

Quick Buck Close Ally of Record Trade Imbalance

Last week brought us some alarming news. Our trade gap hit an all time high with a merchandise deficit up over 25 percent from 1993 to \$166.29 billion.

I, like most Americans, thought everything was turning out great. I guess I was fooled into the narrow assumption that most trade was based on the lucrative Automobile market. I figured that the U.S. auto makers were having record years with Japan suffering terribly, therefore all is well. In fact, Japan recorded an 11 percent increase in trade over the United States, despite poor car sales.

To make things even more depressing, an economist at Northern Trust Company in Chicago predicted a 1995 goods deficit of \$175 billion.

As most of us know, Japan leads all countries with their trade surplus with the U.S. topping 66 billion. But, there is a feisty runner up that had an increase of 30 percent in their trade surplus for 1994 and has more than tripled its imports to the United States in just five years. That country is China.

Wait a minute, communist, Third-World China?

The country where over 400 million people live each day without electricity?

Yes, China.

China sold almost 40 billion to the United States last year. The scary thing is that if this rate continues, China will top Japan's surplus within five years.

The news is good and bad for China itself.

On the one hand the poverty-stricken nation of a billion needs all the cash it can get. On the other hand the free world is taking advantage of China's low stan-

Moderately Speaking

DAVID KANAAN

dard of living and large masses for cheap labor.

How long before the people of China start seeing the spoils of what they are producing and want more and more?

It will start with small things such as TVs and radios, and move into larger things like decent housing, cars, and the most expensive luxury, equal rights and justice. We have seen how their government handled the latter in the Tiananmen Square massacre.

The problem is that the whole concept of foreign trade and capitalism is against China's communist doctrines. Most all of the business deals being done there by U.S. companies are done individually and have no common trade or capitalist regulations to protect them.

One cannot discard that former President Bush was once ambassador to China, and later pushed, as Clinton did, for giving China most favored nation trading status despite human rights, and environmental violations. One also must recognize that these deals make a lot of previously wealthy corporations wealthier, leaving the working stiff in the cold. But this should come as no surprise since the working stiff doesn't contribute nearly as much to political campaigns as the corporations that benefit from China.

Debate is underway on whether to tariff the Chinese due to their widespread piracy of movies, music, and intellectual property. But the proposed tariffs would only target slightly over \$1 billion worth of products, and is therefore a dainty slap on the wrist.

Foreign trade is vital for the United States, and I'm not saying we should abandon trade with China or other countries. We need to create an even playing

REBEL
The Rebels in Charge



field. We have to be responsible to what made the United States the envy of many nations, and promote our advances in the work place and environment with provisions that other countries do the same. For example, enforcing our minimum wage (\$4.25 would still be less than most U.S. workers make), and work place and environmental regulations to all who want to profit in here.

This would help other developing nations enjoy what we have had for so long. We would not be hypocrites in how we feel people and the environment should be treated. It would ensure that the wisdom

we gained through our struggles with industrialization would prevail over the quick buck.

Lastly, being true to our own values could prevent our nation from being dragged down into the third-world in order to compete. After all, if we fail to ensure good paying jobs in the United States, there will be no one to buy all these luxuries.

—David Kanaan is an opinion columnist at The Rebel Yell.

Letters to the Editor

Boxio should be held responsible

To the Editor:

It is about time that someone decided to scrutinize the absurdity going on in CSUN. During the course of the year, CSUN has done absolutely nothing for the betterment of the student population at UNLV. Not only have they done nothing, they have been patting themselves on the back in the process!

Now, we find out that our own student body president is involved in a conspiracy. Yes, Ms. Boixo, what you have done does in fact constitute a conspiracy. As defined by Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, a conspiracy is; a plot; an agreement to say nothing about a certain matter. This particular conspiracy involves two administrators as well—Dr. Robert Ackerman and Chief of Police, David Hollenbeck. While I have read Dr. Ackerman's denial of the matter, I can poignantly say, "Yeah ... right."

For Ackerman to deny any involvement in this matter is absurd. Did you know that Hollenbeck reports directly to Ackerman? For that matter, so does the CSUN Business Manager, Lori Callison. Ms. Callison is the one who is "supposed" to verify Ms. Boixo's eligibility as CSUN president. Does this reek of cover-up yet? Wait ... there's more. Who else could possibly get the vehicle boot removed from their car with a simple phone call? Who could possibly enroll in classes with \$1 in outstanding fees (let alone \$230)? Certainly the student body president doesn't have this type of clout—if she did, she would have never received the tickets in the first place!

This fiasco in CSUN is a clear abuse of power (not to mention the thought of collusion). Not only has Boixo violated the CSUN Constitution (something she has sworn to uphold), she has probably violated the UNLV Student Conduct Code as well. As far as I am concerned, Boixo should not even be allowed to retain her office—she failed to keep up her standing as a good student. I say this because she should NOT have been allowed to register for classes this Spring, thus rendering her ineligible to serve as the student body president! It all falls down to one thing, Boixo's arrogance and cavalier attitude should not be allowed to cover up the fact that she is guilty ... hell, she admits it!

I have several ideas for CSUN to restore some measure of respect in the eyes of the students: 1) use the tens of thousands of unused student dollars in CSUN's budget to pay for ALL students

parking tickets (up to 8), 2) use the same clout to register ALL students for classes, regardless of their outstanding debts, 3) have the "do-nothing" directors in CSUN feed the meters with CSUN bought quarters, and 4) IMPEACH BOIXO!!

If the CSUN Senate fails to impeach Boixo or find another suitable means of punishment for her, they have failed the students who elected them to office. Every day without retribution for Boixo is a complete injustice for every student on this campus.

Corinne Goldstein
CSUN Student Development Senator
1986-87

Ackerman a swell guy

To the Editor:

After reading the past two weekly editions of *The Rebel Yell*, I feel compelled to present an opposing viewpoint to that of Opinion Editor Scott Gulbransen's. More specifically his opinion, with regard to Dr. Robert Ackerman's integrity and conduct, misrepresents the true character of this respected University administrator.

In the four years that I have known and worked with Dr. Ackerman, I have been continually impressed with the true leadership and vision that he conveys. He has always worked to include students in issues that affect the UNLV community. While looking out for the best interests of all students, he has been placed in the position of making difficult decisions that have only helped students, faculty, and staff. Only a person of his sound judgment, vast experience, and extraordinary intellect could have withstood the transformation that this university had undertaken. In a period of time where other University administrators have been demoted, fired, or forced to resign, Dr. Ackerman has stayed at UNLV as an example for others to follow. This, alone, is a true testament to the strength of this man's moral fibre.

Over the course of the past year, I have always looked forward to reading the weekly editions of *The Rebel Yell*, and Gulbransen's column in particular. I will continue to do so, as I am always entertained, and usually agree, with his opinions and views. However, in the future, I hope this fine student newspaper will get it's facts straight and try to avoid this *Hard Copy* style of journalism.

Andre Lagomarsino
Student Body Vice President

Democrats: They Just Don't Get It

I've always been amazed by it because I know it is so blatantly untrue, but the Democrats still feel that it is their guiding principle. It is they who are the friends of the

"common" man, the working stiff, and the poverty-stricken. They are the voice of the disadvantaged and they champion their causes. Oh, really.

The Republicans, they thunder, have the interests of only the rich and privileged at heart. Is that why, when Democrats are allowed to run rampant over Congress, someone's always digging into my pocket for more money for some program or another?

I have more to say on this later, but I want to tell you about Rep. Pat Schroeder, a liberal Democrat and fervent champion of so-called women's issues. She was interviewed on C-SPAN recently concerning the Balanced Budget Amendment, for which she was against. "Oh," she chuckled so coyly and cutely, "if the American people really knew what this was about, they'd never be for it. They simply don't know enough about it. That's why they support it."

You know what she's saying, folks. You're too stupid to know anything. You need a Democrat to put his arm around you and patiently explain everything to you (all the while, he's picking your pocket). Well, Ms. Schroeder, guess what. We aren't as stupid as you think. That is precisely why we voted for the Republicans. We were tired of your party's condescending, arrogant attitude and your total disregard of our concerns.

Guest
Commentary
DIANE
AMANTEA

As for the Democrats' knee-jerk response to just throw money at something to fix it, consider education. They oppose any cuts to education. Yet, despite throwing more

and more money at the public school system, the quality of American education remains abysmal, sinking ever lower and lower. Obviously, money's not the answer, yet they refuse to even try to find the real problems in order to solve. (I don't know. Maybe they're afraid that if funds are cut, they won't be able to give our kids free condoms.)

If money is what insures a good education, I should be illiterate. I went to a parochial grammar school in which it wasn't uncommon to have 60 children in one class. Out textbooks were old and outdated, but treasured nonetheless. What we were missing in terms of information, they nuns filled in the gaps. In fact, my entire 5th grade class had to share one SRA reading kit because that's all the school could afford!

Lo and behold! Very few children had to be left back. In fact, they were many years throughout my childhood when not one classmate had to repeat a grade. When we graduated, we had been well-educated and prepared for high school. All that was accomplished on a shoestring.

Let's face it. Discipline and parental involvement are what insure a good education, not money. Maybe it's time we started explaining things to the Democrats. Obviously, they just don't get it!

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