

UNLV REBEL YELL

university of nevada, las vegas

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Attacks lead to \$100 billion in losses

By Nicholas Weeks

UNLV Rebel Yell

As the U.S. retaliates against those it deems responsible for the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, its economy also begins to fight back — but at a much slower pace.

The U.S. economy lost an estimated \$100 billion in revenue since the Sept. 11 tragedies. Plus it is expected to shrink 1 percent in the second half of 2001.

And there are new defense and security expenditures that the U.S. must incur, said Brad Wimmer, a UNLV economics professor.

"Every expenditure in defense or security is a resource that could be used elsewhere," he said.

As compared to Israel, a nation that has fought terrorism for decades, the U.S. commits much less in funds for security and defense. Israel spends 9 percent of its gross domestic product on defense while the U.S. assigns 3.1 percent of its GDP to the same resources, federal sources indicate.

If the U.S. increases its defense spending, that could mean higher taxes, larger deficits and less spending on health care, education and social welfare, Wimmer said.

And there are a number of other costs to incur in order to increase national

security, Wimmer said, including hassles with doing business.

The economic effects of national security becoming a priority are not the only economic downside to the terror. A series of ripples hit some industries harder than others.

The airline industry lost \$16.5 billion in passenger mile-revenue throughout September, compared to last year.

Television networks lost \$700 million in advertising revenue. An estimated 10,000 commercials were not aired on six major networks due to a heavy increase in the amount of news coverage.

The manufacturing sector also endures profound affects of the global conflict.

Boeing expects to cancel 32 large-scale orders, while General Motors expects to sell 30,000 to 50,000 fewer cars in the fourth quarter of this year as a result of decreased demand.

"Uncertainty in the economy means people are more cautious and spend less," said Ron Cronovich, an economics professor. "People make fewer large expenditures if the chance that they will get laid off in the future increases by even a slight amount."

SEE ECONOMY PAGE 4

Students Doing a Little Extra



Lewis Whitten / UNLV Rebel Yell

College Libertarians and Students for a Sensible Drug Policy allied Tuesday afternoon to encourage activism among UNLV students. The groups persuaded more than 80 students to sign a postcard directed to Rep. Shelley Berkeley, asking her to cosponsor a bill that would return financial assistance to students with past drug convictions.

Two candidates disqualified three weeks after elections

By Babette May-Herrmann
UNLV Rebel Yell

The student government elections board disqualified senator-elect Sarah Ahmad (Liberal Arts) Tuesday after she exceeded the permissible amount of campaign violations.

But Ahmad is still unsure about the decision.

"Regardless if I am disqualified I want to be involved. I want to join the elections board so I can make sure this doesn't happen to someone again," she said.

Ahmad received two violations for double posting campaign advertisements on a sin-

gle bulletin board, and one violation for posting a campaign advertisement in the student government annex.

The election rules allow candidates a maximum of one advertisement per board.

The student government elections board decided to omit Ahmad's violations during their Oct. 5 meeting, but later rescinded that decision.

"I did read the packet, but I obviously didn't read it close enough," Ahmad said.

Ahmad said that the elections board never notified her that another meeting would be held. Instead she found out after reading the *UNLV Rebel Yell*.

"Nobody told me they were going to talk about it," she said.

In another move, the board disqualified Zaid Haddad, another senate candidate, after he racked up \$45 in campaign advertising violations. Although Haddad failed to win an education seat on the senate, he is automatically disqualified, Lyons said.

Ahmad said she may appeal the decision to the student government judicial council because there is no existing formal process of appeal.

"The final decision is up to the elections board," she said.

UNLV students remain overseas

By Nora Vinh
UNLV Rebel Yell

There are 76 UNLV students studying abroad in a number of foreign countries as the U.S. continues its war on terrorism.

"None of those students have asked to come home," said Susan Thompson, coordinator of the UNLV international student program.

There are not any UNLV students currently studying in the Middle East, Thompson added.

"Our staff abroad has met with all our students," she said. "The program directors keep in contact with local consulates and monitor the situation at each location."

Locations include Spain, England, France, Germany, Italy, Costa Rica, China, Australia and Thailand. The U.S. Department of State has not issued a travel warning for any of those countries.

"Israel is also participating in the program, but no UNLV students are enrolled for this semester or for the Spring 2002 semester," she said.

The office of international programs notified all parents and only received a few responses, Thompson said.

The conflict in Afghanistan has not affected student enthusiasm over the prospect of foreign travel.

In fact, "many have asked to extend their fall term programs to stay for the spring semester," Thompson said.

Official numbers indicating the amount of students who plan to study abroad next semester are not yet available.

"I'm kind've scared to study abroad," student Jaime Spotleson said. "My parents are very concerned."

Spotleson, a junior majoring in communication, had plans to study in Spain next semester, but is now unsure.

Arts & Entertainment

Features



MOVIE:
'Last Castle' a strategic success with Redford and Gandolfini



EVENT:
All can participate in Make a Difference Day by helping the needy

Rebel Yell writer headed to Citylife



Mike Zigler / UNLV Rebel Yell

UNLV Rebel Yell Assistant News Editor Angela Flores leaves for CityLife this week.

UNLV Rebel Yell

Angela Flores, an assistant news editor at the UNLV Rebel Yell, recently received a position at CityLife, a local alternative publication.

Her duties as that publication's assistant news editor include various writing assignments and office work, she said.

At the Rebel Yell, Flores reported the affairs of student government and routinely

opined on political affairs at the national level. Flores worked at the Rebel Yell for two years. She is a sophomore majoring in political science and a Las Vegas native.

"I hope to bring more student issues to CityLife, supplying Las Vegas with the student perspective," she said.

Flores already began work at CityLife.

Campus democrats recruit

By Angela Flores
UNLV Rebel Yell

The campus Young Democrats met Tuesday night at Metro Pizza to attract more members.

Faculty advisor Dina Titus, the minority leader of the state senate, envisions a productive future for the group, now totaling 45 students.

"This is a pretty good showing as a building block for what's coming," she told the 24 people in attendance.

Assemblyman Mark Manedo (District 18) also spoke at the pizzeria. He congratulated attendees for their active role in politics and for their Democratic passions.

Manedo emphasized the importance of political activism among Nevada's youth. He pointed to the 2000 presidential election and the fact that the Nevada outcome could've rendered Florida irrelevant, thus handing the presidency to candidate Al Gore.

"Grassroots activism is the foundation of our party," he said.

John Hawk, a member on the state Board of Education, offered his help for any club member looking to work in the political field.

There are a number of issues that draw students to political groups such as the young Democrats. For Samantha Weitzel, the vice president, it was the Democrats' stance on women's issues.

"These issues should be our number one priority because they're going to affect us throughout our lives, and people our age forget that these rights didn't always exist," she said.

"If we can get one more young person to vote, I think it's a great achievement on our part," Weitzel added.

After speaking with Congresswoman Shelley Berkeley's office and various Democratic candidates in Nevada, the group's president, Rod Burchfield, discovered a need for an active political movement in the youth community. He created the Young Democrats in response to that need.



Babette May-Herrmann / UNLV Rebel Yell

John Hawk of the state board of education talks during a pizza gathering Tuesday.

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Conflict Page



U.S. Bombing Accidents

Source: Associated Press

—Oct. 13, 2001: A Navy F/A-18 Hornet drops a 2,000-pound bomb on a residential neighborhood in Kabul, Afghanistan, a mile from the military helicopter it intended to hit at Kabul's airport. A Pentagon statement says ground reports indicated that four people were killed and eight injured; U.S. officials say they had no way to confirm the number of casualties.

—Oct. 8, 2001: An errant missile or bomb struck a building and killed four U.N. workers in Kabul. The building was located not far from a Taliban communications tower that may have been a target in the raid.

—March 12, 2001: A bombing range accident in Kuwait kills six and seriously injures three when a Navy F/A-18 pilot is mistakenly given the signal to bomb what turns out to be an observation post.

—Feb. 16, 2001: U.S. warplanes bomb military targets near Baghdad; about half the bombs miss their targets.

—May 20, 1999: At least three people are killed when NATO missiles hit a hospital near a military barracks in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, with NATO acknowledging one of its laser-guided weapons missed a target. The same day, NATO air strikes damage the Swiss ambassador's residence in Belgrade during a reception, along with the Spanish, Swedish, Norwegian and Hungarian ambassadors' residences. Serbian media say damage also was reported at Libya's embassy and the Israeli diplomatic mission.

—May 13, 1999: NATO acknowledges an attack on a Kosovo village, Korisa. Yugoslav officials said 87 ethnic Albanians are killed and more than 100 injured. NATO says Korisa was a Serb military command post, and suggests Serb forces trapped the refugees next to the target as human shields.

—May 7, 1999: U.S. planes flying a NATO mission mistakenly bomb the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade, killing three journalists and injuring 20 people. A bad map from CIA target planners is later blamed.

—May 7, 1999: NATO admits it is highly probable that a bomb headed for an airfield "went astray and hit civilian buildings." Serb officials say a cluster bomb attack damages a marketplace and the grounds of a hospital in Nis, Yugoslavia killing at least 15.

—May 1, 1999: A missile hits a bus crossing

a bridge north of Pristina, Yugoslavia, killing 47. NATO says the bus started across the bridge after a bomb directed at the span had been released.

—April 28, 1999: A missile slams into a private home in Sofia, Bulgaria, but no injuries are reported. NATO acknowledges a missile went off course and may have crossed the Yugoslav-Bulgarian border.

—April 27, 1999: A missile strike in the Serb town of Surdulica kills at least 20 civilians. NATO says one of its bombs missed the target, a nearby military barracks and struck a residential neighborhood.

—April 14, 1999: NATO mistakenly bombs a refugee convoy near Djakovica during its campaign, saying a misfire "may have caused damage to a civilian vehicle and unintentional harm to civilian lives." Yugoslav officials said 75 people died and more than two dozen were hurt.

—April 12, 1999: NATO confirms a rail bridge was struck by allied aircraft and that a train was nearby at the time. Yugoslav state media report NATO missiles struck a railroad bridge near the Serb town of Gredelica and hit a passenger train, killing 17.

—April 10, 1999: Two Marine jets drop bombs on a lookout post at the Vieques training ground in Puerto Rico. One civilian guard is killed. Four others are injured, including three civilians.

—April 9, 1999: NATO says a bomb, intended for the main telephone exchange in Kosovo's capital of Pristina, fell short of its target, causing damage to a residential area.

—April 1994: Two U.S. Air Force F-15s shoot down two U.S. Army helicopters on a diplomatic mission over Iraq, mistaking them for hostile aircraft in the "no-fly zone," killing 26 people. No one was found criminally responsible.

—Feb. 13, 1991: A Baghdad shelter was attacked in the Persian Gulf War, killing more than 300 civilians. U.S. officials said it was a military command center, and they did not know civilians were inside.

—January 1991: Seven U.S. Marines are killed when a missile fired by a U.S. Air Force A-10 attack aircraft hits their armored vehicle during a battle with the Iraqis.

Official Military Action Since WWII

Source: Posters for Peace

China 1945-46
Korea 1950-53
Guatemala 1954
Indonesia 1958
Cuba 1959-60
Congo 1964
Vietnam 1961-73
Laos 1964-73
Cambodia 1969-70
Grenada 1983
El Salvador 1980's
Nicaragua 1980's
Libya 1986
Panama 1989
Iraq 1991-2001
Sudan 1998
Yugoslavia 1999
Afghanistan 2001-??

The First U.S. Military Casualties

U.S. Army Rangers John J. Edmunds, 20, of Cheyenne, Wyo., and Kristofor T. Stonesifer, 28, of Missoula, Mont. died Friday in a helicopter crash in Pakistan. Both were stationed at Fort Benning, Ga.

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ECONOMY

FROM PAGE 1

The hotel industry: an estimated 1.9 million hotel rooms remained vacant between Sept. 16 and Sept. 29, many of which are in Las Vegas.

"Occupancy dropped significantly in September and only went up after hotels significantly reduced rates," said Keith Scherer of the UNLV center for business and economic research. "Room rates will lag in October and potentially November, but it all depends on if there are more terrorist attacks or not."

Immediately after the attacks, growth projection rates for Las Vegas dropped to 1 percent for the year, down from 5.6 percent.

"We really don't know what the long term impacts will be," he said.

More than 12,000 hotel and gaming employees in Las Vegas

temporarily lost their jobs and an estimated 250 conventions were canceled or postponed, according to the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation.

Las Vegas room occupancy in September dropped 14.1 percent from August occupancy rates. Those numbers are climbing, however.

This past weekend, occupancy rates normalized with percentages very close to 100 percent, but mid-week stays remain low. Nearly 1,000 workers recently returned to their place of employment.

"The reality out here is a lot of people are living paycheck to paycheck. We're not used to rainy days because the economy just kept booming along," said Garth Winkler, president of the United Way of Southern Nevada, in an interview with the *New York Times*.

Crime Briefs

On Oct. 7, campus police trespassed an individual and released the individual to Montevista Hospital.

On Oct. 9, an employee of the Lied Library had their wallet stolen between 12:30 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. The suspect is described as an Asian male 19-21 years old, about 5'6 and 140 lbs.

On Oct. 10, a student was arrested for driving in the wrong direction of the one way street near the Boy Scouts of America building. The student was also cited for driving without a license, failing to change address on drivers license within 30 days and two outstanding bench warrants. A Subject was trespassed for attempting to sell suspected stolen books to the bookstore. Campus police cited one subject for petit larceny for stealing books from the bookstore.

On Oct. 11, campus police cited two students for possession of a controlled substance-marijuana, under the influence of a controlled substance-marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and minor in possession of alcohol. A report was taken in Claudine Williams Hall regarding the possible suicide attempt.

Jamie R. Homampour compiles all crime information.



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Nationwide Campus News

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2001

PAGE 5

NYU students robbed during city evacuation



courtesy photo
The Palladium residence hall at New York University

By Liz Shryock
Washington Square News
(U-WIRE) NEW YORK — A series of alleged thefts occurred at the Water Street Residence Hall while New York University students waited to move back in after the Sept. 11 evacuation.

Eight students have filed reports of missing belongings. Assistant Director of Investigations Craig Griffin is handling the cases, most of which concern jewelry.

"A lot of people got stuff stolen," general studies program sophomore Maya Bicardi said. "I know a guy who got two watches stolen. People got cash stolen. It was a mess."

A number of students complained of missing cash and cell phones, which may not have been reported to Protection Services.

Executive Director of Housing and Residence Life Tom Ellett emphasized the possibility that belongings may sim-

ply have been misplaced during the chaos of the Sept. 11 evacuation.

"We have reports of things missing. Nothing has been confirmed as stolen," Ellett said. "Who knows if you took it with you and left it somewhere. I had things that I thought were stolen, but that I later found."

Though Griffin also admitted that there is no concrete evidence of theft, he is inclined to believe that the items were stolen.

"I don't think they were misplaced. Let's put it that way," he said.

Griffin has classified the incidents as larcenies, which do not require that the perpetrator enters the building with the intent to commit a crime.

"You go in, and if there is something there for the taking, you just take it," he explained. "[The building] was not looted. There is no evidence that the rooms were broken into."

Griffin would not comment

on suspects in the case.

"There were lots of people in there," he said.

Before students moved back into their rooms, NYU employees worked with licensed asbestos abatement contractors and environmental consultants to ensure the safety of the building. This clean-up crew performed tests for asbestos, laundered bed linens and clothes and discarded perishable foods.

Some Water Street residents believe that the contract workers are to blame for the thefts.

"[Students] think it may have been the cleaning people," Bicardi said. "They don't think it was any NYU-related security people, just people outside NYU."

Ellett rebuked the accusation. He described the company as "a reputable contractor that the university has used on many occasions."

SEE NYU PAGE 6

Schools ponder terrorism effects

By Mary Clarke-Pearson
Daily Pennsylvanian

(U-WIRE) PHILADELPHIA — Last month's terrorist attacks have left high school seniors and college admissions officials wondering about what to expect from this year's round of recruitment and applications.

While a recent Careers and Colleges Magazine survey of high school seniors did not indicate that the majority of prospective college students had made any drastic alterations to their plans just yet, there are still doubts about what lies ahead in this year's recruiting season.

On one end of the spectrum, colleges, especially those located in urban settings, have expressed concern about having a lower turnout of prospective students due to safety concerns. In turn, high school seniors and their parents have been re-evaluating their college wish lists, with added concerns about being too far from home and being more vulnerable at a college in a city.

Foreseeing a potential for decreased numbers of prospective students at urban universities, college admissions offices are making increased efforts to increase the appeal of their schools.

"A lot of colleges in cities are trying to inform families that they are safe places to go," said Joyce Smith, the executive director of the National Association for College Admissions Counseling. "Overall, they're doing a lot to encourage appli-

cants to still apply."

Maya Bohra, a high school senior from Richmond, Va., said that her outlook on colleges in cities has changed, although she still plans on applying to Penn and Columbia University.

Before Sept. 11, "issues like being mugged were the safety concerns that I had," said Bohra, who was touring Penn Sunday. "Now I'm more aware that there are important buildings in cities that could be bombed."

There is also indication of an increased interest in schools located in rural settings in the past several weeks.

Earlham College, a small liberal arts school in Richmond, Ind., is one of the many schools already observing such a trend.

"We had a 20 percent increase in students attending our Fall Preview, with most of our visitors coming from East of the Mississippi River," said Jeff Rickey, dean of admissions and financial aid at Earlham. "Our overall visits numbers are up by 17 percent and our applications are up by 34 percent."

Rickey said that Earlham was paying closer attention to where its applicants are from, although he noted that it is too early in the admissions season to jump to conclusions.

"I believe that students will apply to the same schools they had intended to, but that the events of Sept. 11 may impact their final decision," he said. "While I think that rural schools may pick up additional interest, I think that students will be staying closer to home."

Doris Davis, associate provost of admissions and enrollment at Cornell

University in Ithaca, N.Y., was reluctant to conclude that high school seniors might be veering away from urban schools.

"I want students to apply to Cornell for all the right reasons, not for the fear of being in a metropolitan area," she said. "There are great institutions in New York City, and [it] is still an incredibly dynamic city."

Theoretically, Columbia is the Ivy League school that may be most impacted by any of these potential changes. Despite being located in New York, officials say the school has not felt repercussions thus far.

After experiencing an initial decline of on-campus visitors immediately after Sept. 11, their interest levels are back to where they have been in past years.

Columbia spokesman James Devitte said that he didn't expect that the school's location would impact college seniors' decisions in the long run.

"Part of Columbia is certainly the appeal of New York City and its community and cultural life, and that remains unchanged," Devitte said. "New York City has always been a selling point for people applying to Columbia."

In the end, though, it won't be until May, when college seniors make their final decisions and yield is calculated, that anyone will know whether or not the terrorist attacks will have a significant impact on universities across the country.

Thatcher enlightens Northwestern U.



courtesy photo

Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher constantly thinks conservative.

By Dan Murtaugh
Daily Northwestern

(U-WIRE) EVANSTON, Ill. — Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said during a speech Saturday at Northwestern University's Cahn Auditorium that "tears of tragedy" about Sept. 11 have cleared people's eyes, allowing them to see the importance of national security.

"Years of illusion have been stripped away," she said in front of more than 1,000 people. "Ever since the end of the Cold War, the West has come to believe that it was time to think and speak only of the arts of peace. With the Soviet Union vanquished, it is all too demanding and unset-

ling to think that other enemies might yet arise to disturb our prosperous calm."

"So we heard more and more about human rights, which is right, but less and less about national security. But we must always have regard to national security."

Thatcher, whose speech was sponsored by the Junior League of Evanston-North Shore, praised President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair for their reaction to the attacks and their military campaign against the Taliban, the ruling party in Afghanistan.

SEE SPEAKER PAGE 6

NYU: Thieves at large

FROM PAGE 5

"There are a lot of ways things disappear from rooms," Ellett said. "The door could have been left open. It could have been another student or a staff member. Things could have been misplaced."

"We do not have any proof yet [of theft]," Ellett said.

An NYU Environmental Services memo dated Sept. 29 stated that there were strict security measures enacted during the clean-up period.

"For security issues, a central staging location was made avail-

able for all workers' personal effects (watches, wallets, money, jewelry, cell phones, etc.)," the memo read. "All workers were checked before leaving the central staging area; following the completion of the project, before any worker was allowed to retrieve their personal effects, they were searched."

Nevertheless, the lost belongings have aroused discontent among members of the student body.

"It was very irresponsible of NYU," College of Arts and Science sophomore Anita Khumar said. "I had two friends;

one kid had \$1,000 stolen, another kid had \$350 stolen. They reported it to Housing, but Housing is really slow. It's just aggravating."

Water Street Residence Hall Manager Young Chin declined to comment on the possible larcenies. Griffin noted that there were a couple of reports of missing belongings at other lower Manhattan residence halls, "but not like this."

The investigation began almost immediately after students returned to the residence hall. It will continue for "as long as it takes," Griffin said.

SPEAKER

FROM PAGE 5

"The trap is closing on [Osama] bin Laden and his network of terror," she said. "But the president is right to emphasize that this war on terrorism must and will continue. Too many states have financed terrorist groups, and too many have harbored their leaders, spokesman and agents."

"This war must be carried through to the bitter end, and those that are on the side of justice and freedom and law must win through. That is not revenge, that is not even retribution — that is justice."

The attacks have made it clear that the United States needs to develop a ballistic missile-defense shield, she said.

"There has been some criticisms [about the defense shield]; there should be no criticism," she said. "[The dissolution of the Soviet Union] frees us to develop an anti-missile missile with which to protect our own people, which is the first duty of any government."

After mingling with guests and receiving gifts from the Junior League, Thatcher opened her speech by quoting Edmund Burke: "All that is necessary for evil to succeed is that good men do nothing."

Burke's quotation has never been true for English-speaking people, she said, because they have never stood idle when confronted with evil. She said the United States and England already have joined together to

defeat three evils — Nazism, fascism and communism — and they also will defeat terrorism.

"Peace in this world only comes if democracies are prepared to defend it," Thatcher said. "We have defended it in war. We must defend it in our own way in peace time."

The United States must fight terrorists and nations that harbor them now, Thatcher said, instead of trying to appease them. She said the world learned that appeasement didn't work when Europe let German aggression remain unchecked before World War II.

Thatcher said the U.S. government needs to be careful not to impose too many restrictions on the economy when it implements financial-revival programs. The United States has been such an economic power because it has low taxes and few economic restrictions, she said.

Thatcher built her career in the British parliament as a fierce advocate of low taxes and small government. She proudly boasted that during her 10-year reign as prime minister, she lowered taxes on savings from as high as 98 percent to 40 percent.

She became prime minister in 1980 after holding various ministerial positions for the conservative party for about 30 years. She said she started her career in a very liberal district thinking she could convert her constituents into Tories.

"At 23, you think you can save the world," she said. "At 73, you know you cannot."

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Presenting:

The Real World Forum

Lecture, Q & A, and more!!!
Featuring:
 Puck, Rachel, & Syrus

October 29th
 LIVE AT THE ARTEMIS HAM CONCERT HALL!
 DOORS OPEN AT: 6PM
FREE FOR UNLV STUDENTS
 ADMISSION:
 \$10 GENERAL PUBLIC

Real world bores intellect

By Erik Ball
UNLV Rebel Yell

Who the fuck is Puck? Oh, that's right, he's the headlining speaker at the student government's latest gathering in attempt to bring students together. Great.

Northwestern University is hosting a forum featuring a Muslim lawyer who attempted to address the meaning behind terrorism. Stanford is playing host to the former Prime Minister of Pakistan. University of Nebraska will honor the very first woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, Sandra Day O'Connor. Mixing politics with humor, Ben Stein tickled a large crowd at Penn State just last week. For the love of God, even Faith Lutheran High School, a private school on the outskirts of Summerlin, hosted a fund-raising dinner last month and welcomed speaker Oliver North. Who do we have? Puck.

Oct. 29 will be the glorious day. Three members of "The Real World," MTV's raw reality series that some say led the way for such television shows as "Survivor" and "Temptation Island," will be featured in a forum at the Ham Concert Hall.

One of the highlights of attending a university are the numerous opportunities to get close to many acclaimed public

officials, entertainers and famous people, individuals who have progressed in the world to a credible status. No doubt, hunting and solidifying arrangements to bring such persons to a university must be a tedious task. Student government, however, should dig a little deeper into their seemingly empty bag of tricks and try to come up with something a little bit more riveting than a night of conversation revolving around Puck's favorite color.

The posters advertise the event as a "lecture, Q & A and more!!!" Puck, Rachel and Syrus - all of whom every student should know, as if they were your next door neighbor or something - will thrill UNLV with an evening of lecture and question and answer. I cannot think of a single question I would want to ask Syrus from "The Real World." Not one.

I understand the motives, and I truly believe student government, lead by Entertainment and Programming Director Joseph Lucchese and Nevada Student Affairs Director Al Heck, has all the right intentions. They want to supply opportunities for students to come together. Lucchese and Heck want to create avenues to bring UNLV out of the trenches where its spirited students reputedly reside. Unfortunately,

appealing to the students is not an easy task.

Afroman, the "high" light of Rebel Ruckus, was suppose to be the first in a number of future venues to be aimed directly at UNLV student entertainment values. Cluttering time slots with sloppy attempts to squeeze together a season of highly paid entertainers, however, will tarnish the already hazy student government reputation.

There is no balance in Lucchese's decisions. Where is the programming? Some of us are here to learn, and an educational speaker or two wouldn't hurt. The more than \$200,000 budget Lucchese is allowed this year is being monopolized by bargain entertainment. To grab Afroman, a current chart-topping musician, was a good idea, but to follow him with another group of strictly entertaining personalities will exclude students that are here for an actual education. That defeats half of Lucchese's entire mission.

I encourage those who are truly interested in listening to the ramblings of three one-minute men to check out the show. I would love to hear how it went.

For those of us living in the real world, contribute to future events held on campus and contact student government with your suggestions.

Minorities are misrepresented

By Nick Mojave
UNLV Rebel Yell

After all these years of being the laughingstock of higher education, UNLV finally wants to play with the big boys. The Board of Regents will consider raising the minimum GPA for admission into UNLV to 3.0, on par with other major public universities in the region.

Nothing is wrong with that, right? Wrong. The underachievers of the world deserve a college education, too.

At least, so said Student Organization of Latinos board member Betty Silva. In last Thursday's *Rebel Yell*, Silva said that "ethnic minorities are in a bad situation, and they don't receive good high school education," and therefore, it's not fair to them that the GPA requirements should be raised.

Um, excuse me? It's only unfair to ethnic minorities? A Hispanic at Valley High School who is working until midnight at Wendy's in order to bring home another paycheck for his extended family is in a bad situation. But a white at Western that's working until 2 a.m. to help pay the rent for him and his mom's one bedroom apartment

isn't? It's a stereotypical example, I know, but guess what people, stereotypes exist for a reason. Why are ethnic minorities in a bad situation? If it's so important for these underprivileged kids to go to college, why aren't their families supporting them in their cause by working harder so their kids can focus solely on their education?

UNLV President Carol Harter herself said that up to 6 percent of the freshman class could be granted acceptance on appeal if they didn't have a 3.0. Obviously, students with the highest merits would get through, and those that spent too much time in high school making money to fix up their cars would be left in the dust.

It will be said that I'm over generalizing, that I'm being insensitive to the minority community. It may even be said that I'm a racist. But I'm not the one who categorized "ethnic minorities" as being in a bad situation. Ms. Silva was.

In fact, UNLV Vice President of Administration Juanita Fain said that once a 3.0 is required for UNLV admittance, 34.5 percent of the fresh-

men would be minority. Currently, 35.6 percent admitted to UNLV in the fall of 2000 were minorities. The difference is not that great.

I'm simply pointing out that raising the GPA requirement is a winner all-around. UNLV's national reputation would continue to rise. We'd start to lose some of that laughingstock reputation we have among local students. Those that can't make it into UNLV on the first cut haven't had their collegiate careers killed - a year or two at CCSN could save them money, help them become adapted to college and weed out students that never were serious about college to begin with.

I remember from my high school days, when I'd get a bad grade and start to realize that out-of-state college wasn't going to happen. I'd mutter the words, "There's always UNLV," almost like I was admitting to myself that it didn't really matter whether or not I passed the class. That would no longer be an option, providing more incentive for students to work hard in high school.

I don't see who loses from this one, ethnic minority or not,



Hanna Fletcher

Hanna's Humor

Traffic school for dummies

Over the summer I received a traffic ticket from a pseudo cop who guards the swing sets at Sunset Park. Yes, cops who work in parks give tickets, too. Instead of channeling the spirit of Bruce Lee and attacking him ninja style with my ticket - paper cuts can be deadly - I drove away humiliated, paid the fine in court and went to traffic school. Yes, I'm a loser.

In light of this, I hope to redeem myself by sharing the traffic school experience with you readers. This way, in a distance learning-type fashion, you can experience traffic school, too - and perhaps even avoid it.

First of all, traffic school is full of people who drive badly. Apparently, we all complete other basic movements, like sitting at a chair in a desk, badly as well. Although there were plenty of desks available in the middle of the room, people insisted on sitting on the floor at the side of the room. Why? Because anything orderly, systematic, and sensible seems illogical to us. We'd rather sit on floors and drive on sidewalks.

Secondly, similar to prison inmates, everyone at traffic school is innocent. So the first 30 minutes of class is spent whining to the instructor that the system screwed us, cops eat too many donuts and that most traffic court judges are really lizard-like creatures disguised in human costumes and dropped from an Alien Mothership.

After another 30 minutes of uncontrollable bitching, we discover the instructor was an angry ex-cop who is now determined to fail the entire class and let us rot in traffic hell forever. Fabulous.

The next four hours and 22

minutes of the class is spent watching videos that are rivaled in their stupidity only by the sexual education videos we endured in the fifth grade. Note the similarity. Driver's Ed video: "Remember drivers, the seat belt is worn across the chest and waist." Sex Ed video: "Remember girls, the sticky side of the Maxi pad faces down."

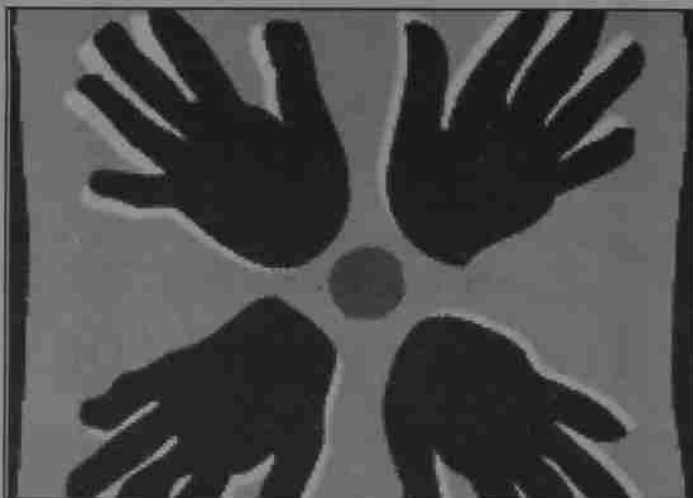
Our first video is so outrageous it is comparable to a Fox television show, "When Drunks Attack: Temptation Long Island Ice Tea." It shows a drunk driver losing his footing during a sobriety test and whirling cartwheel-style down a hill. I might be wrong, but I think doing a rhythm gymnastics routine into a ravine during your sobriety test means you've failed. Another drunk driver used an orange construction cone as a megaphone to scream the sobriety test directions back to the police officer. Probably not a good idea.

After watching these videos, you put your head down in shame. You ask Jesus to forgive your God-awful driving by lashing yourself repeatedly with jumper cables provided by the instructor. Then you place one end of the cables on a nipple and the other end on your car and start it up. No, not really. You go through the "Nevada Driver's Handbook," take an incredibly easy quiz, which is often not even graded, and wonder why the hell you didn't fight your ticket.

And just in case you think you may have become a better driver from attending this class, listen to this statistic. Before you even get in your car, you've somehow committed 23 more traffic violations.

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Make a difference day



courtesy photo

All can help by assisting those in need on Saturday.

By Jeanteil' Jackson
UNLV Rebel Yell

Since the Sept. 11 tragedy, people all over America have given up their time to not only donate themselves, but also monetary funds, food and needed items such as blankets.

This Saturday is devoted to charity work by *USA Weekend Magazine* and is known as Make a Difference Day. During this day, people all over the country are asked to do good deeds for others.

"We started Make A Difference Day in the pages of

USA Weekend Magazine 10 years ago. It was a simple idea, asking each reader to spend one Saturday a year helping someone in need," said Marcia Bullard, president, CEO and editor of *USA Weekend Magazine*.

"That simple idea mushroomed thanks to the generosity of small children and large charities, individual communities and multinational corporations," she said.

This annual event takes place on the fourth Saturday of every October. According to the Make A Difference Day Web site,

approximately 2.2 million people participated by assisting in projects that help an estimated 25 million people last year.

Anyone can participate in this project. The Web site suggests to just help someone else, and that qualifies as participating. There are 27 charities and projects that will donate their services to the Las Vegas and Henderson communities this Saturday. Projects such as Help for S.A.F.E House, where volunteers will prepare care packages for children who are residents at the domestic violence shelter; and Sandwich Sharing, where over 150 sandwiches will be distributed to the local Shade Tree shelter, are among the many projects that will take place.

Among the groups who will contribute Saturday is the University of Wyoming, which will collect funds for victims of Sept. 11 during their game against UNLV.

All are welcome to join the many projects available. For information, visit the Make a Difference Day Web site. Those without the time to volunteer, try to make the next person you see smile - that might make a difference in that person's day.

Students seek spiritual connection

By Evelyn Turner
UNLV Rebel Yell

Ever after the Sept. 11 attacks, America seems to have begun to seek a spiritual connection in this time of need. Many people find that religion has helped them cope with these tragic times. Finding a spiritual with oneself can help one gain an understanding of what it is to be an American.

According to *religioustolerance.com*, 85 percent of adult Americans identify themselves as Christian. But religion is not the same for everyone. Why are we so different when it comes to religion? There is no one meaning of the word "religion," yet we seem to think that our definition is the only right one.

When human beings are attacked, we often look to a higher source to help us through the times. When things are not going our way, or when we need help in tough situations, that is when we start to pray or ask others to pray for us.

"Humans seek solace in religious traditions ... we fall back on what is comforting or what's familiar to us," said Father Bart Hutcherson O.P., Director of the Catholic Newman Center of UNLV.

UNLV has several different spiritual and religious groups on campus. The Christian Student Association, Catholic Newman Club, Jewish Student Association, Muslim Student Association and the Latter-Day



courtesy photo

People searching for spiritual healing rallied around a cross found standing among World Trade Center debris.

Saints Student Association are just of few groups on campus. This is one way for students to find a sense of spiritual wellness here on campus.

"Our spirit is eternal. When man cannot provide answers in times of tragedy, people turn to God. There is comfort in turning to such a being in times of tragedy as well as times of peace," LDSSA Advisor Bruce Hansen said.

Aside from on-campus groups, students can find spiritual connections through activities like yoga, meditation or volunteering. Finding what is right for you is a personal choice.

As human beings in

America, we have the right and freedom of choice. But we have to remember that not everyone is going to agree on the same thing.

We need to have a newfound respect for those who believe different than us. America is a melting pot of different ethnic groups, different religions and different lifestyles. We all need to respect our differences more, but realize that we are all the same on the inside. We bleed the same color, cry the same tears and feel the same pain.

Evelyn Turner, staff writer, can be reached via e-mail at unlvry@yahoo.com.

Patriotism after tragedy



Jeanteil' Jackson / UNLV Rebel Yell

Since Sept. 11, various drivers have shown their patriotism by placing American flags on their cars.

By Jeanteil' Jackson
UNLV Rebel Yell

According to an unscientific *UNLV Rebel Yell* poll of 74 students (37 men and 37 women), 59 percent of the students agreed that they have become more patriotic since the Sept. 11 attack. Also, 39 percent felt they did not become patriotic, and 2 percent were undecided.

If asked three years ago what the pledge and flag meant to me, I would have said, "What has America done for me?"

In high school, the pledge became a ritual with words that had no meaning when said. It was a forced ritual with no heart.

It was not until this recent tragedy that I gained an understanding of what it is to be an American.

Americans, to me, are people who want the freedom to be who they are, whether they are Muslim, Jewish, black or white.

I have re-evaluated American history and myself. I remembered all those who worked hard and gave up their lives to enable us to be where we are today.

People such as my parents, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and great presidents such as John F. Kennedy make me proud to be an American. These people gave me a sense of free agency in a world that tries so hard to model everyone alike.

There are people all over the world suffering in poverty, humbly praying for better lives or just to be alive. Though this country has had its share of problems, Americans of all types have come together with one goal in mind - freedom.

If someone asked me now what the pledge and flag means to me, I would give a different answer than when I was in high school. I would say freedom, unity and strength.

By Domonique Turner
UNLV Rebel Yell

Hundreds of thousands of United States citizens have a new found sense of patriotism since the events of Sept. 11.

For many of us, the symbols of our country, such as the American flag, carry much more meaning than before.

When we were in elementary school, all bright-eyed and eager to learn, saying the pledge and singing praises to our country were daily duties we were more than happy to carry out. As the years rolled by and we entered our high school years, the pledge of allegiance was dreaded and even resented by the majority of us. This is because for many of the younger generations there is no emotional connection to the flag and what it embodies.

Many of us did not endure Pearl Harbor or a war like Vietnam. And even though many of us recognize the advantages of living in this free and democratic society, we have never really felt compelled enough to rally around our flag.

Now that we have all invested our memories, hopes and resolve in the symbol of the American flag, we only wish that the price of patriotism hadn't been so high.

Some critics today want to reprimand our come-lately calls of allegiance. While it might not seem so loyal that we once disregarded America's traditions, all of us are rekindling those elementary feelings of duty to the flag. All of us feel compelled to stand and salute our country for the thousands who no longer can, for ourselves and for future generations, so their price might not come with such a heavy price.

Better to do it now than continue in our past ignorance. Better late than never.

Redford Castles his King



courtesy photo

Robert Redford plays well against James Gandolfini in "The Last Castle."

By Michael Lundin
UNLV Rebel Yell

What you know is this: "The Sundance Kid" Robert Redford and "Tony Soprano" James Gandolfini square it off in prison. It's enough to make you want to see anything that could possibly result from their confrontation. Luckily for us, it's a working formula with proper direction.

"The Last Castle" follows the court-martialed Gen. Irwin (Redford), a well respected and decorated war tactician, as he is sentenced to a military maximum security prison run by the iron-fisted Lt. Winter, the strict and self-righteous warden.

At first everything runs smooth while Winter at first admires Irwin, until he turns against Winter's effectively handled prison system, as he is reluctantly faced with internally corrected past mistakes and by inspiring cynical self-professed failures, his inmates.

Cleverly written by David

Scarpa and Graham Yost, "The Last Castle" is more than just a very marketable vehicle thanks its two star actors. It focuses on contrasting characters at opposite ends of their lives, with more than their differences in common. Their motives subtly collide as we learn about their principles, motives and subsequent actions.

Director Rod Lurie ("The Contender") has pieced together a riveting story filled with symbolic elements, although at times too simple. By questioning authority and rebelling against wrongdoings, he taps into the frustrated minds of an entire population. Lurie provides an alternative to accepting a pummeling by instead putting destiny into one's own hands. Irwin brings viewers into the picture while drawing life and battle analogies to the game of chess in his quest to defeat the king of the castle.

Although the script is good, yet predictable, and the camera work is on point, it's the acting that decides the fate of "The Last Castle." Redford needs no

introduction after having mastered the art of acting, directing, producing and organizing a film festival. The choice to cast him as Gen. Winters among a relatively young cast of up-and-comers was not only ideal, but very appropriate for the character.

Gandolfini has earned worldwide acclaim for his portrayal of the underboss of the Soprano family on HBO's "The Sopranos." He has blown audiences away with every single performance since his sharp role in "True Romance" in 1993. As such an admirable actor with supreme physical presence, he perfectly molds himself into the honorable Lt. Winters.

Other noteworthy performances are delivered by Delroy Lindo and Clifton Collins Jr., whose faces many will recognize.

It was a long time ago since a good prison movie was released - "The Shawshank Redemption" - but viewers will always be fascinated by this world we all pray we will never inhabit. This fascinating setting is always a good base for a captivating scenario. When you are able to pull it off with an original story gluing the audience to the screen, you've really got something.

I recommend you see this at the theater to gain the complete experience, but it's not of "Braveheart" caliber where this is a must. Prepared to be surprised and stimulated.



courtesy photo

QUIDNUNC

Immobilize anthrax, encourage mainstream

Jennifer Lopez is more tolerable than the concern that Anthrax might wipe out the North American population.

called the most powerful people in Hollywood, according to an "Entertainment Weekly" annual ranking - frightening, to say the least.

Other "power players" (in no particular order) included Oprah Winfrey, Julia Roberts, Tom Hanks and Tom Cruise. The list was rounded out by names of executives no one cares about except people in "the business" and actors who now know who to brownnose for those plum roles.

So, yes, although entertainment has been carrying on in its merry, sordid way, it is only the most shocking and disgusting gossip that has been able to divert my attention from the world theater at this moment. Not even the usually gleeful news that someone's 15 minutes are up, or nearly up (Spice Girls, Beck, Kid Rock and will Drew Barrymore ever be on this list?) has been able to pull me from the bowels of this glum slump. This isn't to say that I'm not interested in which Broadway show is coming to the Aladdin, what live music is coming to any non-Strip venue (i.e., a place I can afford), or what our fine arts departments are crafting for a largely unappreciative student body, but these things have

SEE QUIDNUNC PAGE 10

Where there's a Will, there's a way

By Martin Holmquist
UNLV Rebel Yell

Actor Will Adamson, a 21-year-old senior in the undergraduate acting program of the theater department, born and raised in Las Vegas, has been in several productions at UNLV.

"Starting my freshman year, I was in 'The Summer People' and 'Henry VI, part 3,'" Adamson said. "Over the years, the roles got bigger as I paid my dues."

Will played Horatio in "Hamlet" and was in original productions such as "David and Goliath in America," "The Balcony" and "Our Town." He is currently in rehearsals for the upcoming "Comedy of Errors," by William Shakespeare.

Will has also performed at the Poor Playwright's Theatre at Café Roma, where once a month students from the playwriting program have their original work showcased. They put up three 10-minute plays, sketch comedy and light material.

Will was the only student actor in the recent production of

"Beauty Queen of Leanne," which featured equity actors from New York. An equity actor is a professional actor who belongs to Actors Equity, the actors' union, which has a guideline of rules that productions must abide by if they want to hire these actors.

UNLV is trying to create the first professional theater company in Nevada, the Nevada Conservatory Theatre, which will allow the graduate training program to grant an equity card to their students.

"There are two things going on there," Adamson said. "One, they wanted to do a really good production to start off the year, and two, the first production under the hood of Nevada Conservatory Theatre, so they brought in three equity actors."

"They left one role available for a student because that's kind of a mold for what they want to be doing. They want to have students working with professional actors so we can learn, not only in school, but also learn from other

actors and also gain contact.

"The actors I worked with I will probably remain in contact with because you get pretty close during a show."

Will said he thinks his experience was invaluable.

"Since I am graduating this year, I was picking their brains about 'what do you think I should do?' 'Where am I at in my own acting training?' 'Where do you think I need to be?' So it was interesting to get their feedback. It was a wonderful experience," he said.

Theater is different from most other majors, as it is hard to get work experience or internships in the field.

"It's interesting because not many students in the undergraduate or graduate acting programs really know any professional actors," Adamson said.

"If you want to be a doctor, you've probably been to the doctor, probably know a doctor and you can go watch a doctor work," he said. "But it's not very common to know what it is an actor



Martin Holmquist / UNLV Rebel Yell

Will Adamson supports theater department efforts to promote a working student / NCT relationship.

really does. How does one act? What is an actor's day like? It's very interesting and kind of esoteric thing, you don't really know.

"I didn't know any professional actors, so every time that we bring in somebody professional to work with it is always

interesting to talk to them about their career, to see how they have gotten to where they are," said Adamson. "They were very willing to let me do that, which is great."

"I would hope that the theater

SEE WILL PAGE 10



QUIDNUNC

FROM PAGE 9

lost their escapism ability, and I'm not quite yet in the mood to once again appreciate art for art's sake.

I'm rather worried, presently, whether or not my children will be around to experience the bad art that they will fondly disparage and the good art they will appreciate. I suppose that is a very pessimistic view to have at a time when we seem to be positively "stormin' Afghanistan," but this entire ridiculous murder by mail news is disturbing. I, for once in my lifetime, find myself hoping that the government utilizes whatever capabilities it has to immobilize this frightening and invisible manner of death by breath.

I am not ignorant of the

United States' past indiscretions with civilian murder in various oil-rich countries around the globe, but I am very sensitive to the well-being of the flesh I created, the very things I live, breathe and work for, my two pumpkins, June and Baby X.

None of us have been sponsors of corporate filmmaking, television productions, bad theater, the government in general, mainstream radio or the decreasing wardrobe of Western women, but, as a typical product of my society, I prefer to keep these things in place, familiar, so that I may continue to complain haughtily and not change a thing. I suppose a world full of J-Lo's and bad TV comedies is better than a desolate wasteland of biological warfare victims.



WILL

FROM PAGE 9

department would start to advertise on campus," he said.

University theater productions are free for students.

"We had great student audiences for 'Beauty Queen,'" Adamson said. "I went out of my way to invite a lot of students, to try to push the show, because I was very proud of it."

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Classifieds



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2001

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PAGE 11

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Roommate Wanted- to share luxury 3bdrm 3bath Twnhse 5min from UNLV full amenities washer/dryer, fireplace \$450 utilities incl 338-3666

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1990 Camaro, Auto/Convertible, fully loaded, xlint cond. 1 owner. 254-2979 or cell 279-8344

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90 Toyota Camry LE, Auto, A/C, full power, just smogged, new tires, 90k, \$2900. 581-9068

89 Honda Accord LX, Auto, A/C, 4DR, runs & drives new, mint condition, \$2600. 581-9068

94 Nissan Sentra LE, Auto, A/C, full power, new tires, 90k, showroom condition. 581-9068

94 Mitsubishi Mirage LS, Auto, A/C, 4DR, white/grey interior, 1 owner, 80k. \$3700. 581-9068

93 Saturn SL1, Auto, A/C, full power, sunroof, new tires, smogged. 90k, \$2800. 581-9068

90 Toyota Corolla DX, Auto, A/C, silver/grey int., smogged, mint cond., \$2800. 581-9068

91 Toyota Camry LE, Auto, A/C, full power, smogged, 86k, mint condition, \$3500. 581-9068

91 Toyota Corolla LE, Auto, cold A/C, full power, new tires, 94k, mint cond., \$3200. 581-9068

91 Mitsubishi Galant LS, Auto, A/C, full power, sunroof, showroom cond., \$2900. 581-9068

83 BMW 635 Csi Coupe, Auto, A/C, leather, sunroof, full power, 1 owner, \$4500. 581-9068

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UNLV heads to Laramie to face Cowboys

By Adam Hill
UNLV Rebel Yell

The Rebels were talking as if they've been in must-win games the last few weeks.

Now, there is no disputing the fact that they are in a must-win situation from here on out.

One more loss means the Rebels can't finish with a winning season, and therefore, wouldn't be bowl eligible.

So, they know they must win their final four games.

The first test along this path is a visit to Laramie and the University of Wyoming on Saturday at 3 p.m. Pacific time.

It appears to be the easiest of the remaining games, but now is not a time to take anything for granted.

"Wyoming's obviously had a tough go of it this year, but they're coached well and they play hard," UNLV head coach John Robinson said on his weekly teleconference. "There is no game in this day in age in football where you can go in relaxed. Our team is desperate and we need to be at this point."

Wyoming certainly has had their struggles, even worse than

UNLV.

The Cowboys have an identical 2-5 record to the Rebels, but with a much easier schedule as their wins have come in narrow defeats of Furman and Utah State. They are also a poor 0-4 in the Mountain West Conference.

They are coming off a 35-0 loss to Utah, their fourth straight setback.

"Obviously, when you get beat like that, it's an embarrassing thing," Wyoming coach Vic Koenning said. "I thought we'd come much further and I thought we had a realistic chance in that game. It just didn't work out that way."

This will be the first conference road game for the Rebels, who have posted a 1-2 MWC mark at home thus far.

The Rebels are 2-2 all-time in Laramie, including a 35-32 victory two years ago in a big upset.

All-time, the Rebels lead the series with the Cowboys 5-4, but the Cowboys hope to even that mark this week.

Koenning knows that will be no small task.

"They've just got some really



Capra Jensen / UNLV Rebel Yell

UNLV junior quarterback Jason Thomas (2) attempts a pass during the loss to Colorado State. He now looks forward to a battle with Wyoming.

good players," he said of the Rebels. "You can have them defended just the way you want, but they have the type of athletes that can take over and make a big play anyway."

He seems to have a firm handle on the way UNLV has struggled this year.

"I don't think anyone's stopped them this year as much as

they've just stopped themselves," he said. "We're just going to try to slow them down."

Robinson's sentiments were very similar.

"All in all, we are defeating ourselves," he said. "We're not boring though. We're not screwing ourselves up the same way every time, but finding new ways to do it. It's been exasperating for

us at times."

Robinson's Rebels will get a chance to show that they've learned from their errors and can find a way to win on Saturday afternoon in Laramie.

The game can be seen in the Las Vegas Valley on Cox Cable channels 1 and 39. It can also be heard on the radio at ESPN 920-AM.

Rebels need to work on fundamentals



Capra Jensen / UNLV Rebel Yell

UNLV tight end DeJhown Mandley (80) is tackled after making a spin move during Saturday's 26-24 home loss to Colorado State. With the loss, the Rebels now have to win their remaining four games to guarantee a winning season and make themselves bowl eligible.

By Mike Villa Jr.
UNLV Rebel Yell

In any sport, the most difficult opponent to face is oneself. The Rebels are truly their own worst enemy.

In a game more hairy than CSU quarterback Bradlee Van

Pelt's mullet, the Rebels found another way to lose last weekend. UNLV has been notorious for making easy, fundamental plays look impossible this season.

Yet again, they have self-destructed.

The paradox is that for the

most part they played how they were supposed to — controlling the clock for more than 33 minutes with a power running game while amassing 420 total yards. Rarely does a team lose when they collect numbers like those, but it is hard to be a winning team while making fundamental mistakes.

The reasons for the loss were clear, but widespread.

Attribute part of it to the special teams' apparent relapse of early season blunders. Little things, like punting and kicking were counter-productive. CSU ran the ball past the 30-yard line almost every time on kickoffs.

Attribute part of it to the offense. Merely holding on to the ball seemed like an insurmountable task, as the Rebels fumbled the ball five times, and turned it over on four of them. And please, whoever keeps spraying the receivers' hands before games with Pam cooking spray, stop it.

Attribute part of it to the defense and the defensive coordinators. The absence of defensive end Anton Palepoi didn't help, but Colorado State gained big yardage on more than one occasion with simple swing passes. They also executed trick plays that truly tricked the Rebels. And when the pressure was at its highest level, the Rebels lost their poise — getting penalized for

an apparent lack of self-control.

Give it up, however, to a couple of guys who passed their gut checks. Cornerback Kevin Thomas showed why he is one of the premier players in the country. Thomas's clutch fourth quarter interception in the end zone averted a touchdown that might have buried the Rebels much sooner. Running back Joe Haro, though fumbling once, scored twice and rushed for 146 yards, increasing his season total to 724 yards.

The Rebels now stand at 2-5 overall and 1-2 in conference play. Coach Robinson's prediction of winning seven straight games will not come to be, but all is not lost. However, hope is dwindling for the Rebels' chances of becoming bowl eligible. They must win the remaining games on a schedule that includes Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico and Air Force, and are also in jeopardy of finishing without a winning season.

The Rebels' bid for a bowl starts in Laramie, Wyoming on Saturday. The Cowboys have lost 11 straight conference games dating back to 1999, but the Rebels have to contain quarterback Casey Bramlet, who leads the Mountain West Conference in passing. The last two games on the schedule are also on the road, which makes the task of winning harder since both teams play

exceptionally at home. Utah currently has a record of 4-1 and is undefeated in conference play. They have an excellent chance of becoming bowl eligible, but still must face Colorado State and BYU — both on the road.

For the Rebels, a realistic outcome from this point in the season looks to be an appearance in the Silicon Valley Bowl. They could make the Las Vegas Bowl with help. Ironically in a long shot, if the Rebels place second, and if BYU goes undefeated and is selected to play in the Bowl Championship Series, a spot would be free for the second-place MWC team to play in the Liberty Bowl.

Yes, there are a lot of "ifs" in that scenario.

Of course, none of these scenarios are possible if UNLV cannot get back to playing fundamental football — the basics. If the Rebels don't beat themselves, everything will fall into place. They must get the little things right, such as holding on to the football, catching the football, and using sound judgment before moving on to bigger things. There is still room to make a happy ending.

Attention to detail, UNLV! Sports columnist Mike Villa Jr. can be reached via mikeboy@hotmail.com.