

## RETROSPECT: The story was worth it

sports reporter, Ron Futrell, who was the first Las Vegas media person to go with our story after it was released.

I had the opportunity to go on Futrell's talk show with Richardson where the three of us discussed the Clark/Denton issue.

On the more negative side, I lost all contact with the few friends I had on the football team, and for every one person who came up to me and complimented the article, there were three who told me how heartless I was. I got screamed at by a bitter football advisor.

"I've seen a tear in the poor kids' eyes because of this," he told me. "People make mistakes. Don't you think he was punished enough already?"

I responded by telling him the first time it happened (Denton got suspended), the media left him alone, but this was the second time in the same year, and it should be public knowledge. I also told him as a paper we weren't passing moral judgments on Denton, we were simply reporting the news and letting the public be the judge.

Then I asked the football advisor a question.

"If the player knows he has to perform in season, and he knows he is going to be drug tested, why can't he lay off the weed for a few months out of the year?" I asked. "During the summer, he can smoke himself silly if he wants to, but why can't he lay off while he is in training?"

He couldn't answer me.

I got threats from a few people after the article ran (mostly from the football players), but I didn't take many of them seriously.

I've come to the realization that any connection I used to have with the athletic department for sources on stories is shot. No one will talk to me over there anymore. In fact, I don't even like walking into the Lied Complex.

I laid low for awhile after that, and then came the date rape and witchcraft articles. We got a few letters to the editor on those. For some reason, women thought I was condoning rape and *City Life* thought I was supporting group sex among witches. Oh well. At least people were reading the articles.

I wanted to finish the year off with a bang, so I asked my editor if I could write an article in the final issue on a transexual hooker who attends UNLV. Unfortunately, she wouldn't approve it, but that's all right.

This will be my last appearance in the Features section. If all goes well, I will be writing on deadline for the News section next year. The Features section will have a new editor, new writers and, probably, a whole new feel. Editors and reporters always have their occasional disputes, but looking at the big picture, I must say that replacing Tiffannie Bond as Features Editor will be virtually impossible, and I hope the section will survive and retain at least a fraction of the quality and class that she brought to it. I will surely miss writing for her. If an editor is going to reject my story idea, I'd rather it be her than any one else. It's going to be tough getting used to writing for someone else.

For all of the Features readers out there, thanks for your responses- the good and the bad. It's always fun to interact with disgruntled and/or satisfied readers. Good luck and farewell.

# Editor's note: things for the journey ahead

Imagine that

By Tiffannie Bond  
Features Editor

The Thomas and Mack is on the horizon. You can hear the music playing in the distance, just across the valley of finals, the term paper desert and the river of forgotten assignments. All these must be crossed by May 16. So, seniors, can you make it?

I'll give you a few amenities to pack in your survival kit. And naturally, the last issue of *The Rebel Yell* is the first thing in the bag.

As a graduating senior (it's about time), I have things to leave behind for those who still have to brave the elements and cross the valley, desert and river a few more times before they can call themselves alumni.

There are also things I am leaving for people just because they are the type who could be stuck in the desert with a fully stocked grocery store, a lawn chair, a lemonade and sun-block and still complain. Just think of this as gear for your survival pack. Get out your lists and start packing.

**Athletic Director Charles Cavagnaro:** a copy of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech and a semester in Ethics class

**Student Body President Joe**

**Mills:** another year in office, so *The Rebel Yell* staff has something to write about and the sheet music to "If I Only Had a Brain"

**Joe Mills' mother:** an Internet account and a job, so you have something to do besides tug on the purse strings

**Joe Mills' sister:** a shark cage to protect you and your video camera

**The Student Senate:** the courage to impeach

**Vice President Luis Valera:** one day as president

**Senate President Terry Moore:** a camera to take impromptu photos of a certain someone taping phone conversations

**Incoming President Student Body President Will Price:** sensors and blood hounds to clean the office of any James Bond-like devices

**Ex-Runnin' Rebel center Keon Clark:** the knowledge that leaving led the team to the WAC Championship

**Rebel Ex-quarterback Jon Denton:** a nice, fat cushion so you don't get splinters from sitting on the bench

**Professors who received a \$2,500 pay raise without earning it:** a charity to donate to, preferably the

poor college students' fund

**Faculty Senate President Mehran Tamadonfar:** a scholarship to the O.J. Simpson Center for Marital Counseling

**President Carol Harter:** a definition for "Premier Urban University," a parking space at Thomas and Mack and a map to the Moyer Student Union

**Provost Douglas Ferraro:** front row tickets to Mike Tyson's comeback fight and a punching bag

**Eric Coyle** (the student who took 64 credits): a life

**The Rebel Yell Editor-in-Chief Darryl Richardson:** a permanent space in the Opinion section, so you can e-mail a column from Washington, D.C. and the commencement address

**Runnin' Rebels:** a crowd to rush the court at every game, the crown you finally deserved and the recognition that went along with it

**Rebel Football team:** a winning season

**UNLV Debate Team:** transfers to universities with debate programs

**Real World star and student Elka:** a last name we can use in the paper and a copy of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech (You can look over

Cavagnaro's shoulder. I'm sure he wouldn't mind.)

**Heather Shoop:** a drug to counteract Vivarin and a hug

**My family:** certificate of appreciation and all my love

**UNLV Students:** staff parking spots

**UNLV Faculty and Staff:** student parking spots at Thomas and Mack

**1997-8 Features Staff:** a bonus, you deserve it!

**The Rebel Yell Faculty Advisor Mary Hausch:** a large candy debt and all the minutes I was late to your class

**The Rebel Yell staff:** South Park clips (in D minor), Sarah MacLachlan and Matchbox 20 CDs, air conditioning, a copy editor and Prozac

There you go. Just enough to get you through the final journey. If it gets too hot, you can also use it to shield your face from the sun. If I missed anyone, you either didn't do anything outstanding (friends excluded) or anything outstandingly stupid at UNLV this year.

The horizon is out there, and the valley is lying at your feet. Go toward Pomp and Circumstance with plenty of water and not enough sleep. The world awaits. Smile and enjoy the hike.

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