

Editorial

A Year of Upheaval and Change at UNLV

With the year winding down and finals just around the corner, now is a good time to reflect on what has been another event filled year at UNLV.

This year was marked by an amazing amount of turnover in many areas of the university. The 1995-96 year will bring EVEN MORE CHANGE TO UNLV, a new university president and a new athletic director to just name a few.

After the turmoil that has occurred over the past five years, the university truly has the ability to start from scratch once again.

Academics will have a new beginning under Carol Harter, the football program will continue their success of a year ago under Jeff Horton, and the mess that was once known as UNLV basketball will again be lively under new coach Bill Bayno.

The next few years will either make or break UNLV. The university has experienced an incredible amount of growth in the past decade and made great academic strides.

There is still much work to be done in regards to academics at UNLV. While the school is a respected national university, academic growth must continue so that it will be respected on an international level.

The tools to make UNLV into one of the best universities in the nation are here. It will take a strong vision and hard work to climb the ladder to increased respectability.

This climb to respectability needs to be a combined effort on the part of each and every faculty member, student and staff member of UNLV.

The Rebel Yell will continue to inform students on the events that effect their education and lives on campus.

We hope that next year will also mark a time of improvement and be filled learning experiences and growth.

Have a great Rebel summer UNLV!

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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Once a Rebel, Always a Rebel

I've thought about writing this column for about a month now. But what am I to say? After spending three years of my life at UNLV and *The Rebel Yell*, how do I say goodbye?

I guess I don't. Although I graduate from UNLV a week from this Saturday, my relationship and involvement with this university is far from over. I put too much time and effort into this place to just forget about it after graduation. Being a patriotic individual, I feel that it is a student's responsibility to keep track of what happens at their university — no matter how long ago they graduated. And that is exactly what I plan to do.

I remember the day I came to UNLV in the fall of 1992. It was the end of August and I drove into town with a sense of excitement rushing through my head. I felt comfortable at UNLV and I felt it was the place where I would blossom into the person I wanted to be.

I figured the fastest way to succeed no matter where you were was to work hard and be involved in as much as you could. My first call went to the radio station, KUNV. I had inquired about working there even before my arrival but now I was ready to put up, not shut up. I was a Communications major and I felt that the most important thing for me to do was gain the experience I needed to be successful upon graduation.

It was then that I met this caustic, insulting guy named Jay Sapovits. He was the Sports Director at KUNV and I informed him of my interest in sports radio. At first I hated him. He insulted me on the air and was constantly on me about one thing or another. I couldn't understand why someone would want to insult someone they worked with on a daily basis. After a while he wore on me and I started insulting him back. It was then that I realized that he had taught me an important lesson: you need to be thick-skinned if your going to make it in the world of broadcast. It was an important lesson that I will take with me the rest of my days.

Another person I met through working at KUNV was this tall, lanky blond kid that always seemed a little down. Chris Jones smiled, I think, four times in the first six months that I knew him. I guess you could call him a pessimist of sorts. But after we all started hanging out together, "Jonsey", as we call him, changed. He might still have been a pessimist, but the mixture of our personalities made up a strange concoction that made us all laugh. As it turned out, Jones became the Sports Director at KUNV and we've been working together my whole tenure at UNLV. He's become a fine broadcaster and will be a great professional.

One of our unsung heroes at KUNV during my three years as been my brother, Matt. He was responsible for the production of over 90 percent of our broadcasts at KUNV. He was the engineering wizard that brought you some of the best broadcasts of UNLV athletics heard in the valley. Without him, the show would have failed. Thanks little brother!

I cannot express in words how valuable a tool KUNV has been for

Straight From the Gully



SCOTT GULBRANSEN

me. Without it, I wouldn't be ready to hit the world of broadcasting head-on like I have been able to. I served as an intern at a local television station but the most valuable experience I gained was at KUNV. Anyone who is going into broadcasting that doesn't utilize it is cheating themselves.

My involvement with *The Rebel Yell* has also been an incredible experience. Starting as a sports beat writer back in '92, I soon "got the bug" for print journalism and dug in. Working the better part of two years for former Sports Editor Paul Gutierrez, I learned how to become a better writer. Looking back on my first few stories its hard to believe the same person wrote them. Gutierrez taught me

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a lot about journalism and I will always be grateful to him for that. That was what it has always been about — learning.

Many of you students think the paper is bad and has no value. To a degree, you are right. For a school this size, we should have a better student newspaper. But because of incompetence and a lack of resources, we have had to make the best out of what we had. It is important for you to understand that. We made great strides this year and I hope those will continue until UNLV gets the newspaper they deserve.

Obviously, I have been the target of many angry readers this year as the *Yell's* Opinion Editor. At one time or another most of you either hated or loved what I wrote. To me, it didn't matter if you agreed or disagreed with me. As long as my writings made you think about the subject I was addressing. As an opinion writer, you are supposed to offer your individual thoughts on a particular subject. Whether or not the majority of people agree with it is not the writer's concern. That is exactly the guideline I used this year.

I was not up here to make friends with my writing. It was my job to generate thought on a particular subject and that is what I did. It is the essence of debate and I followed it. I have no regrets about anything I wrote and no apologies to those who might have disagreed with my position on a subject.

Over the past three years I have seen the fall of the once

mighty UNLV basketball program, the rise of the Rebel football team and a shuffle of administrators that even I have lost track of.

No matter what people may say, the Runnin' Rebels are an important part of this school. Collegiate athletics give students and faculty a common interest to rally around. While we all might be studying different curriculum, we are all Rebels. Basketball has had a great tradition in the past, and, under new coach Bill Bayno, it will be there again.

One of my fondest memories of my senior year is the success of the Rebel football team. November 19, 1994 will be a date I will always remember. The Rebel's victory over the bad guys from UNR filled me with pride that I still feel today every time I watch the tape of the game. It continued on into Las Vegas Bowl III where the Rebels spanked Central Michigan in front of a national audience on ESPN. Thanks for the going away party Coach Horton, it made my year.

Another important part of a college education is the interaction with your professors. These are the people who open up your mind and allow it to expand during the years of your education. Here at UNLV,

I came across many professors that were thought provoking and enjoyable. But the professor who I think taught me the most was one I never took a class from. Mary Hausch, an instructor in the Greenspun School of Communication, has been there for me this year. I only really got to know her over the past semester but she always returned my calls and was willing to help me with anything. That is something many professors could learn from. My only regret is that I never had the opportunity to take one of her classes.

Now its time to step away from my desk here at *The Rebel Yell* and get on with the rest of my life. Next year a whole new staff will once again fire up the outdated computers and learn a little bit about journalism and its responsibilities. My only wish is that the new staff not forget the hard work of the 1994-95 staff. This year was the year that the *Yell* started its comeback.

As for myself, it was one helluva ride. My days at UNLV will be remembered as the best days of my life. It was a place where I not only learned about communications and journalism, but about life and its meaning.

No matter what I become, or where I go, one thing that will always remain constant is that I am a UNLV Rebel.

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

The Rebel Yell

would like wish
Students and Faculty
a safe and fun-filled
Summer.