

"Caught up in mob violence" attempted murderers let off

Don't worry riot-weary citizens, the courts have let two attempted-murder charges off to save you trouble. Reginald Denny took one on the chin, in the skull, and who knows where else. A small frivolity such as justice won't stand in the way of maintaining law and order in L.A. or anywhere else people with no respect for humanity may reside. The people's right to riot and pillage has been upheld in a Los Angeles court room.

Those two political-correctness poster boys, Damian "football" Williams and Henry Watson (two names I refuse to capitalize) were acquitted of almost all serious charges by a jury of four blacks, four Hispanics, two whites and two Asians. The jury is still deadlocked on an attempted murder charge against "football" according to the October 19, *Review Journal* article titled "Most Verdicts Favor Accused".

One of the arguments used by the defense was that the Denny's two attackers were "caught up in mob violence" and

therefore exempt from charges which required "specific intent".

Does this mean that people who are caught up in mob violence are less responsible than people involved

in ordinary activities? Doesn't taking part in mob violence, in itself, require "specific intent"? Does the fact that "brick layer" Williams and fellow criminal Watson were "caught up in mob violence" make Reginald Denny's God given right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness any less of a right?

Was there a trade-off made between Denny's rights and the risk of civil unrest in Los Angeles? Circumstances tend to favor this view. Imagine being a prosecutor, with a video tape showing two men identified as the defendants, beating Denny unconscious, then crowning the beating with a brick to the skull followed by a football-style victory dance.

Congratulations PC fans, you have your hero. How could the government, with all of its re-

sources, fail to convict Williams and Watson to venture out and be drawn into the mob violence. Didn't they premeditate some sort of violent act? When they pulled over non-black motorists, was it simply to express their anger over the Rodney King verdict? No!! It was to violently attack innocent unarmed people in a show of brutality, not frustration over the King verdict. If they wanted to express their frustration over the verdict they should have gone after the real culprit—government.

The jury did convict Williams of simple mayhem and Watson of simple assault, meaning the jury believed that Williams and Watson were the people filmed beating Denny. They just didn't think the beating was a big deal, or that it was somewhat justified given the circumstances.

The circumstances of this case should lead to an even sterner punishment. What caused Williams

involved in the Rodney King beating were acquitted in a government court of law. Reginald Denny

had nothing to do with any of it. Why should leniency be shown to these two thugs? Rodney King didn't riot in the streets after the verdict. Shouldn't he be a little bit more upset over the verdict than Williams and Watson?

Another point which may have caused the jury to show some tolerance to these two "errant youths," might have been Denny's forgiving nature towards the defendants. This forgiveness by Denny is inexcusable and should not have been taken into account by the jury. If it was, then a huge injustice was done to Denny and to all law-abiding citizens. Denny was brutally beaten and I would have to doubt his awareness of the event. Denny might have feared suffering the same fate as Rodney King, being the cause of a disastrous riot.

A precedent has been set, giving rioters a license to commit whatever crimes they want without fear of punishment or resistance from unarmed law-abiding citizens. Reginald Denny was beaten, his attackers slapped on the wrist, and the true victims in this crime are the victims of the next riot.

"then crowning the beating with a brick to the skull followed by a football-style victory dance."

Perspective. Every week. Like it or not.

Director mistakes purpose of "Yell"

The Canons of Responsible Journalism require news writers to refuse to answer to the beckon call of Student Government cronies.

Apparently, Patrick T. C. Smith thinks that *The Rebel Yell* is a writer-for-hire service. Smith, Student Government's Nevada student affairs director, would like to see a student newspaper that is really a thinly veiled Student Government public service announcement.

Acquaint yourself with the concept of duty, Mr. Smith. It is a journalist's duty to exercise discretion in choosing which

events to cover. Reporters for *The Rebel Yell* are not duty-bound to deliver a report whenever an officer of the Student Government sneezes, nor should they be compelled to promote your agenda. Further,

the paper should not act as an advertising service for your every

event.

The facts you cite are self-contradictory. In your original, unedited letter to *The Rebel Yell*, you contend that you delivered papers to another *Rebel Yell* staffer on September 31. Sep-

tember 31? Can you count the number of days in September? If you cannot, then be informed, there are 30.

Your scolding of *The Rebel Yell* for obtaining some new furniture is really a veiled attempt at drawing criticism away from the considerably more expensive remodeling that Student Government has done. The fact that Student Government remodelled is old news; it is a non-issue, so why continue to smoke-screen the

event? You find fault in listing Sean Roach, a communications studies major, as a Senate candidate. At

fee. Yes, a debate later erupted over whether Roach was able to be counted as a candidate. Yet, if Student Government calls him

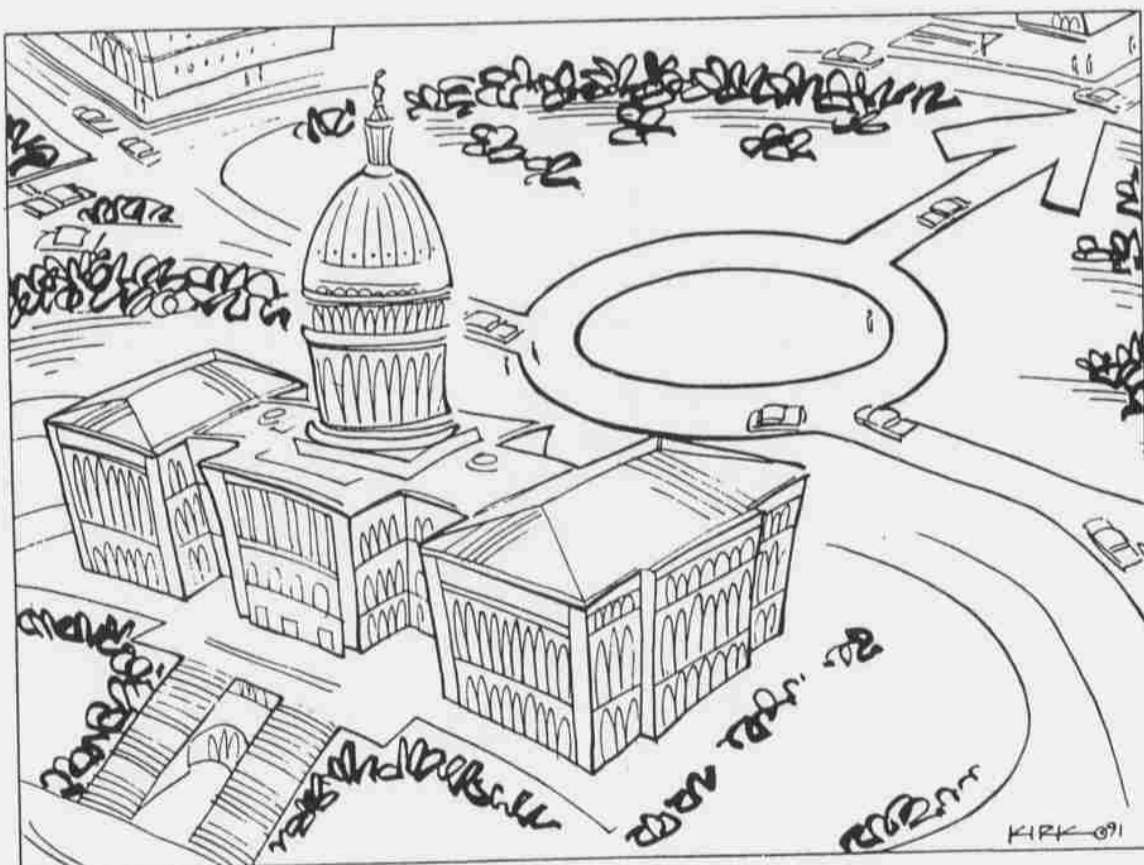
a candidate, why should anyone take capricious license and not call him one? *The Rebel Yell* is open and fair

"the paper should not act as an advertising service for your every event"

the opening elections board meeting, Roach was listed by Student Government as a candidate. Roach registered for the election and paid the filing

in its treatment of Student Government. But, to the directors that believe they can ride roughshod over *The Rebel Yell*, they are sadly mistaken.

GUEST COLUMNIST PAUL STUHFF



KUNV 91FM
COMMUNITY RADIO

A WORLD OF CHOICE

jazz • underground rock
world beat • bluegrass
blues • folk • reggae
community affairs

office line • 895-3877
request line • 895-3976
concert hotline • 895-FM91