

Editorial

'Serving Students' Should be More Than a Catchphrase

We are here to serve the students has become a popular catchphrase frequently uttered from the lips of such groups as Student Government, University Police and Student Services.

However, while students are paying higher fees and tuition, working more hours outside of school, and supporting a child and/or family, they see little evidence of increased services.

The Department of Public Safety at UNLV is deaf to students needs for increased security patrols and better lighting near parking lots.

Enrollment increases, buildings are constructed, and parking spaces dwindle. According to some, UNLV has no parking problems, there's lots of space for students and visitors to park in the Thomas & Mack Center. (That is when Fletcher Jones isn't having an automobile liquidation sell-a-thon.)

Many students work various odd hours, yet night and weekend classes have not increased.

In order to truly *serve the students*, UNLV departments must be encouraged to hold Saturday and evening classes to accommodate these students.

In addition, the CSUN preschool also needs to extend its operating hours. The on-campus preschool is open until 7 p.m. during the week, except Fridays when it closes at 5:30 p.m. and doesn't offer any weekend hours at all. Yet they claim that they are here to *serve the students*.

The handicapped facilities at UNLV are undeveloped and lacking. Easy access to buildings by ramps, automatic door openers, and elevators needs to be increased and be clearly marked for proper and visible access.

For those who believe that their mission at UNLV is to *serve the students*, take a long look at what services are currently being offered, what improvements can be made, and most importantly, what the fee-paying student needs in services.

To truly *serve the student*, one must understand, listen to and appreciate the student.

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.

Bring Beauregard Back

When thinking of large universities and their identities, you can usually name the their mascot.

The University of Southern California has their Trojan, UCLA has the Bruin, Penn State has the Nitany Lion, and Florida has their Gator.

When people across the country think of the UNLV Rebels, they think and think but cannot name the mascot.

You know the one—Hey Reb! That cowboy looking guy with no eyes and handle bar mustache. Some mascot, huh?

With the extent of UNLV's growth, we need to establish an identity that the rest of the country can see. The perfect mascot for UNLV is a mascot they tossed away some 20 years ago—Beauregard the Wolf.

For those of you unfamiliar with Beau, I'll bring you up to speed. Beauregard served as UNLV's mascot from the late 1950s until the mid 1970s.

Beau wore a gray military field jacket and Confederate hat. The latter turned out to be what was to be Beau's downfall.

"A group of black athletes voiced their displeasure over his outfit," said Don Baepler, current director of the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History.

"He had a connection with the Confederate army and our athletes didn't want that."

Beauregard is the only mascot that can reflect the true history of UNLV. Anyone who knows a little about Nevada history can tell you that UNLV is an offshoot of our sister school to the north, University of Nevada, Reno.

Reno's mascot is a wolf—Beau was designed to look like a "rebel wolf". The reason UNLV adopt-

Straight From the Gully



SCOTT GULBRANSEN

ed the name "rebels" was because of the rebellious view northerners had of Las Vegas' new university.

The obvious problem with resurrecting Beauregard is the fact that his current form reflects racial prejudice. The Confederate flag and uniform are symbols no one would like to publicize. They

represent an ugly time in our history.

I propose we retool Beauregard. Strip him of his Confederate garb and dress him in some new duds.

We are the Rebels who broke away from the tyranny of the north and we need to reflect that with our school's mascot.

To use Beauregard adds character to the university—a face to relate to our history and our future. "Hey Reb" does not represent our university or its history.

UNLV is a young university that needs a sense of history and Beauregard can provide that.

Baepler, who also served as UNLV's academic vice-president in the 70s, agrees that Beauregard is a wise choice.

"If they can reassemble (get rid of his Confederate outfit) Beauregard I think it would be great," Baepler says. "He truly represents what UNLV is all about."

There has also been a push by several UNLV boosters to reinstate Beauregard as UNLV's mascot.

They believe that it is time for the university to "get back to its roots."

Another positive aspect of bringing Beau back would be merchandising. A new UNLV

mascot would be a breath of fresh air for the universities sagging merchandising sales.

At the height of UNLV basketball's popularity (1989-91), we held the distinction of having the top selling college merchandise in the country.

Now, three years later, we are not even in the top 50. To bring Beauregard back with high fanfare would undoubtedly cause an increase in the sale of UNLV merchandise.

Kids all over the western United States would be crying for Beauregard dolls, t-shirts, masks, boxers shorts and even Beauregard bath bubbles! Beauregard might even get his own show on the Nickelodeon network!

Of course Beau would also grace the sidelines at UNLV sporting events.

With UNLV's entrance into the Western Athletic Conference starting in 1996, a new/old mascot would be perfect. Our Rebel Wolf will even be on television several times a year. What would you rather have the country see, Beau or that embarrassing cowboy?

It will take an incredible effort to bring Beau back. I'm not sure we can pull it off. Nevertheless, I'm officially challenging the students of UNLV to petition for the return of Beauregard. Rip a piece of notebook paper from your backpack and start the mission. I'm here to be your voice.

You can start by writing President Guinn and asking him to change our mascot back to Beau. Without the students, it might not ever happen. If you write enough letters, we can change our mascot.

One day soon, I hope to read a small, unassuming tombstone that simply reads:

Here Lies Hey Reb,
He Tried Very Hard,
But He Was No Beauregard.

—Scott Gulbransen is the Opinion Editor at *The Rebel Yell*



UNR Wolf



Beauregard

Nidetch Center Losing Carleton

Flashback: It is 1991 and the UNLV Women's Center is just an idea.

Present: The Jean Nidetch Women's Center at UNLV, in its brand new building named after its primary donor, is a thriving, completely self sufficient part of the university.

A look into the future shows that Mary Ruth Carleton, director of the women's center, is on her way to sunny San Diego—and not for a vacation. On October 14, Carleton is leaving UNLV and heading for San Diego State University to become its development officer of Health and Human Services.

For the first time in its brief history, the women's center will be expected to succeed without Carleton.

The university has started its search for her replacement. You can read the lengthy job descrip-

On Target



CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL

tion and its list of necessary qualifications, but it omits one important part. It doesn't say "giant shoes to fill."

Carleton took the idea of a women's center and developed it into something beyond everyone's expectations.

"I am an optimist," Carleton said. "I was always telling Dr. (Robert) Ackerman (vice president for student services) 'sure we can do that' and I was confident that we could."

Confidence. She has it. She needed it. Three years ago, then-UNLV President Robert Maxson told her she had two years to get the women's center up and running. No problem. And oh, by the way, he added, by the end of the second year your office needs to be completely self-sufficient—including your own salary.

Today, the women's center offers scholarships, workshops,

seminars, career fairs and a re-entry program. Privately raised funds pay for all of these programs and the rest of the center's expenses, including salaries.

Carleton raised those funds. Her original goal was to raise half a million dollars in the first few years. According to her estimates, donations and commitments are now nearing \$1.25 million.

"The success of the women's center is a tribute to the founders group and Mary Ruth's organization," said Ackerman. "While the rest of the university has been suffering cutbacks, the women's center has been incredibly successful."

Carleton's replacement needs to be equally adept at fund-raiser. And the first priority should be to find out how Carleton developed such a good, not to mention lucrative, friendship with Jean Nidetch. After all, it isn't

Please see Carleton—6

The Rebel Yell

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