

Tom & Jerry's vs. MSU

To UNLV or not to UNLV: that is the question.

One of the items of the Student Senate agenda Feb. 13 was to approve funds for an entertainment event at either Tom & Jerry's Pub or MSU.

Senate President Pro-Tempore Patrick Smith was the major spokesperson for the event, asking for \$1,700 to foot the bill.

Those for and against it being off campus had good points.

First of all, why have a CSUN-sponsored event off campus?

Because it might increase attendance, as students don't like to party where they go to school.

What about those that are under 21 years of age? (As many UNLV students are.)

T&J's might allow underage students in if they sit in the restaurant portion, which is where the entertainment section is located.

Could security be added so underage students could attend?

Yes, no. First they said ... then they said ...

What is the maximum number of people T & J's can hold?

About 150, give or take (UNLV has a student population of 20,000+).

Why not have it at UNLV — keep the event on campus?

Not as many people would attend.

Why?

Most universities have student activities. It is the backbone of being able to develop loyalty and pride for your school. It involves you in aspects of college life many take for granted or just down-right don't care about.

Has UNLV had student events accessible to the majority of the student body?

Yes.

And no.

First, it's hard to generate school spirit at this university for some reason. No one person is to blame, and one person can't fix it. But together we, the students, can come to some kind of understanding.

...

So why have entertainment events on campus?

Observation Deck

JAN WILLIAMS

First of all, everyone knows where campus is. Second, it would cost less to rent out your own facility than to pay someone else rent on theirs, which

converts into lower, even complimentary admission prices. Third, if the event is memorable, pleasant thoughts will stay with students about that event, thoughts which are ultimately associated with the location the event took place at.

Now the "why nots" for the campus event.

First, there seems to be a stigma of not wanting to return to campus on our "off" time. "I have a life" seems to influence this trend, keeping many from coming back to school for fun events just because they have to come to campus for the not-so-fun events, like homework and tests. Then there's the social thing. Bars, pubs and taverns are like a second home to many students who indulge in the "party" life. Why not have an event in a bar, complete with food and alcohol, on your off time than have the event in a smoke-free campus location? Third, an off-campus location provides anonymity and socializing that many students seek when away from school.

The question then remains: should CSUN events for UNLV students be held on or off campus?

As you can see, there are two sides to this issue. Which one wins out is unknown at this time, but your voice, your opinion, you the student can make the difference.

The Student Senate meets Mondays at 6:30 p.m. (except holidays) on the 2nd floor of MSU to discuss issues from entertainment events, academic concerns and other issues involving the expenditure of student funds. All students are encouraged to attend.

—Jan Williams is the News Editor at The Rebel Yell.

Boixo, O.J. and Harter

After learning of the \$230 in parking fines that CSUN president Stephanie Boixo had avoided paying, the students of UNLV responded loudly.

The arrogance of Boixo angered many students and most of them felt it their responsibility to talk out their anger with me while I was walking on campus last Thursday.

Out of the 30-40 students that I talked to, nearly 100-percent of them were shocked and angered over Boixo's actions. For some students, it would be enough for Boixo to pay her fees and issue an apology to the students of UNLV. Still, others called for her ouster and offered to start a campaign to have the president impeached.

No matter which way you look at it, the students of UNLV have had enough. They are tired of scandal and the preferential treatment some people receive on this campus. The Boixo ticket issue has some students questioning the purpose of student government.

"Why do we need an organization that is meant to be elitist," one student said. Another yelled "Why don't we just disband CSUN. They don't do anything for me."

While it would be easy to offer the elimination of student government as an answer to the problems, it is not a viable solution.

There might be some people in student government that are out for their own self-interests, but it would be unfair to say that all involved just want to fix tickets and use power for their own gains. Some want to improve the university and make a differ-

Straight From the Gully



SCOTT GULBRANSEN

ence. Boixo happens to be one of those student government officials who is out for personal gain. But have some faith in the system. It is yours and you have a voice to speak out so use it.

There were also students who were very upset over a column that ran last week in this section titled "O.J. Hiding From the Fact He's Black," (*The Rebel Yell*, Feb. 16, page 5).

A student came to the offices of *The Rebel Yell* claiming to have 1,000 signatures on a petition to have the writer fired for his racist-slanted views. Little did the petitioner know that Jeffrey Hart, the author of the column, is a syndicated columnist and doesn't physically work at the *Yell*. His column comes to us courtesy of King Features Syndicate.

Some people may then ask why we printed it if it represents racist attitudes. We felt it was important to print because we strongly disagree with some of the points that it makes. It is much more important that we print the column than just toss it in the trash can. It reveals the fact that there are still people who think and feel the way Hart does.

Many people have tried to make the killing of Nicole Brown-Simpson and Ronald Goldman into a racial issue. We do not believe it has anything to do with race.

Murder knows no skin color. If it was a white athlete killing his white wife or a black athlete killing his black wife, race wouldn't have been mentioned.

It is better to expose people

like Jeffery Hart than to hide their views. If his views remain hidden, then they are far more dangerous. Now, we all know where he is coming from. That is what an opinion page is all about. It's about expressing and sharing opinions no matter how deplorable they may be.

I will be the first one to admit that I was pulling for the other UNLV presidential candidate. I believed Bill Shelton of Eastern Michigan was the more qualified candidate to run this university.

Once I told my female professors and colleagues that, they labeled me a sexist. Were they joking? Yes and no.

I don't believe Carol Harter was the best choice because of her lack of big university experience. Coming from New York State College at Geneseo was in my eyes like working in television in Ames, Iowa and getting a job in New York City. I just didn't think she was the right candidate.

Not one time did I mention her gender in my decision. I want the best person for the job to run this university. If it is a woman, man or a hermaphrodite I don't care just as long as they run the school correctly.

I will say this, I have not spoken to Harter as of yet. My mind can be changed and maybe it will be but I still believe choosing Harter was a mistake for the reasons I mentioned briefly above.

Hopefully, I will be proven wrong. At this crucial stage in the history of UNLV, a mistake might prove fatal.

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

Student Services Must be Priority

Change seems to be all too common at UNLV. This can cause frustration and makes establishing traditions difficult.

It is easy to get bent out of shape at all the inconvenience that change brings.

We have to remember that this university has grown from nothing to a large state university in a matter of decades.

When we look at other large universities, especially from the older, wiser midwestern and eastern United States, we see a great deal of difference. They seem to be more efficient, organized and have a student-services infrastructure far superior to ours.

And they should be better. They have had over a hundred or so years to find solutions to college problems.

Let us remember that just 20 years ago, our university was half its current size. While we have added new and impressive buildings, and at least aesthetically pleasing housing, many older buildings and the basic campus design were built for less than half as many students.

One can argue that the last president was more interested in keeping appearances than substantial educational gain.

This superficial mentality has side effects such as an unaccredited architecture school and an education school that its own city

would rather not hire from.

The "nice on the outside, mediocre on the inside" moniker can be placed on many of UNLV's programs.

New UNLV president, Carol Harter, should look deep into the problems that plague our campus. She should lose the typical administrative myopia caused by college ranking booklets and basketball titles.

I propose putting a freeze on new buildings until our current buildings work. The new student services buildings are great examples of how the proper time and input wasn't used in order to create a building that is student friendly.

The new offices for financial aid and the cashier were desperately needed. As one walked inside they soon saw something very familiar — one or two students, not professional financial aid workers, as the university's front line against the students.

The same can be said of the cashier's office. The new cashier digs are just as small as the old ones. It seems to me that this office was just an after-thought after construction began.

Two weeks ago Bill Robinson, a UNLV professor, wrote a column for *The Rebel Yell* indicating the changes he thought the university needed. His wisdom is proof that the faculty must play an important role in improving the educational as well as structural

direction of the university.

UNLV must start to understand that one has to pay good money to get good services and people.

We have to hire more student service help. We also have to hire more professionals and stop putting important positions in the hands of under-qualified and over-stressed students.

Wouldn't it be nice to go to the financial aid department and deal with one of the counselors directly?

We have to put the students first. This will, of course, cost money.

We can't keep letting student services be the scapegoat for budget cuts while new buildings pop up left and right.

We are lucky to have Carol Harter. She brings a positive attitude to a university in desperate need of one. She is from a large university system and will give us a fresh perspective on what can and should be done.

Ironically, in order to succeed, we are going to have to break one of our own dubious traditions.

We have to stop the jockeying for position among the university elite and give the new university president the respect and mobility she deserves.

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

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