure they all voted the right way."

So was the board set up? Maybe.

If Kostman saw to doing that, is it right? No.

But there are nine people who sat on the committee. Llanos won the position 6-5 on a tie-breaking vote against Duffy by Senate President Bud Benneman.

Did Benneman vote for the best man?

Yes.

Did he do it for the right reasons?

Probably not.

Llanos is the best man because he appointed the right people to get jobs done. A synonym for editor could be manager. And that is what Llanos is, a manager. He has appointed an excellent staff to serve the UNLV students.

And all summer Dan Duffy went on the Self-Pity Tour 1993.

Duffy solicited radio shows, saying 'I was robbed', *The Yell* will be a Student Government Newsletter and a bunch of other blow-hardy comments.

So the most ingenuitive thing he and a slew of writers from last year's *Yell* staff could do was quit.

A brilliant solution, huh?

At an advisory board meeting last June I spoke to the protesting group of quitters.

The main point was this: If you think the paper is going to be bad, or that Tony will do a bad job as Editor, and Student Government will get free publicity without ever being criticized, then work at the *Yell* this year and personally see that such isn't the case.

Instead I was snarled and yelled at.

If Duffy and the rest of the quitters from last year had so much interest in the students they'd be writing here this year.

But now Duffy can only move on now, losing what he wanted so much, to be the editor-in-chief.

Suppose this election was fixed. If it was, it was fought the wrong way. Nobody likes to hear "sour grapes" and that's what this summer was filled with.

Jay Sapovits is the Perspective Editor of the *Rebel Yell*. His column *From the Sap* appears every

Student Spotlight

What will your UNLV degree mean to you?????????

Emma Monroy, Freshman, Dance "Hard work and dedication in my major. I was going to go to Community College but I decided to go here because I like the campus better."



Dawn Dickens, Sophomore, Communication, "I think it will give me an edge on a lot of people because most people don't (have a degree). It's also my home and I'm proud of where I'm from."



Natalie Glass, Sophomore, Hotel Administration, "It will mean a lot to me because it's from the Hotel College. Being At UNLV, In Las Vegas, it will open up opportunities in the area involving conventions and businesses."



Les Plooster, Junior, English, "That's a tough question. It's given me a sense of independence. Just being in the Southwest gives you the sense of freedom you don't get anywhere else."



Brad Ogden, Junior, Political Sciences, "Yeah, I hope to get a job in the future. With a political science major I could go to law school and practice law with my father."



Teaching takes guts: not an easy route

by Tony Llanos

I thought my academic career was over three years ago. I really did.

After a brutal, sophomore year at UNLV, I thought I had enough of memorizing meat cuts in my Food Service Purchasing class (I had Dr. Don Bell; he's the best!) and writing about classical literature in my English class.

After the spring semester of 1990, I left the Silver State to return home in order to become a student-teacher at a parochial school in San Francisco, Calif. I thought that this would be my calling; and not some hot-shot, hotel executive.

It was also the same place where I toiled for eight years to receive my elementary school education.

My task? To instruct 210 students in Computer Education from grades three to eight and to discipline them.

The Roman Catholic sister who hired me said that these kids could use a little guidance. The teacher that I replaced, she said, had no idea what discipline meant and, as was expected, the students ran all over him.

I told her that it could be done; the discipline part, that is.

However, I had no game plan on how to instruct these kids in word processing, data base, or the spreadsheet; I just wanted to rule the classroom like General Schwartzkopf ran his campaign in the Persian Gulf.

I knew that it was going to be rough in the beginning; in fact, I went to school with some of these kids, and most of them were from the neighborhood kids down the street.

They got used to calling me, "Tony," but I knew that it was not appropriate to call me by my first name in parochial school. And I knew that some of the kids could not address me as "Mr. Llanos." They also knew my dad.

So they called me, "Mr. Tony."

Bad move.

First of all, they made fun of my name. And the students would blurt out "Tony," and sometimes I did not catch it. Since I did not set the record straight earlier in the school year, they got away with it.

And my working conditions? Wow, that was something.

I taught class in a small, confined area between the principal's office and the front door. The computer room only had ten terminals, and students had to share a computer.

Another bad move.

The students always fought with each other and never liked to work together. If a

kid was hated by others, then no one would be his or her partner. It was very difficult (and challenging) to change computer partners each time.

Were there screaming parents? You bet.

There were so many of them I lost count. It was always the parents who blamed the teacher if something was wrong with his or her child.

I could never concentrate on discipline or my original game plan, which was to instruct the students. The situation turned out to be a babysitting assignment rather than a learning experience.

The principal, students, and parents were all frustrated. I did not have the energy to deal with the parents and instruct their children at the same time. The energy was never there.

One month before the end of the semester, I decided to go back to college. The door was still open at UNLV. And it was a good idea to return; I had to finish a project

that I started.

Teaching is an honorable position. It's one of those tasks that is very challenging; however, I'd rather sit here and write about it.

Tony Llanos is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Rebel Yell*. His column *The Editors Desk* appears every Thursday.

