

Student Body President Joel Kostman responds to "criticism"

By JOEL KOSTMAN
GUEST COMMENTARY

Yes, student government spent approximately \$3500 to renovate the offices located in the Moyer Student Union. However, this money was not spent just for the sake of spending money or to stroke any egos. The money that was spent was an investment. An investment in the people that work in these offices everyday. An investment that has already increased productivity from our directors, thus benefiting you - the students of UNLV.

COMMENTARY

In monetary terms, the investment made to make the offices "liveable" for the people that spend countless hours per week in them was a minimal one. The prices for every item purchased were compared first to ensure the most for every dollar spent. Given the present student government budget, the monies spent on the renovation equates to one-tenth of one-half of one percent if the improvements last only five years! In fact, the nearly 100 hours of labor it took to perform the renovations were all donated by members of student government. The savings brought forth by the students involved with the painting, spackling, moving furniture, renovating cabinets, and donating hundreds of dollars in materials and supplies saved more money than the actual cost of the entire project!

From a management perspective, the project makes perfect sense. If you provide a decent working environment for your employees, they will work harder and look forward to coming in to perform their duties. In student government's case, this has already been proven true.

One thing that should be noted that was overlooked by the *Rebel Yell* was the fact that not one cent was spent on the Executive board offices. All of the paraphernalia in the President, Vice-President, and Senate President's offices are their own-paid for out of their own pockets. Renovations were made for the senators that work for no pay, directors that spend a great deal of time entrenched in their work, and staff members that should be able to take pride in their surroundings.

As far as the "anonymous" senator goes, the statements that he or she made offer absolutely no credibility to this story. This person displays his or her ignorance in the statement in reference to entertainment and programming, "I think we put on maybe one event for students last semester."

If the anonymous senator knew anything at all about student government, he or she would realize that entertainment and programming was one small aspect of what student government is all about. I feel sincerely embarrassed on behalf of student government that this ignoramus is representing hundreds and possibly thousands of students.

Last year, your student government saved you in excess of \$3 million dollars. We stood alone in the fight against escalating tuition costs and arranged for free student parking at the Sam Boyd Silver Bowl. Also, we opened a student lounge to provide services for students on the northern end of campus. In the works, we are currently negotiating a deal that could lead to parking garages on campus.

As a matter of fact, the list of accomplishments achieved by your student government over the last year would take more column inches to list than the *Rebel Yell* could possibly provide us. It almost makes you wonder where the "anonymous" senator was hiding during all of this!

"Last year, your student government saved you in excess of \$3 million dollars."

- Joel S. Kostman
CSUN President

Perhaps more insulting than the "Judas" senator is the continuation line of the story reading, "see waste, page 2." If you would really like to see waste, you need to go no further than the *Rebel Yell*. How many thousands of dollars (thousands of student dollars) have been wasted because of late fees (not getting the paper to the printer on time) and giving out free ad space because of the inability to publish on time?

What we did in Student Government to improve our offices will last for a long time. At the present rate of waste at the *Rebel Yell*, you will have gone thousands of dollars further into the red by Christmas break. This by far surpasses the nearly \$6000 wasted by last year's *Yell* staff for late fees.

It sure is easy to criticize...it's a lot harder to take positive steps towards creating or accomplishing something.

Isn't it?

Joel Kostman is UNLV student body president. This is his response to News Editor Gregory Quinn's article which appeared last Thursday entitled, "Student Government criticized."

Cold Creek Getaway

By ROBERT JOHN ENGLAND
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

You're new on campus. All of a sudden there are a lot of decisions: books to get, living arrangements, class schedules to juggle, along with checkbooks, work, and studying.

For a sane student the busy campus is suddenly small and noisy. Within a short time it's easy to become stressed out. Where can a body find a quiet place to think, study, or unwind? The dorm? Your significant other's place? Moyer Student Union? Not.

But for less than the price of a deli lunch, you can find a cool slice of paradise near Las Vegas. Take a drive north on U.S. 95 through 36 miles of dry desert, past Lee Canyon Road, to the Southern Nevada Correctional Center exit and turn left. Do not stop at the Boot Camp. Follow the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sign and head uphill, continue west for about eight miles on the paved road toward Cold Creek. Perhaps the black crows that often gather at Boot Camp will be your guide?

With increased altitude, the dry gravel-washed countryside changes from creosote scrub, yucca, and Joshua trees to cooler grassy alpine foothills. In springtime brilliant wild-flowers adorn the roadsides and the cool air is sweet.

Just before you enter the hamlet of Cold Creek take the gravel road to the right, and park your shark. There's the grassy foundation of an old homestead at the edge of spring-fed meadows and several picnic tables. You are surrounded by the alpine juniper and sage of Nevada's romantic wild horse country.

Just before you enter the hamlet of Cold Creek take the gravel road to the right, and park your shark.

Across the road a tree-lined pond provides water for wild mustangs and other visitors.

Except for casual horse riders on weekends, you'll find its normally quiet and peaceful. Cold Creek is a special place, perfect for a day outing or an overnight camp.

Almost immediately you're struck by the breathtaking panoramic beauty of the Spring Mountains and wide playa valleys. Overhead, hawks cruise the thermals. Below clutches of quail scurry through the sagebrush.

If camping is your style you'll love the Willow Creek area. Take the winding dirt road and drive slowly for approximately four miles. At the last knoll pull off to the right, and walk up to the lava ridge.

There's every kind of vegetation on the ridge, and the all-encompassing view is unforgettable. Among the willows and knotty pines of the campground flows the precious Cold Creek.

At a culvert, where trail and musical stream meet, miniature fish play hide-and-seek amid watercress. Often there's a fresh breeze from the mountain slope at this point, and a majestic old cottonwood tree provides cool shade for your picnic. The sky is blue and you're alive. What a country!

The camping is primitive. You'll have to haul water and necessities. There are hiking trails up the valley, stands of trees, and plenty of wildlife to observe. With its clear sky, the ridge is a real treat for amateur stargazers and professional astronomers. Early this year a brush fire swept part of the camping area, so please be careful.

Going to Cold Creek is like discovering a piece of heaven. There's an old Indian legend about a beautiful spirit woman who watches over the valley. She'll meet you there. Tell her who sent you.

Vehicle versus pedestrian: accidents that occur

By HEATHER SUBRAN
STAFF WRITER

While campus officials bicker over solutions to the parking problem, students continue to jam the overcrowded lots and jockey for the premium space. Sometimes they have to rush. Sometimes, accidents happen.

A UNLV student was involved in an car accident just outside Rebelbooks last Wednesday.

People rush to and from their classes expecting the drivers to respect their rights to safety, as pedestrians. However accidents continue to occur in which students are badly hurt. The opinion of one Rebelbooks employee, who witnessed Wednesday's accident, is shared by many.

"People tend to drive through that zone at 40, 45, and even 50 miles-per-hour, and I have not seen a policeman out there yet with a ticket. And I understand this univer-

sity is in your (University Police's) jurisdiction. Well, it's time to get out there so things like this won't have to happen."

Witnesses state that the car which hit the student stopped on impact. The student was thrown about 15 feet ahead of the car and was too badly injured to get up on his own.

Metro police, and an ambulance, arrived on the scene just minutes after a Rebelbooks employee called 911.

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