

## University needs to tighten belt, not look for handouts

Once again UNLV faces tight times ahead because of a lean state budget. Gov. Miller is holding the line on taxes and the economy is only slowly recovering.

It would be easy to lambast the state government for not supporting higher education—easy, but not very useful.

Nevada is a financially conservative state. Combine that with the fallout from the university's battle with former basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian and it doesn't take a university president to see UNLV won't get much help from state legislators.

Whining won't help, but a frank and realistic look at ourselves will. Anything unnecessary to turning out better students should be axed.

The student health advocate might be a start. The health center hired Patty Avila with a background in public relations for the position. If the point was to give students access to cheap health care maybe a health care professional would have been a better choice.

Senior citizens don't have to pay tuition at all during the spring and fall semesters. During the summer, they only pay 50 percent.

Is it fair, when other students are struggling, that one of the most affluent groups in society get its education free?

Then there is the athletic department. Student athletes have academic advisors set aside to help them through school, treatment not available for other students.

The days of state governments wildly taxing and spending are over. If UNLV students want a better education—not to mention jobs after they graduate—they should demand accountability from UNLV and not beg Carson City for money.

*The above is the opinion of The Rebel Yell. All other inclusions on the opinion page reflect the opinions of the author or artist indicated and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Rebel Yell staff.*



## Bureaucracy clogs campus

BY DAVID Z. KANAAN

**Bureaucracy.**

We know it well on this campus. It lives and breathes in every hall and department on what was once an innocent, barren desert. It makes simple decisions and actions into titanic puzzles or mysteries. And the officers of this beast sit in their respective stations resembling the see-no-evil, hear-no-evil, speak-no-evil monkeys of yore.

Policies, requirements, and deadlines produce papers and applications of every color, shape and size. Average people are transformed into mindless robots transmitting data to other mindless robots, each fearful to break their program, for they might be tagged with the most dangerous responsibility of all—accountability.

The three predominant offices used are the registrar, admissions, and, of course, financial aid. They each boast unique obstacles. Let me also say that between these hotbeds of red tape there is little or no communication. At one time this year, each of these three offices had a different address for me. After changing them to my dorm address, I still received one pell check at one address and one at another.

However, my mail over break was sent to the dorm address. This was terrible in that some of the material was dated. The dorm mailboxes were closed for the holidays, and I had to pay at least one late fee. Mysteriously, other less important material from another office was mailed to an old address.

It is obvious that the computer systems are not connected. With all the money being spent on the

many new buildings you would think that the university could afford a central system that would eliminate some of the confusion. How many times have you been told you would have to pick up something here or there and bring it back, or you're going to have to talk to someone else?

But don't get me wrong. Computers are not the total solution. As a matter of fact, they are most of the problem. We stick bubblegum-popping undergrads on them to deal with the public, not realizing that the student's main objective is not to solve your problems, but to have you get out of their face. Heaven forbid they actually get up from their seat. It is a hands-off policy.

They are not willing to take responsibility to do anything, and rattle off names of other people you should talk to. The ironic belief they have is that they are saving themselves time and trouble. In reality they are setting up future uproars in the office when the person comes back time and time again, each time more upset. Computers don't know about holidays or human inconveniences, so the managers must manage and not rely on a body of policy for which they are a slave.

I still haven't received my loan checks for fall semester. Why? All they had to do was look in my file to discover the problem. This happens again and again. The vastly understaffed offices of a university that has outgrown the antiquated Frazier Hall should take an extra five minutes with each person and solve all the problems. The quick, "I-know-what-I'm-talking-about" responses are often short-sighted and wrong. They should always double check. It saves both of us time in the future.

## Before there was any history, there was black history

BY DEBRA D. BASS

Kwame Nkrumah. Marcus Garvey. Queen Nzinga. Seko Turé. Huey Newton. Lenore Fulani. Nat Turner. Tom Mboya. If these names don't sound familiar to you then it's time to brush up on your history—black history. Every year around this time we seem to rehash the same names: Martin Luther King, Jr., Fredrick Douglas, Harriet Tubman, Shirley Chisolm, W.E.B DuBois and now Malcolm X has also become a popular entity.

This is not intended to discredit or belittle the great accomplishments and breakthroughs made by these historic figures, but the history of African-Americans cannot, and should not, be confined to a small group of a dozen or so individuals. It not only perverts the truth, it contradicts the true intention of February being designated Black History Month. This time was set aside to compensate for the lack of education with regard to notable leaders and innovators of African descent.

Our Eurocentric educational system tends to ignore the contributions made by people from the so-called "dark continent," which produced the first university and the first civilized culture. And to atone for this deficiency, Black History Month arose from legislation prompted by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, an African-American educator, in the early '30s.

Woodson dedicated his life to the education of

whites and blacks on African culture in order to promote mutual acceptance, awareness and self-pride. He is most famous for writings on "The Miseducation of the Negro," an assessment of how the American education system devalues the contributions of Africans to world culture and the "Education of the Negro" which details how people must exert a collective effort to research and learn those contributions on their own.

February is intended to spark awareness and interest that should carry people throughout the rest of the year. It's a sad commentary on our society that such a time must be set aside to suit these purposes. When it first passed through government it was known as Black History Week and then with time the period of remembrance was expanded to a full month.

Soon, as interest peaks, we may again realize that even a month is too short and we'll come to observe black history, as well as historical events and individuals from all cultures, all year round.

History is an invaluable commodity. Because, as Malcolm X reiterated, unless you know where you've been you can't know where you're going. By this he meant, the more people learn about past occurrences, the more confidence people will have to attempt new advancements. Without that background people are prone to assume that such accomplishments are impossible or impractical.

## Letters to the Editor



### 'Bravo' to the pep band

As a loyal and faithful Rebel fan, I want to take this opportunity to say "bravo" to the Rebel pep band.

I don't know why all the controversy regarding the playing of *The Godfather* theme.

It's obvious this is a talented group of musicians with a lot of school spirit that spills over to the crowd.

The people doing all the complaining should stop and listen to the music. It's wonderful! Thanks, pep band for your fine, spirited music.

Barbara Fiero  
UNLV student

Letters to the editor submitted to *The Rebel Yell* should be 250 words or less in length.

*The Rebel Yell* strives to publish all student submissions. However, we reserve the right to edit letters as necessary.

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