

One more time: It's not athletics vs. academics

It's very distressing when UNS administrators can't get away from the notion that there's an inherent conflict between athletics and academics.

Chancellor Mark Dawson is quoted today as saying: "If we have to get rid of athletics for the sake of academics then that is what we will do."

That notion is absolutely ridiculous. What evidence exists that suggests this is the case?

Even if some athletes at UNLV—in this case one basketball player—have experienced academic difficulty, this should not be taken as a reflection of the entire institution. For that matter it should not be taken as a measure of the average student-athlete on this campus. There are many student-athletes—swimmers, tennis players, football players, etc.—here, who are serious about both their academic and athletic progress.

The embarrassment this university suffers stems from how those in charge—university administrators and athletic department officials—handle situations as they arise.

Here's a news flash: One administrator—President Robert Maxson in this case—is not bigger than the entire university.

Maxson's friends in high places—like Dawson—continue to use athletics as a scapegoat for university image problems.

Please don't expect us to believe the university is being held back by one or two student-athletes that are more interested in the basketball court than the classroom. In certain circumstances, that is and always will be, the case.

If President Maxson is to continue it will be due to his efforts to get these issues under control. We can't consider something as extreme as eliminating athletics just to relieve his headache.

What we need to do is eliminate administrators and officials who are pushing these kinds of counter-productive ideas.

We should all feel thankful that Dawson is stepping down. He's not a true friend of this institution.

Fans will save next season

Kudos to Student Body President Joel Kostman and Athletic Director Jim Weaver for their recent agreement to let students park for free at Rebel football games next season.

Under the new pact, students with a UNLV parking sticker displayed on their vehicle will no longer pay the \$3 fee at Silver Bowl games.

On Weaver's part, it shows an effort to make students' concerns an issue.

For Kostman, who spear-headed the initiative, this marks another victory in his on-going battle to reduce all types of student fees, from tuition to laboratory charges.

"Students are it hit with fees at every turn," Kostman said. "If a fee is truly necessary, and it's justifiable, I have no problem with it."

"What bothers me is when students are taxed as the solution to every problem."

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.

Letters to the Editor



Sorority member has had enough Biscuits

For anyone who didn't get a chance to read LaMont Biscuits' article Thursday about fraternity members who apparently were caught with their pants down, you really should have.

If you enjoy reading judgmental, stereotypical, unresearched articles that discriminate and offend over 15 Greek organizations at UNLV, you should have read this article.

Biscuits wrote, "Anyone who takes off their clothes to get into an organization needs a reality check." I'm a Greek and I agree that hazing is demoralizing and unacceptable. I'm bothered by Biscuits' article because he based his entire article on the hearsay of one fraternity's actions and judged every Greek organization.

When you make this type of generalization, Mr. Biscuits, are you including all the business fraternities, the black fraternities and sororities, or how about the fraternities that are recognized by the Inter-Fraternal Council that consider themselves a non-hazing fraternity, by offering an associate program instead of a pledge program?

Something I think Biscuits should know is that a pledge can drop their membership at any time. If someone doesn't want to strip down to their birthday suit, they don't have to.

Biscuits even wondered about the amount of "community pillars" who participated in these ritualistic activities, assuming they strictly consisted of beer drinking and hazing. You don't know what it's like, so how can you make such a generalization about every Greek organization? Initiation ceremonies share the bond of brotherhood or sisterhood with the pledges, thereby making them active members of the organization.

Moreover, thanks to Biscuits' article, independent students now think I had to have sex with farm animals to become an active member of my

organization. This is a rumor that I think anyone with common sense would know to be untrue. Never once have I heard of anyone who had to practice beastiality to be initiated into their fraternity or sorority.

Finally to the topic that most Greeks found offensive, "fraternity" is an elitist's euphemism for 'gang.' Biscuits claimed we meet the "three main criteria for gangs: drink beer, scam chics and get into fights." Are you trying to tell me, Biscuits, that you don't drink beer, scam chics and you've never been in a fight? Why do I have a strong feeling that you're lying?

Are you also making the generalization that independent male students don't drink beer, scam chics and get into fights? Surprise! I've been at the Rebel Pub & Grub on numerous occasions where I've seen independents drinking, scamming and even fighting.

With all due respect to the independent students, Biscuits needs to get into a fight to knock some sense into him. Fraternities and sororities are clubs. We are non-profit organizations which benefit both the campus and the community in which we surround. We don't promote murder or rape to be initiated into our "gang."

We promote our philanthropic crusades, because it's something that we can be proud of. A car wash didn't allow my sorority to donate over \$4,800 to Alzhiemer's Disease, nor did it allow us to donate a total off \$5,600 to charities. Other fraternities and sororities have just as respectable donation numbers as we do. So, give me a break and go back to being the ignorant couch-potato that you are, Biscuits.

If Biscuits has such strong views and feels that he represents the independent students at UNLV, then maybe he should write under his real name and not an alias. At least I'm proud to be a Greek.

Candice Clark
UNLV student

Student Spotlight

Should the band have to stop playing the theme from 'The Godfather' at Rebel basketball games?



Tanynee A. Gardner
sophomore
education

Definitely not. The band and it's director should have creative control and freedom as to what music they decide to play at games.



Mike Pacini
senior
music

No, it's just a movie music theme that contributes to the already excited UNLV basketball crowd. Hey! Is it an NCAA infraction?



John D. Church
senior
management

They have been playing it since Rollie has been here. The implication that he has mafia relations is absurd. Play the theme!



Clark Lamping
junior
psychology

At this point, I think the theme the band plays at the basketball games should be the least of the school's concerns.



Amy Youngman
junior
biology

No, what's the big deal it's just a movie.