

Student takes issue with Opinion article

Having read Mr. Hayes's March 26 article, "I'm entitled to a month of my own," I feel obligated to correct it grammatically, stylistically, factually, and otherwise and to disabuse Mr. Hayes and others who share his views of certain baneful notions.

Nevertheless, to correct his every mistake and to right his every wrong would take a book; therefore, I will have to limit the scope of my letter. If my letter appears in any way disorganized or incoherent, it is because my subject is itself one of the most disorganized and incoherent pieces that I have ever read. Freedom of the press is one thing; bad misinformed writing is another.

In Mr. Hayes's first sentence alone are at least two grammatical mistakes. The relative pronoun "that" is required to link the main verb with what Mr. Hayes believes, which is the entire clause after "believe." The word "90s" requires an apostrophe before the "9," since he is presumably referring to the 1990's. Also, to place an apostrophe before the "s" is often preferable.

In Mr. Hayes's second sentence, the pronoun "it" has either an ambiguous (sic) antecedent or no antecedent at all. Does "it" refer to the fact that Mr. Hayes believes? Does "it" refer to what Mr. Hayes believes? Does "it" refer to "a remarkable time" (itself a meaningless description)? Does "it" refer to "history"? The word "it" appears to have no antecedent.

In addition, Mr. Hayes has apparently not learned how to use the "neither-nor" correlative. Ignoring the problematic "it," the sentence should read: "However, it will be neither for a raised level of consciousness, nor for (incorrectly left out in Mr. Hayes's version) stricter environmental stan-

dards, nor for the extinction of the entire species of cigarette smokers." And what a species they are! The extinction of smokers, unlike the extinction of the truly endangered, would benefit the rest of society in the form of longer, healthier lives. In terms of organization, the first

three paragraphs should comprise one paragraph.

I am at a loss to describe this wordy sentence:

Acting Properly and responsibly, however reprehensible that may sound, means working to integrate gross omissions of historically significant contributions by members of under-represented minority groups into the curriculum.

My translation reads, "We should teach the history of minorities."

Moving on to the validity of Mr. Hayes's opinions; since it is difficult to integrate Black history into a normal U.S. history course because of lack of will, because of time constraints, and because of lack of expertise on the subject, teaching Black history in a separate course appears to make sense; and doing so neither diminishes the "importance" of Black accomplishments nor places them on "an undeserved pedestal." Mr. Hayes takes for granted his privileged position and cannot comprehend the concerns and sufferings of others less privileged.

To refer to Blacks or any other minority as a special interest group is to belittle them. It is tantamount to saying that what is in the interest of minorities is not in the interest of the country; it is tantamount to saying, by corollary, that equal rights and human rights for minorities

are not in the interest of this country; and minorities want nothing other than the rights that Whites have seemingly always had.

To patronize minorities by saying it is they "who fought so hard to break down the color barriers" and that now they want more than they deserve is to both undermine their past and present efforts and to conclude that they have nothing to fight for, that everything is hunky-dory. This type of thinking is as typical among Whites as it is obstructive.

To say that minorities receive "special favor" is misleading at best and false at worst. Relatively speaking, Whites are the ones who receive "special favor" each and every day of their lives. It is their white skin which allows them this privilege. Affirmative action and other such programs are meant to make up for lost ground; but these pro-

grams alone cannot compensate for the discrimination and racism that minorities have to endure each and every day of their lives. Regardless of the laws and the special programs, only when people's hearts change can there ever be equality.

Mr. Hayes wants non-Whites not to fight for their rights but to sit patiently and to act properly and Christian-like; and in time, if nothing changes, then perhaps things were fine all along. This notion is as flawed as it is insidious. It is to say that what is, is how it should be; those who are abused should submissively accept their lot. Mr. Hayes encourages an Uncle Tom attitude. If all Blacks behaved like Uncle Tom, it is doubtful that they would have gotten anywhere.

It takes the courage and sacrifice of people such as Nelson Mandela who took up

arms against a treasonous and unjust regime and endured a quarter of a century in prison for treason, before things change; it takes the courage and sacrifice of people such as Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, who stood tall and spoke up for what they believed in, knowing that they could and would be killed at any moment.

I hope that in the future the editor will refrain from running articles as disorganized, incoherent, illogical, patronizing, and racist as Mr. Hayes's, for such articles reflect badly not only on UNLV but also on my generation. My only consolation is that those who read Mr. Hayes's article recognized it or come to recognize it as the garbage that it is.

Charlton Ee is a senior, majoring in English.

Guest Column
CHARLTON B. EE



Letters to the editor

Mills cries foul

To the editor:

I am writing today in response to an opinion article which appeared in *The Rebel Yell* that defamed my character.

I respect the right of the media to report the truth, factually and without the interjection of personal bias. It is the very Freedom of the Press which serves as a check on our government by letting the people know what is going on with their elected officials. Indeed, that is the basis of the Nevada Open Meeting Law, because everything we do as state officials is a matter of public record.

I only wish that the author of this defamation against me had based his column on fact and reason, rather than hide behind the guise of personal opinion and bias conjecture.

It is noble to stand up for your friends and speak well of them. When one picks up the pen of journalism however, one has to rise above personal preferences and serve the common good. I am glad for you that your friend, the senate president helped out a lot and that he used his power to pull strings for your personal

gain, but was your debt to him so great that you had to sell your soul and journalistic ethics and personal integrity to repay him?

I respect your opinion to vote for your friend Torbin, just as I respect the opinions of the 1,200 students who voted for the other four candidates who were on the ball. It is very important that people vote to express their opinion.

When Mr. Caliguire expressed his opinion however, he did a major disservice to the students of UNLV. If he questions why I am the student body vice president, it is because I was elected by the students. Before he questions my person in print, perhaps he should ask me in person.

I do not care for status, I care about service. Indeed, as a hospitality major, I will some day enter into one of the largest service industries in the world.

I do not wear my title on a badge, or flaunt it before others. I don't brag about myself, because my actions speak louder than any words I may say. I do not take credit for the things I have done to help students, seeing their thanks is reward enough for me.

I have even gone so far as to freely give up those things of status which come with my office. A good example of this is that I do not park in the front of the MSU in a reserved parking spot like other mem-

bers of the Student Government Executive Board, nor do I drive an electric golf cart to class. I walk from the T&M lot and across campus like every other student.

While popularity is nice, I was a popular person BEFORE running for office last year. The students of UNLV did not elect me last year because I was popular, they voted for me because they knew I have integrity and that I work hard. So hard in fact, that since taking office last May, I have had so little free time between serving the students and my own school work, that for the most part I have had to forego the active social life I once had.

In fact, my only relaxation comes when I get the time to sit down and enjoy a Rebel game. Invariably even then, a fellow student will come to me in the stands and ask me for assistance with something that is of importance to them.

It is in helping students in need which gives me the true satisfaction of being student body vice president, and is more rewarding than being popular and having status could ever be.

Joe Mills
Student body vice president

THE REBEL YELL

The Student Newspaper of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas

UNLV
4505 MARYLAND PARKWAY
LAS VEGAS, NV 89154-2011
PHONE (702) 895-3479
FAX (702) 895-1515

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE TYPED AND FEWER THAN 300 WORDS. THEY MUST INCLUDE NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER. WRITERS AFFILIATED WITH UNLV MUST INCLUDE CLASS AND MAJOR, OR FACULTY/STAFF POSITION. LETTERS ARE SUBJECT TO EDIT FOR LENGTH AND CLARITY.

TERESA HINDS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ERIN NIEMEYER
NEWS EDITOR

MICHAEL MELISSA
SPORTS EDITOR

HYUN-HO HAN
CO-PHOTO EDITOR

VASNA WILSON
CO-PHOTO EDITOR

KARLA KIRK
BUSINESS MANAGER

RUCHIRAWAN PHONPHONGRAT
ADVERTISING MANAGER

RICK APPIN
FEATURES EDITOR

S. T. SUTHERLAND
OPINION EDITOR

JAN WILLIAMS
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

STEPHANIE RUSHIA
PRODUCTION MANAGER

TAMMI BRUNNER
OFFICE MANAGER

MARY HAUSCH
FACULTY ADVISOR