

Letters to the Editor... continued



Important positions open in upcoming elections It's up to students to end the "all say - no do" student government

Dear editor,

The start of the new semester signals the time for all students who are interested in politics to organize their political machines. The elections later this semester will again give us, the undergraduate students of UNLV, a chance to elect a new Student Body President, Vice President, and Senate President.

Most students will have to look long and hard to find out what they need to do if they are thinking of running for one of the above positions. There is currently no election board director to help inform students of the duties and responsibilities the positions entail, and what qualifications candidates will need. Other members of Student Government can help, but what do we, the students who have voted in our current representatives, have to do to get the Student Government president to fill the directorship of the election board?

The current election board director seat has a paid stipend each month of \$350 for months that have elections and \$175 for the rest of the months, plus a fee waiver of 30 credits per year. This is one of many positions in Student Government that have cash and credit stipends.

The only Student Government representatives who can not receive money for doing their

job are the senators.

Being a past senator for the College of Engineering, I found it strange that senators are required to show up at weekly meetings to discuss and vote on what is funded by Student Government, whereas directors don't even have to show up to their own board meetings to receive their monthly stipend

"Senators are required to show up at weekly meetings to discuss and vote on what is funded by Student Government, whereas directors don't even have to show up to their own board meetings to receive their monthly stipend check."

check.

One case, the Appropriation Board I still sit on, was chaired twice by the Vice Chairman while the director handled personal matters. Who is to blame?

I'm partially at fault. As a voting member, I should make sure the board does what it is required to do under the Student Government constitution.

Also to blame, however, is the current Student Government executive board who knew about problems with the Appropriation Board, as well as other boards,

but never anything toward bringing about solutions.

The student body, as a whole, is guilty for not showing much interest in the goings-on of Student Government. There are some who do care, like me, but find it difficult to fight for things to be done correctly.

The time it takes to research the problems, get information to document the problem, and then figure out what action to take is not easy. But if it is not done correctly then anyone, like me, will come off as just "whining" because things didn't go your way.

With elections coming up, we students should look into ourselves and see if politics is something we should do as a way of gaining experience and helping our fellow students. The jobs are not easy and require time and commitment to do properly.

I can vouch for how much time is required.

The current executive board does put a lot of time and energy into representing the interest of students. Sometimes they put in more than is necessary because of the incompetence of others. But hopefully, several good candidates will come forth to be elected so that we do not wind up with more "all say and no do."

Kelly Best
Senior, science

I am a college student

by Eileen Brady

It was a revelation.

I looked at my watch; it was 8:05 p.m. on Thursday. The Simpsons was on. Even though millions of Americans were watching it, I was struggling through "Samson 'Life-of-the-Party' Milton."

There was no denying it. I realized: I am a college student.

While many people were watching a few hours of

prime-time before going to bed for the night, I was washing down Vivarin with Coke to make my sacrifice to the Procrastination God.

While the Smiths and the Joneses were finishing off their rib-eye steaks and potatoes, I had just choked down the last of my 19-cent pork-flavored ramen noodles.

I would spend the next stress-filled hours trying to "critically analyze" a dreadful, 300-year-old piece of "literature" while Bart Simpson was probably cracking tomorrow's newest catchphrase.

Will I be a college student forever? When will I be able to check off a real "occupation" when filling out questionnaires? "Student" or "Other" just doesn't get it.

"Wait until you enter the 'real world,'" the People Who Are Wiser Than I Am say.

I answer, "What could be more real than working, paying bills, trying to have a social life, seeking 'true knowledge' and taking a full-credit

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load?"

There must be a reason I can't simply enjoy my evenings. Why do I spend free time writing papers on topics that could put an insomniac into a coma? Why do I spend so much time in front of the Macintosh monitor, instead of vegging out in front of a Magnavox?

I guess it's so I don't grow up to be like Marge. And maybe it's because—

I am a college student.

Brady is the Campus Events Editor for the Yellin' Rebel

Stop the whining about UNLV and its poor national image

by James P. Reza

At the risk of being labeled a traitor, a communist, or, worse yet, a writer for *Sports Illustrated*, I'm about to say something many fellow Las Vegans surely wish I wouldn't: Stop your whining.

Stop this incessant whining about the "poor image" of our university, as portrayed by national writers. Stop leveling your sights at every news or opinion or television writer who dares take a shot at the "University of the Sacred Basketball." Give it a rest—not because answering these attacks serves to legitimize them, but because much of the commentary is independently legitimate.

Not only am I a native Las Vegan, I was born with college basketball in my soul. I remember attending UNLV basketball games at the convention center rotunda. This was long before I could fully comprehend the game, and certainly long before scores of current Rebel fans became such. I am also a recent graduate of UNLV. I mention this only to quell the notion that I may be another outsider. Let's start out by being realistic. The majority of the nation sees Las Vegas as an adult playpen. The concept that an institution of higher learn-

ing could even exist here is farfetched to some, a mere joke to others. To these individuals, the fact that UNLV does exist and is home to the nation's best men's basketball team incites irritability resulting in sarcasm and verbal assaults.

We—local writers, politicians, the president of the university and the average citizen—recognize that promoting Las Vegas and UNLV will inevitably involve the discussion of both gambling and

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the national championship. In fact, because so much money flows into the university through its basketball team, its status as national champions is pushed to exploitation. Being in the nation's eye is certainly a status that cuts both ways. Perhaps the national media are scrutinizing UNLV the way we should have long ago.

In the not-so-distant past, an episode of NBC's "Saturday Night Live" included a sketch that satirized UNLV's curriculum by por-

traying a class called "Elements of Blackjack." The UNLV student population responded with a few letters and a lot of whining about a possible boycott. Someone should have taught those students that responding to such satire merely drives the point firmly home. Satire is not funny unless it is based in fact. That particular "Saturday Night Live" sketch was certainly funny.

For those of you not familiar with UNLV's course catalog, classes may be taken, for college credit, in wine tasting and hotel front desk. That is easily satirized.

The reality of campus and educational life at UNLV is simple. Much of the big money flowing into the university from private donors comes from the gaming industry, earmarked for the Hotel Administration School. Studies in humanities are carried out in cramped, understaffed and underfunded facilities. And those who graduate with degrees in these disciplines were required—effort than those who undertake courses in business or hotel administration. If anyone would have been whining about the reputed poor academic standards and easily earned degrees, it would have been me and my class-

mates. But we were too concerned with our sometimes overbearing, but always intellectually challenging, workload to worry too much about some writer from New York hitting an easy target.

The Hotel Administration School at UNLV is among the world's best. It had better be considering the support it receives. The men's basketball team is possibly the best college team of all time. But if these two elements

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of UNLV's campus are not ready to withstand microscopic inspection and satire, don't push them in the face of America.

If you want a better national image for your university, start by giving it a better image at home, with students and citizens alike. Strive for full support and coverage of all its athletic, artistic and academic departments, not just a select few. Don't stand idly

by when officials try to link a successful basketball team to a better university (more money = better academics). That implies a university is poor if its basketball team fails. UNLV will only be a poor university if it fails to receive support from the community in all of its endeavors.

Recognition for academic achievement must start in the local community. Recognize and reward these achievements in both the media and the job marketplace. Bask in the warm glow of attention the basketball team brings, while happily devoting as much time, energy and money to the rest of the university. Ignore the satirical, and sometimes downright spiteful, treatment we receive while quietly pushing for a change in image that starts from within and stretches outward. One cannot expect others to change their opinions if everything they see supports those opinions. Stop whining and start doing. Maybe a suspension for the basketball team is just what the university deserves—and needs.

Reza is a graduate of UNLV. This article is reprinted with his permission.

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