

Editorial

Fees to Help Accomodate Future Growth

With the possibility of a parking fee being instituted here at UNLV, *The Rebel Yell* would like to back the proposal to charge students \$30 per year and staff \$60 per year.

With the amount of growth that has taken place at our university, some facilities have been neglected. The need for some multi-level parking garages has resulted in the possibility of charging a fee to park on our land-locked campus. This fee is neither excessive or unwarranted.

As a campus community, we have been very fortunate to not have had to pay fees for parking on our urban campus. Most schools the size of UNLV, in a city environment, have fees ranging from \$50-\$70 to have the chance of parking on their campus. Several of those schools have issued twice as many passes as they have spaces. To top it off, they have no plans to build additional parking. It is simply a user fee.

At UNLV, the plan is to charge a fee to build more parking spaces. While some upperclassmen may never see the garages become a reality, as a community we must pay for improvements at our university.

We suggest that this fee be charged with tuition. If the student does not have a vehicle, then they should be exempt from the fee. This would also make it possible for students to pay for their parking fee with financial aid funds. That way, students who receive aid will not have to spend out-of-pocket money on parking.

With UNLV ranking amongst the best bargains in American education, the time to pay our share has come. Students and faculty have to realize, as driving is a privilege, so is parking on a college campus.

We are at a cross-road in the history of our university. The decision we make now will impact students for the next 10-to-15 years.

Let's make sure we make the right choice.

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.

Parking Fee Good for UNLV

A committee made up of UNLV faculty and staff members has recommended that the university begin charging a fee for students and staff to park on campus. They say this fee is necessary to raise funds to build much needed parking garages on our land-locked campus.

Straight From the Gully



SCOTT GULBRANSEN

The proposed fee would be \$30 per calendar for UNLV students and \$60 per calendar for faculty and staff. The fee would generate funds to build a couple different multi-level garages on the campus.

With the amount of growth and the accompanying loss of existing spaces, this fee is not excessive and is long overdue.

For those who disagree with the idea of a parking fee, consider this: UNLV is one of the only schools of its size in the country that does not charge its students to park on campus.

Students at UNLV are indeed a spoiled bunch. Whenever the university mentions any type of fee increase, students gripe and complain and claim the administration is out to screw students.

These same students turn their heads the other way as UNLV's student government spends \$15,000 to entertain themselves with lavish parties at local country clubs.

Talk about contradictions.

While it is important to contain costs for the students at UNLV, those same students must realize that our growing university needs facilities that only student fees can generate. No one is going to donate \$700,000 to build a much needed parking garage on the campus of this school. The wealthier members of the Las Vegas community might be will-

ing to donate \$1 million to have their name grace the side of a physics building but no one wants the honor of having their name plastered on a parking garage.

The other source of funds that would help in the building of these parking garages would be bonds that were originally approved to build Greek housing at

UNLV. Due to problems with building costs, those Greek facilities failed to materialize.

"Some of the fraternities involved underestimated the cost of building a house," vice-president of Student Services Dr. Robert Ackerman says. "We then tried to buy existing buildings (University Park apartments on Maryland Parkway) to facilitate Greek housing but the land would cost too much and wouldn't be affordable to students."

Ackerman believes the establishment of Greek housing is important and the university will continue to formulate a plan to make it a reality.

But in the interim, parking is a problem that affects the greatest amount of students on campus.

The main argument of those who oppose a parking fee is simple: why should students and faculty pay for a garage that might not be finished until they have left UNLV?

That argument is selfish and one-sided. As a university community, we must even pay for facilities that we ourselves might never utilize. It is a case of putting our university and its future ahead of our own self-interests. Think of it as being a group of pioneers willing to endure some hardship so that future generations may fair better than

ourselves.

In life there are always fees we must pay which don't always benefit us directly. The case of a student parking fee is the same. Of course it is different if you're currently a UNLV freshman or sophomore. For you, the results will be apparent in your junior or senior year.

For three years I have heard students complain about the lack of parking. Now is your chance to put your money where you're mouth is.

UNLV will lose two important student parking lots this coming calendar year. The construction of the new music complex will erase parking spaces on the north end of campus near Cottage Grove. Another building, the architecture building, will start construction in the near future and cut 500 more spaces off of Brussels Road and Tropicana. While the school's parking problem may be in its early adolescence, the problem will only continue to grow over the next 12 months.

UNLV is already one of the best bargains in higher education. For students to pay an extra \$30 per year to park on campus is far from excessive. If the fees are not created, parking will only get worse and students will complain more.

Like those visionaries who pictured Las Vegas as a resort destination over 60 years ago, the UNLV community must also have vision. They must have the vision to look toward the future. The vision to predict, the best they can, the needs of the university for the next 15-20 years.

If not, all that has been accomplished here over the past 10 years may be our undoing.

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

Nothing New Under the Sun

Newt.

We hear the new House Speaker's name often. Yet, do we really know who he is?

Right now most see him as the poster boy for the new conservative movement that has temporarily taken hold of American politics. The wagging tail of a Republican takeover of congress.

Some see him as a revolutionary. Others see him as the new loudmouth of the right taking pressure off Bob Dole who wants to look Presidential for 1996.

I try to think of myself as a moderate, and that most of us are really moderates once you get through the propagandized red tape. That Yin-Yang approach to politics helps one to see Newt for what he really is: A typical Politician who is riding his fifteen minutes of fame with glee.

To start with, we must look at his recent barrage of tabloidesque headlines and how he has dealt with them.

We are all familiar with one of his solutions to the welfare system: government controlled orphanages. His defense of this absurd idea is to go out and rent the 1938 movie "Boy's Town". Let me get this straight; a conservative supporting a large, expensive (eight times more expensive than the ADC program it replaces), government controlled

Moderately Speaking

DAVID KANAAN

bureaucracy, and then defending it with a sugar-coated, idealistic movie of yesterday? Hypocrisy with a dash of fantasy.

We have also seen him waffle with the

best of them. Changing his mind about immigration, a multi-million dollar book deal (like that money isn't going to come from other places after he saved face for the new GOP), and firing the House historian after disagreeing with her methods.

We must note that his position on immigration changed magically at the National Restaurant Association's annual meeting at which he was a speaker, proclaiming he was, "a very strong supporter of legal immigration." I'm sure he and good buddy California Governor Pete Wilson shared a laugh afterwards.

We must not forget his refusal of the big book deal, and the grimaces of fellow Republicans Bob Dole and posse as they stood behind him at the press conference to announce his integrity in refusing the big bucks. I, personally, would love to see how much his campaign war-chest grew after that one, and from where the money came.

Was the former House historian wrong in teaching children the Nazi's point of view, no matter how awful, in order to prevent future holocausts?

Or did he do as most typical politicians do and react politically and ignore the facts of the situation in favor of the image that could be manipulated by angry liberals looking to bring down the new conservatives?

Don't get me wrong, I'm not out to roast the guy, or the Republicans in general. As a matter of fact, I think there are some positives in the Republican's agenda. Welfare reform, smaller government, and less spending being some of them.

It seems there are powers at work to make the guy real easy to swallow, and we should be wary of this.

The best illustration of this is the recent fiasco over what his mother said to Connie Chung during an interview, saying Newt thought Hillary Clinton was a bitch. Look at who benefited and who suffered. Newt was made victim and hero, while the stigma of "bitch" landed straight in the face of the first lady and stayed there. His hands are far too clean to be innocent.

In a year or two, I'd like to bait an old and tired America into saying what it really thought of the new Speaker and ask:

"Why don't you just whisper it to me, just between you and me."

—David Kanaan is an opinion columnist at *The Rebel Yell*.

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