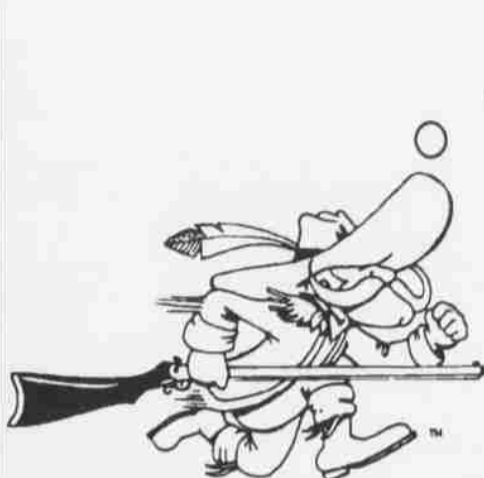


PERSPECTIVE

REBEL YELL



Your
Perspective
Editor:
Jay Sapovits
895-1516

All eyes focus on controversial student organization

By ROXANNE WARREN
STAFF COLUMNIST

A good deal of attention has been given to the presence and proposed expulsion from the CSUN Organizations Board of the religious student organization, Campus Advance. The organization is an affiliate of the Greater Las Vegas Church of Christ, and is also known as International Church of Christ.

Some would perceive Campus Advance as a cult. This charge is officially denied by organization spokespersons.

On Friday, Oct. 15, the International Church of Christ was examined by the television newsmagazine show, "20/20." Upon concluding the feature, the "20/20" reporter that covered the story revealed that he was "confused" about the whole situation. Current members of the church gave glowing praises indicating the International

Church of Christ was the best thing that had ever happened to them. While former members spoke of intimidating control tactics and being told their faith was weak or untrue if they did not fulfill recruitment quotas.

One fact that was not under dispute is that most of the church's new recruits are college-age individuals. The broadcast journalists of "20/20" marveled at the possibility that bright, inquisitive, skeptical souls such as college students could be susceptible to such an organization.

Actually, upon examination, it isn't surprising at all.

When students arrive at college, many find themselves socially adrift, ill-equipped to singularly assimilate after the cozy cocoon of high school. To some, fraternities and sororities are the cure: instant friendship, planned activity, social acceptance, reinforced self-worth, happy-happy, joy-joy. No more miserable Friday nights with Highlander.

For others, it isn't so easy. Maybe Greek life isn't their scene. Maybe they're painfully shy. Maybe they don't have the time or money. Maybe they're searching for something else, something different. One day, they're approached by a friendly-looking student. They wonder if it's someone they've met before. They exchange pleasantries. Then something odd happens.

"Do you go to church?"
"Well, I did back home, but..."
"Well, hey our church is having kind of an informal discussion group this weekend. We'd love it if you could make it. Would you like to go with me?"

The invited party is surprised and taken off-guard; however, they're not doing anything this weekend, and they are looking for a church to attend.

Watch out. These types of organizations are not so harmless or benign as your societally correct neighborhood fraternity or sorority. Speaking generally, the group does not have

to be religiously affiliated. It could just as easily be the KKK, or magazine sales recruitment. All that varies is the content of the "pitch."

The key is for members or participants to perceive themselves as benefitting from the organization. The process can be very subtle - obvious to an "outsider," but virtually imperceptible to the victim.

As a survivor of a "cult-type experience," I know first-hand of what I speak. Cult organizations are parasitic. They feed off of their victims' vulnerabilities. They use basic human desires; the need for

acceptance and companionship to control and utilize individuals for purposes that have nothing to do with "happy-happy, joy-joy."

The key is for the members or participants to perceive themselves as benefitting from the organization. The process can be very subtle - obvious to an "outsider," but virtually imperceptible to the victim. Basically, anyone who wants to control your time or money is bad news. Anyone who tells you to disassociate yourself from people - even family or trusted friends that question or speak negatively about what you are doing does not have your best interests at heart.

Total control.
The cult experience.
It could happen to anybody.
Even you.

Roxanne Warren is a columnist for the Rebel Yell. Her column appears every Tuesday in Perspective.

Campus Calendar

Oct. 20

Martin Rose to speak on campus Wednesday

Martin Rose, assistant research professor at the Biological Sciences Center from the Desert Research Institute in Reno, will be the featured speaker Wednesday Oct. 20 at 3 p.m. in the Gold Room on the first floor of Wright Hall.

Rose's lecture will be titled "Long term drought in the Western Great Basin — Climate Change and Human Adaptation."

The event is being sponsored by the UNLV Anthropological Society. Admission is free and open to the public.

Oct. 23

Matinee show added on Oct. 23 for Cinderella

Due to extraordinary demand, the Nevada Dance Theatre has added an Oct. 23 matinee showing for Cinderella at 2 p.m. in the Judy Bayley Theatre.

Show dates are from Oct. 21-24; tickets prices range from \$13, \$21, \$24, \$30. Discounts are available for seniors and children.

Oct. 25

Take Back the Night Rally

This is the subject of the annual "Take Back the Night" rally re-scheduled for Monday Oct. 25 at 5:30 in the Valerie Pida Plaza.

Making people aware of these acts taking place against women on the UNLV campus and in Las Vegas is the focus of the rally.

Contact the UNLV Women's Center at 895-4475 for more information.

SELL YOUR
CAR...NOW!

ONLY IN
THE REBEL YELL

The Rebel Yell

The Rebel Yell is the student newspaper of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. It is printed by Southwest Printers every Tuesday and Thursday during the school year, except holidays.

Tony Llanos Editor
Nicholas Haley Managing Editor
Gregory Quinn News Editor
Jay Sapovits Perspective Editor
Jonathan Weber Variety Editor
Paul Gutierrez Sports Editor
John Quinlen Production Manager
Charlie Waldorf Production Assistant
Diana Schmitt Campus Editor
Kathryn Land Copy Editor
Cheryl Tillotson Copy Editor
Vivian Austin Business Manager
Mallory Rohach Director of Sales
Erlynn Mananquil Classifieds Manager
Brad Palmer Office Manager
Hyun-Ho Han Director of Photography

Writers, columnists, photographers, and other staff

Todd Abbott, Jared Dean Blanchard, Dayna Cramer, Maryanne Dawicki, Scott Gulbransen, Scott Haverlock, Mary Howell, Chris Jones, Tonya Lomeo, Joe A. Martinez, Todd Price, Vaedra Roseman-Sowerby, Donovan Steltner, Paul Stuhff, Heather Subran, Roxanne Warren, James Wilson, James Yohe, Maritess Zurbarano.

The Rebel Yell welcomes your letters, which should be limited to 300 words and typed. All submissions are confidential. The Rebel Yell reserves the right to edit all submissions as necessary. Please include your signature, major, class standing, or occupation with the article or letter. Submissions which are libelous, illegible, or unsigned will not be printed. Send letters to: The Rebel Yell, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Box 2011, Las Vegas, NV 89154-2011.

Opinions expressed within The Rebel Yell do not necessarily reflect those of the UNLV student body, faculty, and staff.