

Editorial

Presidential Search Off to Slow Start

For the last few years now, we have heard UNLV called a rising star in higher education.

When Robert Maxson announced his resignation last spring, most people thought the empty position would bring in a large number of applicants, one of whom would lead UNLV into the 21st century.

This did not happen.

To date, only 26 candidates have applied.

The events of this past summer, coupled with the turmoil that has surrounded UNLV over the past four years, have obviously hurt the university's chances at landing a quality president.

The university is pulling its way out of a \$10 million deficit and could face funding problems in the years to come. The athletic scandals that have rocked UNLV since the departure of former coach Jerry Tarkanian have taken a toll on the university. Although UNLV athletics has turned the corner into a new era, publicity regarding the past is again hurting the school.

There is no question that academics should be the new president's first priority.

Unfortunately, the next president must first get UNLV on the right financial track and ease our current budget woes. Only then will he or she be able to guide the academic structure of our university.

As a university, we need to make sure the next president will be honest, experienced and visionary.

...

The Rebel Yell would like to congratulate the UNLV Rebel football team and coaching staff on their big win over UNR and their Big West Conference Championship.

The Fremont Cannon is back where it belongs, at UNLV.

The Rebels will represent the Big West in Las Vegas Bowl III. We encourage all to support them on Dec. 15.

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.

The Rebel Yell

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For College Grads Buying a Car Almost Impossible Today

Things are really getting out of hand.

A report in last Friday's *USA Today* says that the average price of a new car has broken the \$20,000 barrier. For the older baby boomer generation making incomes in the six figures, that might not seem too bad. But to students about to graduate from college and make their way in the world, this latest news is a devastating blow to a generation already at an economic disadvantage.

The average income of an American worker is \$400 less than the average price of a new car. Auto makers claim that the increase in price stems from inflation, governmental safety regulations, anti-pollution rules and modern accessories that consumers are demanding. Once again, the car manufacturers refuse to cut into profits and pass the buck to the consumer.

Ten years ago, the average price of a new car was around \$10,000. Just last year, the average was around \$18,000, according to the Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis.

For college students about ready to graduate, this news is very discouraging. Today's college student's are already deep in debt, so their ability to purchase a car once they graduate has decreased.

According to the Department of Education, the average college student (attending a four-year university) is \$12,800 in debt once they graduate. Most of that debt is in the form of student and other loans taken out to pay for college and living expenses. To top it off, 43 percent of

Straight From the Gully



SCOTT GULBRANSEN

recent college graduates also carry over \$2,000 in credit card bills. Add in an average car that costs \$20,000 and that recent grad is \$34,000 in debt.

Some graduates who live in large cities may be able to do without a car, but in the vast western United States, an automobile is \$20,000 of necessity.

While strides in technology have driven up the price of cars in the past 10 to 15 years, auto makers are quickly alienating a generation of consumers in need of their products. The cars that are priced below the \$20,000 average are usually small and lack the safety most consumers are looking for in today's market.

So what does a recent college grad do when it comes time to buy that new car?

My suggestion is to shop, shop, shop!

There are very good deals in the marketplace. I suggest you pick up a copy of the latest *Consumer Reports Car Buying Guide* and read up on the models in your price range. Some of the cars in the \$20,000 range can be had (after around 20,000 miles) for around \$15,000. In that case, the person who bought the car brand new takes the initial hit on the value. They buy it for full-price, and you pick it up a year later at a much better price.

Some consumers are bent on buying that "brand new" car. To them, my only suggestion is count your pennies!

While our generation is at a huge disadvantage when it comes to buying a new car, I'm by no means making excuses. But when you come out of the gate

\$14,000 in the hole, it's awfully hard to get ahead.

The huge increase in the price of automobiles has reached the point of no return. Car manufacturers will probably not roll back their prices ever. What will happen is that a car will no longer be a piece of the American dream. It will be a luxury item only a select few can afford. That will, in turn, create a reliance on mass transit that most cities lack.

I believe in "hands off" government. Call it Republican, conservative or what other label you want to tag it with. The fact remains: the auto industry is out of control. It always has been. It's not about supplying cars for families and individuals anymore. The main aim is just to make cash and move product.

The government needs to regulate (in some manner) the price of cars in this country. If not, the government will pay in the form of funds for mass transit. To put your best and brightest \$34,000 in debt, right out of school, defeats the purpose of an education.

I was told as a child to get a college education for two reasons: to improve myself as a human being and to make a living which provides the necessities of life for myself and my family.

Sadly, the world isn't that way anymore. I would be in a better position to buy a car and a house had I just started working out of high school.

Instead, like a majority of soon-to-be college graduates, I am in debt with no relief in sight.

Things are out of hand.

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

From Generation X to the Tootsie Roll Generation

I missed Generation X by one year. According to those who know, the Xer generation end with 1975 (so technically, my roommate belongs, but since he's a freshman like myself, I have my doubts whether he is truly an Xer).

The label "Generation X" is a cool one. It's original. It even lends itself to catchy headlines (like "Generation SeX" on the cover of *Details* magazine). The label also provides sociologists a convenient classification for yet another generation old enough to tackle those all-encompassing social issues; deviance, stratification and socialization.

The term "Generation X" refers to the group of newborns between 1965 and 1975. Ever since Generation X became a popular phrase, all we have heard is bad things about this group. They are lazy. They expect everything to be given to them because they exist. There is also the fact that they will have to work harder than their parents to achieve a lesser standard of

Smart Remark



ANDREW MARX

living. These characteristics altogether sound like the Xer's seemingly aren't up to the challenge.

Well, that's probably not the truth. The unfortunate thing about grouping everyone together is that not everyone fits that mold exactly. There are many people in Generation X who will work hard and reap whatever benefits there are left when this country's done with us. There will also be people who expect all good things to come to them because they live in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Generation X is bad enough, but now some creative soul has slapped my generation with the label "Generation Y." This sounds more like a sequel to the last generation than a fresh, new classification for a distinctly different generation. We didn't call "baby boomers" Generation W, did we? But in fact, the baby boomers were the generation before X, all our parents who were born after World War II. The "Generation Y" label is

stupid. We aren't even old enough to deserve a label. So where did this idiotic phrase come from and how do I squelch it before it takes off and suddenly everyone is saying, "Y ask Y?" and we become the beer-belly generation?

Well, I figure the best way to take a stand against "Generation Y" is to come up with a name that's better, catchier, more imaginative, and all around, something people will want to talk about.

And of course, I have one. From now on, no more of that awful label for our generation. If we must be given some group identification, then we should be called the Tootsie Roll Generation. We are sweet, stick to everything, and are hard to swallow.

If that isn't enough, try this explanation: "To the left, to the left... to the right, to the right..." And if you don't know what I'm talking about, then you definitely are not part of my generation. Just accept this label. It's perfect for us.

—Andrew Marx is an opinion columnist at The Rebel Yell.