

Land Shark Dead Ahead

Du-du. Du-du. Dun-du, dun-du, dun-du, dun-du. What's that? I don't see anything. Look out! Ahhhhhhh-hhhhhh!

No, this isn't the shark-chase scene from the movie "Jaws," but it does describe the danger lurking in a concrete sea just a little bit closer to home. You know the one. The UNLV student parking lots.

One usually has no trouble treading water, waiting for the departing student to give up their spot. Except this semester. How about those sharks? You wouldn't think motor-powered predators were capable of such speeds in the shallow waters of the bay. Just as a life buoy would come into sight, several of them would speed up, fin in full view, and alas, no parking spot. There were even two "great whites" trying for the same prey. Both noses were at the entrance of the slip, neither one moving so the other could have access. Both engines were even turned off. Yes, even courtesy is dead.

It shouldn't be this hard to park on campus. After all, big bucks are paid to come to this particular learning institution to study inside the buildings. Why is there a problem with the first step in this process? Simple. Not enough student parking. And why? More and more former student parking has been converted to the staff and metered kind. What is the point? Enrollment is increasing, not decreasing. So why isn't parking expanding as well?

My guess is economics. Regonomics. Comics, or what ever you want to call it. Ballots have been available to students to vote either to keep free parking, or pay a small sum (is there such a thing?) to have more parking facilities, a garage I believe. Tuition costs have been raised. Staff are receiving just compensation, even extra, secret deals. So why is there no more parking? And don't call that dirt lot south of campus a parking lot. Once paved, maybe. But not like it is now, with potholes severe enough to cause havoc to the bottom of most motorized vehicles. So, where is this proposed parking structure that was supposed to materialize near the Thomas and Mack? Could it have been sunk by a shark attack? What life buoy could be thrown in the water to save what little parking places are left?

Well, swimmers, your lifeguard has a rescue plan. Have you noticed this is a town that caters to "the guest?" Casinos offer valet service and self-parking, for the guest, all relatively close to their buildings. Employees, the one whose salaries are paid by "the guest," park on the out-lying lots, often utilizing shuttles to



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cut down on the hike. Why is this university different?

Isn't this a hospitality situation? Students are like guests. They are the ones bringing the money into the university, which ultimately pays the professors salaries. Without students, there are no jobs for the staff. So why are the students being given the far away, out-lying parking, and staff given the closest spots, when it should

be the other way around? (I'm speaking strictly from observation of facts.)

It must be extremely nice to park right outside the building, not having to worry about allowing that extra ten minutes for the trot across campus to make class on time. If things were done a little differently, it could open up more spots for students, who, after all, pay the bills. It could also lead to providing the staff, who do teach the students, with their own parking complete with elevators and shuttles, giving everyone what they want: ample, convenient parking.

First, build the @#\$\$ parking garage already. Make that garage strictly staff parking. There are not as many teachers as there are students, so a smaller structure would have to cost less. Instead of coming up with excuses (well, the students did oppose paying for parking, why make any more room), the staff, the ones who make things happen on campus (staff and regents made decisions regarding major monetary expenditures), could actually get the ball rolling. If just \$10 were collected from each staff member/student at the beginning of spring semester, there should be enough funds to have the facility completed by summer giving staff their own parking and opening up all that front-line parking for the students. No excuses. No delays. Just do it!

Wouldn't it be worth a one-time fee of \$10 not to have the parking hassles? There are more important issues, like education, to worry about than having to wonder, day in and day out, if this will be the lucky day parking won't be a deadly sport, making it possible to attend classes on time, the real reason all of us are here in the first place.

So, get off your lifeguard stand. Patrol the beaches a little more carefully. Let's get rid of the sharks before someone really does get hurt. After all, once there is adequate parking, it will be safe for everyone to go back in the water!

—Jan Williams is an opinion columnist at The Rebel Yell.

A Change at Sea in the Desert?

The Board of Regents may have finally signalled a course change for the University and Community College System of Nevada (UCCSN). By selecting Dr. Richard S. Jarvis as the new chancellor, the Regents placed the UCCSN helm in the hands of a chancellor who promises, at least, aggressive management and clear lines of accountability.

The Regents seemed almost relieved to have the appointment of Jarvis behind them, which is understandable when one recalls the outcry over their maneuvers since January, 1993 to keep the selection process secret. Like so many of the disputes that made UCCSN and UNLV seem like a scene out *The Seahawks*, the straightforward task of interviewing and selecting a chancellor, ended up in court. It took a district judge's ruling to force open the interview sessions, and not incidentally, winnow the field of candidates.

Jarvis, no stranger to the crash and rattle of politics, cut his teeth in a succession of administrative posts in the politically volatile State University of New York (SUNY) system. He has expressed enthusiasm in tackling Nevada's high-visibility problems first. Jarvis sees the upcoming budget presentation to the 1995 Nevada legislature as his top priority, but at the same time, plans to aggressively look for a permanent successor to interim UNLV President Dr. Kenny Guinn.

"I will actively participate in the selection of the new (UNLV) president," said Jarvis, adding that he sees the president's job as "very attractive" and expects "the best people to apply."

Noteworthy among Jarvis' projects at SUNY are the "SUNY 2000" strategic plan and SUNY's undergraduate faculty recruitment program. He will soon hear the call to develop a similar strategic plan for UNLV and the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR).

As UNLV and UNR attract additional faculty, graduate students, and research money, pressure grows on existing instructional resources. But this is like squeezing a balloon; apply pressure here and something's



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going to pop over there. And universities around the country have found that "over there" is undergraduate instruction. Many fine faculty members, previously available for undergraduate instruction at least in part, devote larger blocks of their time to research. This is understandable, given the

money, prestige, and (it must be said) sheer intellectual curiosity on the line.

Still, a dilution of undergraduate instruction must not happen in Nevada, where undergraduates still enjoy lectures by tenured and tenure-track faculty, many of whom are among the best in their field. And Jarvis doesn't intend to let it happen either. "You don't make it (research vs. undergraduate instruction) a tradeoff. We've got to pay attention to the quality of undergraduate instruction. This is the core of our mission," he said.

Jarvis understands the value of research as well, and wants UNLV and UNR to stake their claim as top-flight research institutions. "We have a heavy investment in our graduate students," he said "Graduate education is preparing the next generation of researchers and professors."

One of Jarvis's solutions to the demand for undergraduate teaching faculty and the relatively few number of minority professors was to establish a fund at SUNY that subsidizes the salaries of qualified African-American, Hispanic and Native American faculty. The subsidy is reduced from 75% to 25% over the first three years of tenure-track employment, and according to Jarvis, has been instrumental in getting new faculty off to a solid start.

Subsidies, however, have acquired a bad name for a lot of good reasons. If Jarvis wants to avoid storms over the Sierra with a program such as SUNY's, he'll have to watch the weatherglass of quality of instruction.

But Jarvis is a geographer by profession - his business is maps and charts. If anyone can avoid rocks and shoals, surely a geographer can.

—Jeff Dugan is an opinion columnist at The Rebel Yell.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

The new classroom building complex (CBC) and the Bigelow Physics Building are quite impressive. I would be lying if I didn't say I walked into those respective buildings wide-eyed and amazed. Not only are they beautiful, but they're functional as well. The administration and the Legislature showed much wisdom in servicing the present and future needs of this university in such a manner.

However, after walking in those structures after a while, one important question arose. Just where does one sharpen his pencil in these buildings?

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The Rebel Yell encourages all readers to express their opinion concerning your campus newspaper.

Congress Could Learn Lesson From America's Youth

Last May 18, at the Project Excellence Scholarship Dinner here, 18-year-old Kea Prather stunned an audience of this city's movers and shakers when she told them why so much violence, drug abuse and teenage pregnancy plague the urban areas of America.

"Young people need more things to do and places to go," she said. "Do you realize that within the limits of Washington, D.C., there is not one roller-skating rink, not one underage club? Movies are \$7 a seat . . . Young people need more things to do on a Friday night besides smoke weed, drinking, fighting and having sex."

This bright young woman, bound for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on a scholarship made possible by a grant from The Freedom Forum, was telling us that more prisons and jails alone offered no panacea for rampant crime in any inner city because ghetto teens are already "incarcerated" in communities that offer few jobs or other opportunities within, and little in the way of transportation or other vehicles for getting out.

Kea Prather was offering America a vital element of any



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workable anti-crime bill—an element that President Clinton articulates when he says its not enough to ask young Americans to "say no to drugs" or "say no to sex." Mr. Clinton argues what Kea Prather does—kids need something to say YES to.

The anti-crime bill that just passed through Congress is a monstrosity. It loads on more reasons for capital punishment, which would make this ever-violent society more brutal and more disrespectful of human life.

The sad truth is that both houses of Congress, and the powerful members of both parties, are prisoners of the myth

that if we "just lock 'em up" or "fry 'em" we can incarcerate and execute our way out of our grisly social sickness.

I wish I could lock the Congress up for a few hours and force members to listen to Kea Prather and other Project Excellence teenage scholars who have lived with crime and risen above it. I think these teenagers could stop the political posturing over who is really "tough on crime." I think

they would shame into silence all but the most conscienceless who cry "pork" when efforts are made to provide poor, entrapped American youngsters with something to do "besides smoking weed, drinking, fighting and having sex."

—Carl Rowan is a nationally syndicated columnist.

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