

OPINION

Small Picture

by kurt hildebrand

editor

It looks like area high school students are going to have to fulfill a few extra requirements to get into UNLV in a few years. That's right, those students who are currently sophomores at Las Vegas High schools are going to have to go that extra mile before they can get into the university.

The current wisdom is that if you raise the requirements to get into college, the university will finally get some respect. I think this is a distinct possibility. However, I have a question about the manner in which the requirements will finally be raised at UNLV.

Requirements would be raised at UNLV so they would be the same as those at UNR.

Does this mean if UNR jumped off the roof of a building UNLV would follow?

I am tired of watching UNLV use UNR as its guide in what should be done and to whom it should be done.

UNR has a lot of dormitories, so UNLV has to have a lot of dormitories. UNR has a resident campus, so

UNLV has to have a resident campus. UNR has an Engineering school, so UNLV has to have an Engineering school.

The University of Nevada System is currently engaged in a giant game of Simon Says, and UNR is Simon.

There is something to be said for being different from UNR. I like being a commuter campus, I like being able to drive to school, surrounded by other people who drive to school.

UNLV is a wide open campus, with an incredible diversity of students, from the freshman who intends to go through the program to the older student who has a job and a family and who just takes a few classes. UNLV is not nearly so academic (with all the intellectual isolation implied by that term) as it is populist. I like going to a populist school.

I won't say an increase in academic standards is going to necessarily change that, but I would say it is a step in the wrong direction for UNLV.

UNLV provides the members of the Las Vegas community something which a school with higher standards might not — an opportunity to participate in the learning process without the stigma attached to being a "college student."

When we went down to USC for the California In-

tercollegiate Press Association I spent some time wandering around the campus, and the thing which struck me was how isolated it was from the rest of the community.

There was a fence around the campus, there were gate guards, the only parking for people who were not regular students on-campus was on the street at parking meters, it was an island of academia in a hostile sea of lower income housing.

I would not want to come back to UNLV in 20 years and find the same thing at my alma mater.

I am proud of UNLV as it is, if I weren't I wouldn't go here, I wouldn't have gone to the trouble to get a degree here.

I ask that UNLV's administration think carefully on this issue, that they look ahead, that they stop and say, "Maybe we don't need so much change, maybe we should take a breath and find good in what we have," before they institute another program or change the standards or add another program.

But, unfortunately, as long as the student body rolls over and accepts whatever the administration does, there will be no dissenting voice, there will only be the voice of change.

Art Buchwald

"General Del Rio, I am Assistant Secretary of State for Acapulco Gold. I've flown down to discuss with you the misunderstanding between the United States and Miotango."

"You call it a misunderstanding? It's a monstrous catastrophe. Your grand jury has indicted me for the manufacture and smuggling of cocaine, heroin, marijuana, crack and adulterated decaffeinated coffee. How can you treat a friend like this?"

"It wasn't our doing. There was an overzealous assistant attorney general who put crime before our 'good neighbor' policy. Believe me, the department is sick about it."

"Do I look like a man

who would deal in dope?"

"Of course you don't."

"Do I look like a man who would kill Marxists?"

"Of course you do."

"Do I look like a man who would kill Communists while dealing in dope?"

"Apparently that's what the attorney general keeps saying in Florida."

"Well, then, what's the problem?"

"General, we want you to terminate all the Marxists you can get your hands on, but we'd like you to cool it on the cocaine and heroin. It makes a mockery of Nancy Reagan's Just Say No program."

"Don't you gripgos understand? There is no money in killing Marxists. The bucks are all in

snow." "You've been on the CIA payroll for 10 years, General. Surely they pay enough for your needs."

"The CIA pays chicken feed to Central American heads of state. I can't raise a family executing Communists without supplementary income from the Columbian Cocaine Manufacturers Association."

"Why not?"

"I'm sending my kid to an American college."

"General, I might be able to have the drug charges dropped if you

promise to step down as the leader of Miotango."

"How can you ask me to step down at the very moment I have a 747 planeload of poppies flying in from Turkey?"

"It's not me, General. It's Congress. Some people are making charges that you have smuggled more dope into the United States than any freedom fighter in the Western Hemisphere. The CIA is embarrassed by all the hoopla, particularly because they're getting the heat. You have to mend your ways."

"So what am I supposed to do?"

"Our suggestion is to buy a home on the Riviera with your ill-gotten gains and we'll deny that you were ever in an illegal business of any kind."

"I would love to do it but since being indicted I have become a folk hero in Miotango. As a matter of fact if the United States hadn't indicted me when it did, I would probably be buried in sand up to my head right now. Thanks to your indictment, my people want to reelect me for life." "That's the other

thing I came to see you about. If you get reelected, will you still work for us?"

"Of course, you've always treated me well. But I'm going to need money. It costs a lot more to put away a Marxist now than it did last year."

"I'll take it up with Washington. In exchange, can we have your work that if the Columbian Cartel asks you to help smuggle in cocaine, you'll just say no?" "You have my word, not only as an officer and gentleman, but as a double agent for the Cubans as well."

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