

Editorial

Changes at Library Done Without Students in Mind

The recent renovations that were just completed at the Dickinson library may have provided much needed room for library staffers but it has created a new problem for the students of UNLV.

The renovations eliminated a very popular study spot for many students at this university—the reserved reading room.

The space was cleared to make room for a new and improved reference section on the first floor of the library.

While the need for improvements to the existing building goes without saying, the changes were made without students input. There are other study areas in the library but the reserved reading room was the quietest, and most effective, study area on campus.

This is just another in a long line of administrative actions that have been executed without the input of a great number of students. With the growth UNLV has seen over the past few years, students and faculty need to have a voice in deciding what actions will be taken.

The Rebel Yell would like to spearhead any effort to establish some student-at-large committee or establish a series of informational meetings to let students know what is going on.

E&P Director's Resignation Long Overdue

This past Monday, CSUN Entertainment and Programming Director Laura Reeves resigned her post citing a "lack of support" as a reason for her poor performance.

No matter what support the office may have gotten, the fact that events for students were not planned is what is important.

The E&P office is one that does not have a strong history. Campus activities are the heartbeat of any college campus. UNLV has been suffering too long.

Hopefully, this change will be a good one and will allow for more activities on our campus.

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.

Note to Students: Leave Your Portables at Home!

Ever since I was a small child I have been fascinated with the world of electronics. After all, I was part of the "Atari Generation."

You remember the wonderful Atari 2600 game system, don't you? Games like Pong and Pac-Man were just a few of the high-quality video games that system provided for us as we crept into adolescence.

But as most of us entered our college years, the explosion of the personal computer occurred. The educational system in America quickly recognized the potential of computers and started a curriculum anticipating the continued growth of the PC.

So, here we are in 1995. The PC has revolutionized education and close to 40 percent of American homes have some type of personal computer in them. Our society is slowly moving from a paper base to one based on hard drives and CD-Rom's.

I support this switch, although, I must admit that reading a book is still more enjoyable than reading a computerized version.

In the past few years, computer shoppers have recognized the advantages of owning a portable computer. No longer does one have to be a slave to the machine sitting in den. Now, computers

Straight From the Gully



SCOTT GULBRANSEN

the size of a small notebook have flooded the market and have been selling like condoms at a swingers party.

Students at UNLV have also recognized the convenience of owning a notebook computer. You can simply take your electronic notebook with you and type your professor's lecture. No longer do college stu-

dents have to suffer from the dreaded "writer's cramp."

To top it off, you have a nice, neat and organized version of your notes. That makes it easier when it comes time to study for mid-terms.

These electronically hip students have forgotten one little fact: YOUR TYPING IS ANNOYING!

I have a notebook computer as well as a PC at home. I would love to take my laptop to class and type my notes. But I realized that the keys are too loud and that it would be a distraction to my fellow classmates. Unfortunately, many of you haven't realized that fact or worse, you don't care.

In a class last week, a student beside me was typing away when the professor interrupted telling him that the typing was interfering with the lecture. The student was asked to move to the back of the class. I was thankful

but I soon realized I could still hear his lightning fast typing even from a distance.

While I am glad to see students recognize the power of the computer, there is a time when your convenience interrupts the educational process of others.

It's all fine and dandy that you have your notebook computers and you're on the cutting edge of technology but leave them at home. Type your notes later when it is not distracting to the other students who share a classroom with you. It's nothing personal.

I take that back, it is personal. I paid for the class along with the other 30 to 40 students. I have a right to hear the lecture with as little distractions as possible.

There are already many notebooks that have keys so quiet you can't hear them. Most of them are out of the typical price range for students. Hopefully, in the next few years, that will change.

Until that time, if you're a student with a computer that has loud keys, leave it at home or wait until after class to type in your notes.

Believe me, you'll make many more friends that way.

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

Campus Activities Do Exist — You Just Have to Look

It's been commented on that UNLV is one of the least united schools in America. Compared to U.C. Berkeley or Arizona State, UNLV has almost no unified school spirit.

Time after time, students complain that there is little to do on campus and nothing exciting ever happens. There are no protests, rallies, or naked people walking around. Although the latter would add spice to this semester, I doubt we can look forward to anything that exciting happening any time soon. However, there are plenty of other extracurricular activities to partake in if anyone bothers to take time out and look for them.

I dare all those who complain that this campus is so boring to admit when was the last time they attended a football game, basketball game, baseball, softball, or any of the other athletic events that our school offers. If our school has nothing going on then what's wrong with seeing any of the various plays that are offered all semester long at the Judy Bailey and Black Box Theaters?

Are you a music lover? Then what's wrong with heading over to Artemus Hall to hear a concert, band, or other featured event? Still not enough to keep you entertained? What about the different clubs that they have listed in the activities office: skiing, hiking, etc. . . . If none of these attractions attract your intellect then why not choose to head over to the Natural History

Visions

SHIFON FOSTER

Museum or the Beam Fine Art Gallery every once and while to wander among their ever-changing displays and shows?

I really question that it is the lack of activities that is truly at the heart of everyone's discourse. I think there is a much larger problem that needs to be addressed.

Before any protest can be made or rally be organized, the students on campus must first get together in order to find out what they all agree or disagree upon. As members of the student body, we must all learn to get involved and take a more active roll in what happens to "our" school, beginning in the classroom.

The only way we can begin to create a school spirit is if we all decide not only to get involved with campus activities, but also by getting involved with each other. It seems to me that most students on campus are only concerned with their own affairs. Whenever I go into the Moyer Student Union, especially after rush hour, almost every table is occupied by only one person. This seems so ridiculous to me, and yet, I know it's the norm.

As Christopher Mitchell (a former *Rebel Yell* columnist) so aptly put it in his opinion column a couple of weeks ago, this is for the most part a "commuter school." Most of us know the drill, some better than others. We go to class, get out our books, listen to the lecture, put away our books, leave, and go to work. This scenario has been true for

me also. In the two and half years I have attended UNLV, I think I know about five people by name. I know it's not because I'm anti-social, but there rarely seems time to chat and get to know anyone in class.

When I first arrived on campus, I quickly realized how difficult it was to meet people here. I thought it might be a good idea if I joined a sorority as an ideal way to meet new people. However, by the time they gave me the run down on their list of fees and dues, I was speechless. But, I refuse to give up.

Now that I'm about to graduate, I have made the conscious decision to put myself out there by getting involved and communicating with the rest of the student body. Even if I have to go it alone, I have decided to go to more plays, gallery shows and sporting events. That includes writing for *The Rebel Yell*.

I admit it hasn't been easy, but I encourage everyone, even those who are shy, to talk to at least one new person a day. It really does help build up your self-esteem. And to those already involved with a large circle of friends, is it really too much to ask someone who isn't involved to join your group? You never know, you might meet your new best friend in the process. After all, the college years are supposed to be the best time to forge relationships that last a lifetime.

—Shifon Foster is an opinion columnist at *The Rebel Yell*.

The Rebel Yell

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS PHONE (702) 895-3479
4505 MARYLAND PARKWAY FAX (702) 895-1515
LAS VEGAS, NV 89154-2011

JAMES EMBREE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

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