

**Commentary**

# A Look Back: Challenges of College News Reporting

I can't believe it. It's finally here: the end of the semester.

I don't know about you, but I'm glad it's here. Couldn't have come at a better time. But, despite anticipating the end with glee, there is also a certain feeling of sadness.

It is the end of the year for *The Rebel Yell*. No more newspaper to get ready for students and faculty to read. No more deadlines to observe, no more reporters to call, asking if they have their story yet.

Despite all this, I will really miss being here. But you have to travel back a year with me to appreciate my sentiment. Prior to Fall of 1994, I didn't even know there was a campus paper, or that students wrote for it, or that there was pay and class credits involved.

I found out I wasn't alone in my lack of knowledge. Even people I had communications classes with, students who wanted to pursue a career in the print medium of journalism, didn't know about it.

Last spring, the managing editor of the newspaper came to our reporting class to let us know that a paper did, in fact, exist and they were looking for writers, editors, photographers, anyone who wanted to come and work for it.

So I applied. They accepted me. And I started to write. And I got paid. And I got my first taste of what my byline looked like in print. I liked it.

As time went by, the paper needed a copy editor, and then a news editor, so I kept applying. They accepted me. I kept

Observation Deck

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doing the job. And I kept getting paid.

The point of this whole trot down memory lane is that UNLV does have a place for journalism students to practice their craft before going out into the real world. Most of the senior staff are graduating, so there are plenty of openings for editors, writers, advertisers, photographers and production staff.

Whether or not you can write weekly or once in a while, whether you can put together an entire section or sell advertising space, there are opportunities here, and I encourage anyone who wants to write to take advantage of this opportunity.

Although there is no "Writing for a Newspaper" class yet, you can get academic credit by signing up, with your advisor, for "Independent Study." You can earn up to six credits.

So, I invite all you budding journalists to come and write for your school newspaper. Applications and envelopes will be in a folder outside the Yell office, located on the third floor of the msu. Just fill it out, slip it under the door and either the new editor, Teresa Hinds or a section editor will get back to you. And it's a position you will gain experience from. And you get paid.

Now you know. The rest is up to you. Until the fall, take care and have a wonderful summer. I enjoyed my experience at the paper, and, now that you know that the opportunity exists, it is my hope that you will, too.

# Vino

continued from 1 cent goes towards scholarships. All the vintners donated the wine, and the auction usually generates funds in the thousands."

Black Silk, an Australian white wine, was one of the favorites of Teresa Cauliflower, a junior sociology major. "I don't really go for wine that much, but this (Black Silk) was just lovely. I also liked the liqueur offered by Godiva. It was soooo smooth."

"All of the wines," were the favorites of her companion, Rebel Yell Editor James Embree, although he did admit that the Whitehall Lane "Reserve" Cabernet Sauvignon, Ferrari-Carano's Fume Blanc and Joseph Phelps' "Carneros" Chardonnay topped his list of personal favorites.

Mario Tarantino, a senior hotel major and volunteer for the event, explained his reasons for becoming involved with the fund-raiser for the third year.

"This is the single-largest fund-raiser for scholarships for the Hotel College. Southern Wine & Spirits was totally instrumental in gathering all these vintners together."

He also gave a more personal reason for participating. "I work (it) because I've gotten a lot of scholarship money from this event. I feel it's my chance to give a little back."

"Align yourself with a major company in town, someone who will take you under their wing," Tarantino advised groups or campus organizations who were looking for the ingredients for a successful fund-raiser.

"If you offer something the public wants, they will pay for it, and you will raise lots of scholarship money."

The climax of the afternoon was the "sabering" of two magnums of champagne by Robert Gourdin, North American Sales director for Moet et Chandon. By tapping his saber on the mag-



PHOTO BY JAN WILLIAMS  
Teresa Cauliflower enjoys a glass of Australian Black Silk during the UNLVino hotel college fund-raiser Saturday.

num of bubbly, Gourdin was able to pop off the cork, allowing the champagne to flow several feet upwards in a beautiful arc.

Ralph Durgin, sales supervisor for SW&S, said the tradition dates back to Napoleon's time. "While they were marching to war, the soldiers would saber several bottles, to fortify their 'spirit,' so they could march on to their next victory."

An auction followed, with 32 lots available for bid. The first item, a 3.0 liter bottle of a 1992 Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, went for \$125. A 6.0 liter bottle of local Pahrump Valley Vineyards Cabernet Sauvignon, Lot 12, commanded a \$230 price tag.

The dollar amounts continued to rise, with Lot 22, three 1.5 liter bottles of Fess Parker Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Merlot, all signed by the star of television and film, going for \$325. Topping the afternoon was a bid

of \$625 for Lot 14, a 3.0 liter bottle of 1983 Robert Mondavi Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, signed by Mondavi himself.

While the auction generated approximately \$7,000 last year, according to hotel school sources, this year's total is estimated to exceed the \$11,000 mark.

Renata's of Green Valley offered \$20 raffle tickets for a double magnum of Cuvaision 1977 Cabernet Sauvignon, a piece they donated out of their private collection.

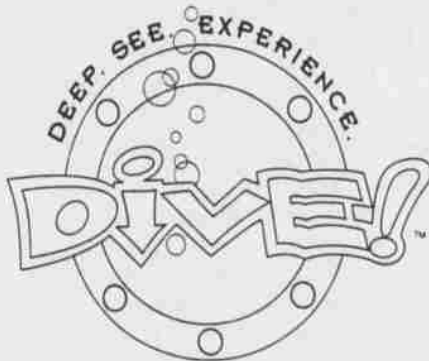
"We've always participated in this event," Denise Pettenger, director of marketing, explained, "but this is the first year we donated an item." Only 150 bottles were made, Pettenger explained. "It was about \$750 when we bought it; today, it could be worth up to \$1,500."

Don and Sandy Cooley of Las Vegas were the lucky winners of the '77 Cabernet.

In addition to the non-alcoholic contributions made by San Pellegrino Water, Sweeney Gourmet Coffee Roasters and Mt. Valley Spring Water, Saturn of Las Vegas was on hand, with a 24-passenger van, to transport wine-tasters from the events center to the back parking lot. Rides were also offered to those who felt they were unable to safely drive home.

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