

Letters to the Editor



To the Editor:

I would like to compliment Donna Bates on her article concerning residence hall occupancy that appeared in your Oct. 1 edition. Ms. Bates' article demonstrated an understanding of a rather complex issue. On the other hand, I have a great deal of problems with the headline for the article.

The headline for the article stated that there were 380 vacant rooms. The body of the article stated that "there are 1,077 rooms with 800 presently occupied." Vacancies would be determined by subtracting the occupied rooms from the total rooms available.

That calculation would result in 277 vacant rooms. How did you get 380?

Even if your math was correct your headline would still be wrong. Currently we have 130 vacant rooms plus 22 rooms with only one resident. The residence hall capacity is not 1,077 rooms as stated in the article nor is our current occupan-

cy 800 rooms. The maximum occupancy of the residence halls is 1,077 students, most rooms house two students. Our current occupancy is 795 students. By the way, this represents 95 percent of the 1991-1992 academic year occupancy or 40 fewer residents; certainly not a bad record in a recessionary year with declining enrollment.

The attempt to sensationalize Ms. Bates' article is obvious. Ms. Bates did a credible job in explaining why vacancies exist in the halls. I would like to know how David Nicholes' opinion is relevant to the content and context of the article? Residence halls are not hotels, they do not exist for the same purpose nor do they have the same goals as hotels, and comparison of residence halls with hotels demonstrates a lack of understanding of both.

Again, I appreciate the job Ms. Bates attempted to do. I encourage the copy editors to be more careful with headlines, after all to paraphrase Mr. Ni-

choles, if you ran a real newspaper like this you would be fired.

I would like to offer the editors and staff of *The Rebel Yell* the opportunity to truly learn and understand what residence halls are about. If you would be interested in investing time and energy to be informed so that you can better inform your readers please let me know.

Terry D. Piper
Director of Residential Life

To the Editor,

It's a bird. It's a plane. It's a comic book for goodness sakes!

As I was perusing *The Rebel Yell* for entertainment I came across an article lamenting the fact that Superman will die in the Nov. 18 issue of his comic book at the hands of a super-lunatic escapee from a cosmic insane asylum.

Well, according to The Associated Press, D.C. Comics has changed its for-

mat. Now, Superman will be killed off by a mobster figure because people raised loud objections that using a lunatic might give readers the wrong impression of the mentally insane. What I can't understand is why people read so much into a comic book. I just hope the writer was kidding when she tried to correlate our world's injustice and how we are supposed to view the world based on whether a super hero lives or dies.

I also think it is an insult to our intelligence when the writer groups Ross Perot with the likes of Hannibal Lector and Freddie Kruger. I don't care for the guy either, but please! By grouping Perot in this category, I might infer that the writer had a hidden political agenda, but that would mean I was reading too much into her article.

Norah Nelson,
sophomore
political science

Readers come to Berkley's defense after student panel's snub

To the Editor:

Does the entire student body realize how less than 10 students this past week turned on them by endorsing Shelley Berkley's opponent for Board of Regents? For 20 years, Berkley has been an outspoken advocate for UNLV as a student, alumna, state assemblywoman and now as a regent. It has taken us 20 years to have someone as dedicated to UNLV as Berkley on the Board of Regents.

But more importantly, it's what Shelley has done for UNLV after graduation. Having been the school mascot, a student senator and Student Body President, Berkley never forgot the dedication of the students to this university in making Student Government work for the betterment of the school. Upon returning from law school, Berkley, for four years, worked for the student body as their legal counsel, and became active in the Alumni Association as a board member and as a representative to the Board of Regents. One of her most unselfish acts was to establish the Berkley Family Law Scholarship for pre-law majors at UNLV who promise to return to Nevada after law school. What has Berkley's opponent done for UNLV?

It is totally incomprehensible as to why a handful of students, in the name of the whole student body, would turn their back on someone so dedicated to this institution. The endorsement of a candidate who cannot come close to Berkley's contributions to this school tarnishes UNLV. Is this how we treat those who are loyal, and fight for UNLV, for you, the student body? I urge the students on this campus to let your student body representatives know how disgusted you are this happened. More importantly, let Berkley know. She is usually on campus during the week, lunching in the student union or meeting with students and faculty; or call her at home, 255-UNLV? Reverse CSUN's ridiculous endorsement.

Jan Lewellyn-Davidson
graduate student

To the Editor:

As a Las Vegas resident and UNLV student for three years, I have witnessed many events, most of which have increased my admiration and pride for our beautiful campus. I have seen UNLV grow, with its attention and sensitivity to the student's needs a top priority. How then could a university so receptive to its population now ignore the student's voice and turn its back on one of the most dedicated and loyal alumnae this school has ever seen?

I am referring to the "student" panel who did not recommend Board of Regent Shelley Berkley for re-election. If the panel was supposed to be representative of the student body, then (1) more panelists should have been present (maybe one from every student organization), (2) the interviews open to the public, (3) literature on all candidates circulated

around campus, or (4) student polls taken. I am not denouncing any one panelist's decision; everyone is entitled to his or her own opinion. However, a five-member panel should not have spoken for a whole entire university.

There are many of us who would have wanted to express our recommendation for a woman who has shown support of our organizations, loyalty to our campus, and concern for our academic well being. Berkley is frequently seen on campus, listening to our concerns and opinions and has made herself accessible to all of us. In doing so, she has been able to truly reflect our ideas to policymakers and address our needs as a Board of Regent. Our former UNLV Student Body President has remained devoted to our university and many of us are truly grateful for her time, advice, help, support, and commitment. Since we students acknowledge Berkley's 20 years of service to UNLV, it should be known that we recommend her for re-election as well.

Daliah Zoderu

To the Editor:

As a political science major and someone who is very active in the political process, I read the front page story in the Oct. 8 issue of *The Rebel Yell* in disbelief. How a board of Student Government officers could fail to recommend the candidacy of the only regent who is both a UNLV graduate and former Student Body President is beyond my wildest imagination. If anything, Shelley Berkley is perhaps the only regent who could truly relate to the concerns of our student body. Berkley has been a persistent voice for the students of UNLV ever since she assumed the office. Is it the intent of Student Government to bite the hand that feeds it and, in turn, extinguish the hopes of effective representation on the Board of Regents for the rest of the student body?

First of all, I have to question the ability of Student Government to form what is essentially, an endorsement board. Since Student Government is a state agency, they are prohibited from endorsing candidates for public office. It seems to me that the only way that any candidate recommendations may be made is if some sort of student organization was formed just for that purpose. I fail to see how a panel of Student Government officials constitutes such an organization since, to the best of my recollection, the Organization Board Policy states that 10 students are needed to form a recognized CSUN organization. If, on the other hand, Student Government had formed a committee under the auspices of a Student Government board to make these endorsements, then it is still a branch of Student Government endorsing candidates which would seemingly violate the applicable state provision.

Second, while I have nothing personal against Regent candidate William Shields, I do not think that one need be a rocket scientist to proclaim, with some

degree of certainty, that Berkley holds a fairly insurmountable lead in the race. Knowing the odds against Shields winning the seat, why would Student Government try to harm its ties with Regent Berkley? Do the powers that be in Student Government not realize that Berkley is the head of the Regents' Legislative Committee? When Student Government lobbies on behalf of the student body during the upcoming legislative session for such things as increased funding for student scholarships, what type of influence will they have when they have harmed their relationship with the Regent legislative liaison who has many established ties to the legislators?

As a senior who will be graduating this semester, I do not feel sorry for myself, but for the students who will still be in attendance next semester and for UNLV students in the years to come. With such an unwise decision, Student Government has indeed done much more harm than good.

Melanie K. Armstrong
political science

To the Editor:

My name is Michael Bunin. I have been involved in Student Government for the past 3 years, serving on many boards and committees. I have also served as a senator for the College of Business and Economics.

Recently a panel of students sponsored by Student Government recommended Bell Shields for University Regent instead of his opponent Shelley Berkley. I am writing this letter because of my strong belief that this panel has made a poor recommendation.

Berkley is clearly the best candidate for regent. I know this because I have had ample opportunity to work with her on University issues over the past two years during my involvement with Student Government. Berkley is a graduate of UNLV and a former Student Body President. She has been a staunch supporter of the university for 20 years, and has always worked closely with Student Government during her time in office as a Regent.

Berkley's most important attribute is her responsiveness to the students' needs. She is constantly around the university campus and in touch with the happenings at UNLV. I have not known a student who could not get her help when they needed it.

As a three-year veteran of Student Government, my opinion of Berkley as an effective regent who strongly supports UNLV, provides a more formed opinion than can be gotten from the short interview process which the Panel used to make its decision.

I urge you to do as I am going to do in November: Cast a vote for UNLV by casting a vote for Shelly Berkley.

Michael Bunin