

PERSPECTIVE

REBEL YELL

Student Government Math
 (8 Kegs = 96 Gallons = 12,288 Ounces of Beer)
 1000 Happy, Over 21-Years-Old Tailgaters =
 12.8 Ounces of Beer per Tailgater

Kostman's rash reaction betrays student body

Perhaps UNLV Student Body President Joel Kostman forgot his primary job. Let me remind him. He was empowered by the vote of the student body at UNLV to be the spokesperson between administrators and students. While doing so, serve the people who gave him his job—the students—and see that university brass doesn't step out of bounds. Well, last week Kostman stepped out of bounds himself. In a decision prompted by the brawl involving no more than 50 of the 20,000 members of the UNLV student body, Kostman said that all beer will be removed from events sponsored by Student Government. This decision then forced Entertainment & Programming Director Jamie Nalder to cancel the last three tailgate parties at the Sam Boyd Silver Bowl. Face it. No free beer, no students. But that statement isn't all accurate. The beer Student Government provides isn't free. For every credit a student at UNLV takes \$2.50 is

removed and given to Student Government to spend on our account. And buying beer for students is something I greatly approve of student government doing. And so does Kostman. He was the first Student Government president in the last 10 years to have beer at CSUN events. A move that didn't win him any friends with administrators. So what's the problem now? Vice President of Student Services Robert Ackerman is putting noticeable pressure on the CSUN office to not serve alcohol at tailgates anymore. In a letter to Volume Services, the company on campus that supplies Student Government kegs of beer, Ackerman stated that he advises Volume Services to discontinue their relationship with Student Government. That means that Ackerman advises Volume Services to discontinue relationships with students! Kostman should vehemently oppose any suggestion that is in conflict with the interest of the students. But instead, the president

folded. And by folding he has failed in his duties as student body president. Kostman has failed to ensure that the events, involving beer, that Student Government has sponsored this year have been a huge success. Kostman has failed to stand up for students that are old enough and responsible enough to drink beer at any event, regardless of the actions of a few people. Kostman has failed to point out that the fighting students may have got the beer they drank inside the Silver Bowl and not at the tailgate party. Instead he's accepted that CSUN was responsible for the students drunkenness. In fact, take these numbers into account. Student government served beer for two hours before the homecoming game two Saturdays ago. The area was well controlled, and ID's were checked. Let's assume there were eight kegs (there weren't anymore than that, but it's a relatively small amount of kegs anyway) each with a standard 12 gallons of beer. According to E & P Director Nalder, there were 1,000 people at the tailgate. So simple math shows the following: (96 gallons of beer= 12,288 ounces of beer/1000 over 21-year-old tailgaters= about 12.8 ounces per tailgater.)

Now, I'm no math student, but even the most aggressive drinker, who arrived earlier than anyone else and was looking to get wasted, couldn't have drunk enough Student Government beer to get drunk. The numbers just don't add up and as a UNLV student who helped pay for the beer that night I refuse to get lumped in as the bad guy. But by removing beer from all future student government events that is exactly what Kostman has done. Why did Kostman ban beer at Student Government events? It wasn't at the request of the Director of Athletics, Jim Weaver. According to Weaver, he and Kostman haven't spoken about the ban on alcohol at Student Govern-

ment events; however, Weaver did say he understands the decision and could see how it could have been reached. Would Kostman have bowed to the demands of Ackerman? Last year Kostman told Ackerman to, "kiss my butt." So that is unlikely. So why did Kostman abandon the students? Was the pressure from administrators too



From the Sap
Jay Sapovits

"buying beer for students is something I greatly approve of"

much? Surely not for the man who saved the students 2 million dollars in tuition?
 Jay Sapovits column can be found only in *The Rebel Yell*.

Reginald Denny trial proven to be controversial

Many are unhappy that the men involved in the beating were found innocent of the charge of attempted murder. But those who express dissatisfaction do so out of fear. What they viewed on television during the "riots" scared them, and a guilty verdict would have provided some assurance that violence will be punished, and good, law-abiding citizens can once again feel safe in their homes. These same people did not express such fear following the acquittal of the four Los Angeles police men. This is because they had no reason to be afraid, they would never have to face the kind of harassment and violence perpetrated by the police upon non-white, non-middle class individuals. It is no surprise that the disorders in Los Angeles that led to the beating of Reginald Denny took place. The political violence that ravaged the city seemed inevitable. According to *The National Civic Review*, all of the conditions that national riot commissions identified as causes of urban violence were present. Unemployment, poverty, broken families, inad-

quate schools and housing, and police abuse were issues that had long been ignored. For America's underclass, political channels provide little relief for the issues confronting them. Most politicians are unwilling to challenge the status quo. More importantly, political empowerment means little if most of the important political decisions are made by private industry. Local citizens play a small role in determining their economic reality. Industry continues to opt for locations away from the inner city. Middle and upper class African-American workers are continually pulled from urban areas to the suburbs where jobs are located. As a result, resources are taken out of the inner city and economic revitalization becomes unlikely. The American economic system has been unable to provide adequate jobs with decent incomes for minority men and women. The thousands of people who stand in line waiting for jobs at a new hotel can attest to the fact that it is not individual unwillingness to work,

but it is socio-economic conditions which perpetuate poverty. Any group subject to the poverty and political oppression faced by America's underclass would see its family structure collapse and its members turn to crime. The crime and poverty that occurs, is a result of political, socio-cultural factors, yet those calling for more protection don't see this. In their view, law-abiding citizens must be protected and the "criminals" must be put away. Those who express fear over the ever increasing amount of crime in this country usually call for more police protection and more pris-

ons, but are unwilling to address the real issues. They talk of individual responsibility, denying the need for social responsibility. They speak out of fear, imagining themselves on that unlucky day, happening upon the corner of Florence and Normandy in the middle of all of the violence. The failure of the American system to provide for basic human needs must be addressed. The issues faced by African Americans, Latinos, and other disenfranchised groups are the country's problems. We must all be committed to the restructuring of our economic and political systems to ensure that the needs of all Americans are met. This is the way to prevent future violence.



Staff Columnist
Marianne Dawicki

"America's underclass, political channels provide little relief for the issues confronting them."

The Rebel Yell is your student voice.

SO READ IT.