

UNLV '94-95: The Highs and Lows

Time does fly by. One more week. Just one more week and it's over, Hallelujah!

For most of us it's a first class ticket to Lazyville for a couple weeks and once we have sobered up, maybe a cakewalk summer job to pass the time. For some it's more of the same, with summer classes and irate bosses trying successfully to make our lives miserable. This last semester has brought many changes to this university, and once again the students can look forward to many new faces and policies for the upcoming school year.

This being the last issue until next fall, I feel it is appropriate to look back on the highs and lows of this last year. To keep this cliché going, I'll start with the highs.

How about that Rebel football team, huh?

It is nice to see the Rebels win, especially the Las Vegas Bowl. Coach Horton seems to have the team moving in the right direction, and I feel the Football program will only become stronger and will be more than ready to take it to the next level when entering the WAC

Moderately Speaking

DAVID KANAAN

conference in a couple of years. We students will just have to suffer next season as the Rebels destroy the lowly Big West conference foes and win the Las Vegas Bowl again.

Another high point in the year has got to be the hiring of Carol Harter as the new President as well as the job of interim President Kenny Guinn.

The Maxson days are over, and even though he was successful in his power-motivated attempt to destroy the Rebel Basketball program (for the time being), it's still nice to have seen him go.

I look forward to Harter's fresh insight in solving UNLV's problems and foresee a smoother, more mature university developing. Guinn deserves nothing but praise for his competent performance through an array of problems most universities face in ten years let alone one. Thanks, Kenny, it was the best dollar the university ever spent.

There were several other shining moments, including the hiring of the new basketball coach Billy Bayno and the opening of several new buildings on campus. More and more this university is looking like the large state school it was envi-

sioned as being. Sure, there were growing pains but time heals all wounds.

To avoid to start to sounding like SNL resident therapist Stuart Smalley, I'll get to the Lows.

First off, let me again mention the basketball program. The firing of Massimino as well as the resigning of coach Grgurich left many with a bad taste in their mouth. The transferring, and violations of a few players didn't help. There could be a light at the end of the tunnel, however, with the possibility of Kebu Stewart returning for his senior season and following a Rebel tradition of being a lottery pick in the 1997 NBA draft.

The nation set precedents of separation with congress dividing on party lines more than usual, and these attitudes reverberated on our own campus. It seems that the nineties will be known as a time of racial and ideological separation and that is sad.

The political correctness movement finally reached a head on our campus, as evidenced by several of the letters we received. That movement, it seems, like anything, is not healthy when used in excess. The mindset of many of its followers can be overrun in the negative side of

everything, sometimes overlooking one's initial intention.

I found that out the hard way after one of my articles was taken the wrong way and a campaign of hate and protest was directed at myself.

All in all it wasn't all that bad. Most of us are closer to our goal of graduation, and that is what's most important.

The paper will be back next year and like the university, it will be different. Being a new-born optimist, I hope it will be improved. That will be hard since we are losing many important, experienced people. To all those who read the paper every week (as opposed to using it for other purposes such as training a young puppy or last resort bathroom tissue), we do offer our thanks.

To all those who sent us letters of concern, I say get your microscopes polished and ready for next year, because there will be even more fly-feces in the pepper, guaranteed.

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

Right to Bear Arms a Privilege, Not a Right

In the last week many tears have been shed for the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing. The American public has witnessed one of

Visions

SHIFON FOSTER

In the first few days of the bombing, I really felt that terrorists from the Middle East had something to do with it. I was totally

prepared to confront the idea that the next war the United States would find itself engaged in would be fought in that area. I was even willing to go back into the military when the time came in order to get revenge on those evil perpetrators wherever they were from because they assaulted my country.

With all the patriotic feelings that built up inside me, I was surprised how easily it was to hate some faceless group of people that I had never personally encountered. All this rolling emotion, however, came crashing down with the revelation that the people responsible were not from some mysterious place over there but from right smack in the middle of my own backyard. How terrorizing it is to know that I can no longer segregate my hate to any group based on religious, political, or even racial affiliation. What a reality check.

It will be interesting to find out how this situation will reverberate throughout the country in the months ahead. Already there has been an outcry for amendments to be made to the Constitution on the issue of civil liberties. In particular, there has



begun a movement to allow the FBI and other governmental agencies more power to infiltrate militia groups in order to find out exactly what they are up to. Even though I know this is against the law, I was surprised to learn that the FBI really adhere to this! I considered most of these agencies to be pretty underhanded in

the first place.

Of course, there has already been an immediate backlash to this idea because it does infringe upon our right to privacy guaranteed citizens under the ninth amendment of the Constitution. To this I have to say: "So what!" If they are not engaged in anything illegal, they have nothing to fear. Let the FBI infiltrate any group that insists on stockpiling weapons of destruction and claim that it is their right to do so under the amendment regarding the right to bear arms. While everyone may debate this amendment and the issue of gun control, has anyone bothered to actually read it? It says that in a time of war a citizen may reserve the right to bear arms in order to protect family and property.

It has been over 100 years since the citizens of the United States have witnessed the absolute need to bear arms under the direct interpretation of this clearly written amendment. It would probably be surprising to our forefathers to know how we abuse this so called right today. Anyone who feels the need to own a weapon should do so with the realization that it is really a privilege and not really a right.

We are very fortunate to have the rights and protections allowed to us by laws promised in the Constitution that so many of

our ancestors died for. We must not allow our greed, selfishness and ignorance to ruin this ever so important document by reinterpreting its contents to serve our own purposes.

Our freedoms must be protected but at what cost? It is now clear that a price must be paid. We have to ask ourselves is a small slice of freedom worth giving up in order to maintain our safety?

As a country, are we prepared to tell the mothers of all those infants that died in the federal building in Oklahoma City that their children's lives are not worth changing the laws to maintain some guy's right to store assault weapons and bomb materials in his basement?

I am not. Laws exist to serve the people. The laws need to change with the times, and yet, still maintain their original essence established in 1776. A way can be found to accomplish this if only we can pull together in this time of crisis and do something that will truly make a difference. The only thing that would be more tragic than the bombing in Oklahoma City would be to allow this kind of horror to continue.

—Shifon Foster is an opinion columnist at The Rebel Yell.

Letters to the Editor

Reader Disagrees with 'Rebel Yell' on Running Ad

To the Editor:

I was disappointed to hear of your recent refusal to run an advertisement which questioned the validity of the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C.

I understand that your reason for not running the ad was that you wanted to avoid offending the Jewish community. I also know that members of the Jewish community, on campus and off campus, did not want this ad run and were even invited to write rebuttals to the ad. Despite these reasons, I believe that failing to run the ad has been a great disservice to the Jewish community and those on campus.

I have lived in Germany, and I have been to the Nazi concentration camps. No one needs to convince me of the reality of the holocaust. Further, I will admit that the ad is thinly

veiled anti-semiticism; this is exactly why the ad should have been run! When such crackpot articles appear they must be dealt with by judicious argumentation. People must know about such offbeat theories to be able to deal with them.

Although the concept of offense as an arbiter of opinion is popular in America, in the end it leads to more problems than solutions. All groups, religious, ethnic, etc. are safer with the free dissemination of opinion; radical, offbeat, and just plain wrong opinions will not disappear because they are labeled offensive.

The Rebel Yell has missed an opportunity to educate its readers about one such offbeat opinion. The paper certainly had no requirement to print the ad, but the free discussion of such painful issues is more likely to help prevent similar events from occurring.

Rick Brown
Senior Anthropology