

Questions arise while searching Senate records

by Thomas Moore

The legislative history of UNLV is being obscured and even lost because of the condition of senate records and the lack of guidelines concerning their care.

The often colorful, always informative history is currently recorded on tape and in written form in the student government offices. However, due to unsupervised access, sections are missing, and inconsistent rules about the means of filing them obstructs easy access to their information.

The person in charge of the records is Becky Jo Birmingham, the senate secretary. Although Birmingham diligently files the current minutes she is certainly far too busy to reorganize or index the mass of inconsistently kept records bequeathed to her. Becky has a good general knowledge of senate history and can often aid in student inquiries, but the state of the records make an exhaustive search difficult and time consuming.

If a student wished to make careful searches for legislative concerns, they would first need to consult Birmingham or some other knowledgeable person about the time period of the issue. They would then search backward and forward throughout the whole of the records until they found all the relevant references or until they went blind.

Along the way they might



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find certain sections missing, certain sentences whited out and typed over, or even some confusing duplicates of some meetings. After a few hours, the searcher might begin to wonder what ex-

actly happened, and if they are to know.

Given the lack of constitutional guidelines it is hard to see how this situation will change. Once the people who have a

knowledge of student government history graduate it will be nearly impossible for students to adequately research their legislative history. A very important part of UNLV's past could be lost forever.

Be who you are

by Ken Tomory

What do these individuals have in common?

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|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Aristotle | Susan B. Anthony |
| Socrates | Plato |
| Alexander the Great | Sappho |
| Greta Garbo | Florence Nightingale |
| Catherine the Great | Alan Turing |
| Maynard Keynes | Gertrude Stein |
| Michaelangelo | Georgia O'Keefe |
| Emily Dickinson | Amelia Earhart |
| Hans Christian Anderson | Leonardo Da Vinci |
| Collette | Bessie Smith |
| E. M. Forster | Yukio Mishima |
| Michael Bennett | Tennessee Williams |
| David Kopay | Virginia Woolf |
| Tchaikovsky | Perry Ellis |
| Martina Navratilova | Barney Frank |
| Bob Paris | Marlene Dietrich |

Some of these people have transcended the eras and some will just begin to.

They range from great thinkers to great conquerors. They include masters of the arts, great sports figures and even statesmen. They are both female and male; black, white, Asian and European.

These individuals have names and histories that will be known throughout the ages and surely surpass the passage of our time. These names are known, yet one insightful fact seems to be missing in most historical accounts. That fact is that these individuals are all either bisexual or homosexual males and females. They are strong, influential, prosperous colorful people; a part of society and culture, then and now.

So I ask you, computer users, politicians, philosophers, economists and business majors, soldiers, dancers, writers, doctors, artists and athletes; how do you feel that

great role models of the world happen to be gay men and women? Does this eye opener, make you question where our values are? Do you wonder where our thoughts have been? Do you know where our deep-seeded misunderstanding of a person different than yourself began?

We all bear the similarities of humanity. Physiologically we are the same. If you take a pin and puncture one of our fingers, we all bleed like every one of the five billion inhabitants of this planet. We all need a nutritious diet, exercise and rest just like our neighbors and fellow students.

We, the people, are created equal. This includes all men and women, regardless of race, nationality, religion or sexual orientation.

Of course there are differences of the mind: different perceptions, knowledge, opinions and acceptance of the rights of others. In this myriad of life, each is its own individual creation, and as

such is entitled to be.

Discrimination is a barrier of the mind. A clear mind is obstructed with artificial barriers imposed by ignorance. A clear mind does not discriminate due to the color of one's skin, one's religious beliefs or one's sex.

The world of today is facing cataclysmic problems that affect us all. We should be gathering our energies and channeling our efforts toward solving these problems. Instead we continue to categorize, stigmatize and brutalize humans for what they are.

If we were born without eyes, our perceptions would be different. We could not readily point out the differences between us. Why should we have to blind ourselves to understand? If you want to perceive better, open your eyes wider and see the horizon.

We are the parents of our planet and the human race. Our battles should be for the equality

of one's self and the battle for the reconstruction of the world in which we live.

The individuals mentioned here have enhanced the world in their time and in ours. Before you cast the stone of discriminated ignorance, walk in their shoes, look through their eyes and educate yourself to the wonders of each other, our differences and our similarities.

Today is National Coming Out day. Celebrate the diversity in life and of life. Come out of your own closet of inequities and walk tall and proud, no matter who you are. You have the right to be you.

*Names provided from: Gay Men & Women Who Have Enriched the World, by Thomas Cowan

Lesbian Lists, A Look at Lesbian Culture, History, and Personalities, by Dell Richards.



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