

**Editorial**

## Recreational Improvements Needed at MSU

Plans to build parking structures to be paid for, in part, by a parking fee charged to students and staff has brought to light the fact that our campus is growing—rapidly.

One area of concern that has come to our attention is the Moyer Student Union. While we appreciate the facilities that are currently offered, it is our impression that much more needs to be offered, especially in the area of recreation and leisure activities.

Projected growth estimates of a student population of 30,000 over the next 10 to 15 years are probably not far off. While UNLV just hit the 20,000 mark for the first time, before we hit 30,000, a number of upgrades need to be made.

Students who live on campus find little in the way of recreation and leisure activities available at the MSU currently. One small game room hardly seems to be enough to lure perspective students to our fine campus.

Some suggestions we might make would include a larger game area, to include electronic games, pool tables, ping pong as well as various table games such as chess and backgammon.

Also, a pub or lounge is sorely lacking. Most large universities have a pub within their student union. It allows students of drinking age to combine a night out with UNLV campus life.

Entertainment for students need to be increased. Bring in bands to play at the pub or the ballroom in the meantime. Not for \$20, but up-and-coming bands that just want to play. Tickets should be \$3 or \$4. Use the ballroom—it's a great place to see a band.

Again, these are just suggestions, but let's get creative now. The student body deserves a true campus community. Yes, we are here to get an education, but nobody can study 24 hours a day.

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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## New President Must Solve Problems Plaguing UNLV

It was the week before finals this past fall and UNLV students felt their stress level reach a fevered peak. Full-time students had to endure either four or five finals in five days. That in itself was enough to force some of us to drink mass quantities of coffee and eat heavily sugared foods in order to weather the storm.

For some students it was much worse than that. As I sat in a review for a political science course, my instructor informed us at what time our final would take place. Then, with a sudden burst of excitement, five students raised their hands.

These five students then informed our instructor that they were scheduled to take another final exam at the same time as his. Clearly these students read their schedules wrong.

After a double check, it turned out that our fine university had indeed scheduled two finals for the same exact time. To make matters even worse, both were scheduled for the same classroom as well! As a result, our final was delayed a few hours and a majority of those five students had to take three finals back-to-back-to-back. This occurrence was not an isolated incident. It happened countless times during finals week.

So much for the academic best interests of students.

UNLV's new president has quite a mess to clean up. Most students around campus can tell you their favorite horror story thanks to UNLV's administrative mess. Everything from residency problems to registration nightmares. Things seem to get worse with every passing semester.

Having seen three-years of these little disasters, it seemed a good time to bring them to this forum.

**Straight From the Gully**



**SCOTT GULBRANSEN**

First, how can a major university schedule two finals at the same time? Obviously not every system is perfect. During finals, as mentioned, students are under a huge amount of stress. To force some students to endure additional stress because of an oversight by the university is simply unfair. The students mentioned had to take

three finals in one day. Does the university feel students are sadomasochists?

With instructors just as eager to end the semester, they do not want to correct the mistake by allowing their students more time to prepare. So once again UNLV students become the victims.

Another huge oversight by the former UNLV administration was the failure to move the school's registrar's office to the new student services complex. To complete some transactions, students must travel the whole campus just to get one piece of paper signed. You can register for classes in Frazier Hall but you have to walk to the Student Services Complex to pay for that same class.

It is not just mistakes that drive students on campus crazy, it is the fact that many of these offices lack simple logic. How difficult can you make an easy process?

There are some cases when students themselves are the party to blame. As a group, students tend to be absent-minded and forgetful when it comes to deadlines. Employees around campus will be the first to tell you that. What they won't tell you is that the university itself seldom meets any of its deadlines.

It is easy for me to point out the inadequacies that plague our university. It is much more difficult to offer suggestions on how to improve these problems.

Here are a few suggestions I have compiled after talking to several UNLV students:

- Check, re-check and re-check the final exam schedule to make sure there are no overlapping times. Also, establish a response system if there are mistakes with the final exam schedule.

- Establish a committee to oversee and discuss the policies of UNLV's student services and their offices. This committee should be composed of students, instructors and staff members.

- Follow-up on student complaints concerning bad service. The cost of education today is high and students should be treated like paying customer—not an inconvenience.

These are just a few suggestions to make the system work with the interest of students in mind.

The most intriguing suggestion was the establishment of a committee to oversee and suggest ways to improve student services at UNLV. This would allow students to voice their opinions and make a difference. Some might suggest that this job falls under the roof of student government.

I say no.

If this committee can become a reality, it should not be associated with CSUN. Instead, it should be a direct dialogue between students and the faculty and staff of UNLV. To have it bogged down in another bureaucracy would defeat the purpose of even establishing the committee.

The next UNLV president has quite a job ahead. Students have been treated poorly at UNLV for much too long.

Then again, if the new president is anything like the last one, students will get the shaft again.

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

## WANTED: A Sign of Life on Campus

Campus activities. Oh, campus activities. Wherefore art thou campus activities.

After watching John Singleton's *Higher Learning*, I got to thinking how inactive and just plain boring this campus is. No, I don't want a bunch of skinheads running around shooting people. Nor do I want an increase in the number of rapes on campus.

At most colleges, not a day goes by without some club or group holding some sort of campus activity or rally. Everyone knows UC Berkeley is a hot bed of political activism. At Stanford, 7,000 brainiacs pack their gym for women's basketball games. At every other campus I have visited there are campus activities galore. Students want them. Students go to them.

Ah, but we at UNLV are different. We don't believe in campus activities. And the ones we do have, mainly athletic events, we don't go to.

It is clear that we don't care about athletics. UNLV used to be Basketball U, but even in those

**On Target**



**CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL**

days, the Thomas & Mack Center wasn't filled with students.

OK, so no one cares about athletics. We are too busy with our own clubs, right?

There are countless clubs and organizations on campus. But, besides the occasional cookie sale or posted flyer, have you ever seen a club do anything? If a club has a name, but no one has ever seen them and they've never had an activity, do they exist?

Quick! Besides the football pep rallies, if you can call them that, name an event held at the Alumni amphitheater. We at UNLV have a great amphitheater to go with our great apathy. Nothing going on in the amphitheater is the norm. When something is happening in front of the Moyer Student Union or the amphitheater, we are surprised. How dare someone put on an activity! Don't they know we don't care? Don't they know they aren't supposed to do that?

CSUN Student Body President Stephanie Boixo pledged to increase campus activities when

she was seeking election. Well, anytime now Stephanie. Or maybe Boixo is just doing what her constituents want. Nothing.

Drive to school. Go to class. Drive home or to work. That appears to be the typical UNLV student's schedule. Just think, if somehow we could take correspondence classes at home, we could save all that commute time.

UNLV is a commuter school. A large chunk of the student body works full-time and goes to school on the side. These people could care less about what is going on around campus. They choose to miss out on what is known as the "college experience."

Since we don't spend any time attending campus activities we should have all had plenty of time to become well-versed on Shakespeare. So here it goes...

To be or not to be? That is the question. Is UNLV going to be a college where students are active and have a vast array of experiences, or is UNLV just some place where people come and go to class?

—Christopher Mitchell is an opinion columnist at *The Rebel Yell*.