

Editorial

Only time will tell

"Change is not made without inconvenience, even from worse to better."

— Richard Hooker, 1554-1600

Although those words were written almost 400 years ago, Richard Hooker could have easily written them today to describe the changes, and at times the resulting inconveniences, that have taken place on the UNLV campus during the past three months.

Change is evident everywhere you look: from the administrative offices, to the student government offices, to the dean's offices, to the Moyer Student Union offices, to the athletic department, to *The Rebel Yell* offices.

Some of these changes are simply the nature of the beast: Student government representation changes every year, as does *The Rebel Yell* staff. Other changes are not an automatic yearly happening, but can be expected when an institution is in the throes of transformation.

With change inevitably comes inconvenience. New leaders have their own way of doing things, and the comfortable way of doing things, whether they be the best way or not, is disrupted.

Those who have not yet been affected by these changes surely will be in the very near future. New procedures must be learned, new rules must be followed. The comfort of the status quo on campus will be challenged.

Perhaps the most significant change in leadership is in the president's office.

Those who have met Dr. Carol Harter, who assumed the presidency on July 1, know that she is a tough, no-nonsense leader, which will serve her well as she goes up against the "good ol' boys" network on campus and in the business community. She may be UNLV's first female

president, but she has a long history of firsts during her more than 20-year academic career.

Harter has already been under intense scrutiny by the local press.

Her plans for a gala inaugural ceremony at a time when UNLV is facing tough financial times has drawn heavy criticism.

Hundreds of invitations have already been sent out nationwide for the 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 21 event. Part of the program calls for the pomp and circumstance of a processional of faculty in their caps and gowns, ending at the Flashlight in front of the Performing Arts Center. The gala will also be held in conjunction with the inaugural program for this year's Barrick Lecture series, celebrating its 15th year.

Big shindigs to introduce the new president of an educational institution aren't so much the norm here in the western states, but are commonplace occurrences on the east coast, where Harter comes from.

Cost aside, the benefits of the event are worth considering.

What may seem like a silly party to some actually gives the university positive nationwide visibility as an academic institution. Heaven knows UNLV could use more of that type of publicity.

And, if Dr. Harter has her way, UNLV will become recognized for more than its athletic programs. No disrespect intended toward the talented athletes and coaches on campus, but it's about time the university has a leader intent on putting the focus back on education.

Harter may be just the medicine UNLV's ailing image needs.

Only time will determine if this administration can live up to the old adage, "Change is good."

Here We Go Again Kids

Summer is officially over, folks and it's time to reap the benefits of academic enlightenment.

It can be hard getting back into the mode of late night cramming and early mornings with sparky professors. Some of you have experienced summer classes, that's a special treat in itself but, at least the transition back won't be as dramatic for you as it will for those who haven't gone to summer school.

I will break it down for you incoming freshman and for those of you who might have trouble adjusting.

On your first day of classes, every professor should let you out early. If they don't, they're fiends and you must drop those classes, pronto! When you first get your syllabus, look for silly rules, like no hats and no drinking in class. Can you say "control obsessive?" Also, note whether or not your professor wrote the book. This can become dangerous to your GPA.

Etiquette is often ignored in academics. Students as well as faculty display little of it in class. The biggest faux pas seems to be made by those who ask too many stupid questions during class. It's annoying and slows the class down. I could understand if the questions were pertinent to class proceedings, but these questions are usually a cover-up for a story you're itching to release.

Asking questions so the professor notices you is rude, too. Do you really think the professor wants to be your buddy? It may help your grade, but everyone in class is going to hate you. Basically, sit down, shut up and you can't go wrong.

Faculty are equally culpable. I've had classes where we would go days before the topics of the course were even mentioned, due to longwindedness on the part of the professor. Then comes test time—your exam is full of concepts you never covered.

Fluff classes can be a catch 22. They might be easy, but you could end up with an overzealous instructor who's intent on making you use all your study time to master nonsense like attendance policies, which can prove to be burdensome. Dropping a grade down because you missed too many classes is just wrong. I mean, you earned the grade, right? Sometimes legitimate circumstances, like the job that pays for school, take priority.

I think it's a pride thing with the prof—you earned a good grade without the benefit of his presence. That gives little satisfaction to the fact that your "A" is now a "C." Faculty should remember when they were struggling students and how difficult it can be. The better teachers are those who can relate to this reality.

Dorm life is an interesting experience. You'll complain about it while you're there, but when you leave you'll miss it. The best thing to do is take advantage of it and enjoy yourself.

Living Large

VINCE CALIGUIRE

If you're a nice person, it will show. Unfortunately, if you're a jerk the same holds true: You'll appear to be an even bigger jerk. You'll be living with about 40 people, so learning to compromise at times will ease the transition to dorm life.

The resident assistant is your key to bliss in the dorms. You could end up with a dork for all you know. Try to make good with your RA: they're like your landlord, except that they live with you.

All you kiddies under 21 should master the skills of the beer run and bringing the beer back to your room successfully. The RA will disapprove of these activities, so use tact, and remember, the window is good for more than just looking outside.

Smoking pot in the dorms is a big no-no. Those of you who might partake of this substance should keep a wet towel and potpourri spray handy. The towel is to keep the smoke in your room. Make sure not to leave the potpourri sitting out, it's suspicious. Don't wear anything with marijuana on it. Not only is it a visual megaphone to your habit, it just looks stupid. Generally, stay low key and you'll end up being less hassled by the man.

Red tape is a reality in any public university like ours. Just try applying for residency and you'll know what I mean. When dealing with the bureaucracy, it's best to have all the necessary documents and paperwork you need to back yourself up.

Whenever you talk to someone in an office, make sure to be courteous. The folks who work there have to deal with idiots all day long, so simple pleasantries will go a long way to get what you need accomplished, and it will make UNLV a better place to go to school.

The most precious advice I can convey about excelling here is to stay nourished throughout the day. The best way to do this is through what I like to call Super Pretzel Zen. Not only is the Super Pretzel nonfat with no preservatives, but it's yummy as well. Slam it down with a peach iced tea and you're all set. I need at least two a day to stay level. Sometimes the Super Pretzel makes the difference in whether or not I come to school. Yes, it's that good.

The next four months will be challenging, just don't get too stressed out. A balance of priorities will help. This isn't the real world, it's college, so sit back and enjoy it. After all, we pay the faculty to teach us, ergo they're our employees. Fire your professors if they give you an "F" for not teaching you correctly. See that? You're climbing the corporate ladder already and you haven't even graduated.

If all else fails, just remember, a bad day at school is still better than a good day at work.

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The Rebel Yell welcomes back all UNLV faculty and students for the 1995 Fall Semester.

We hope you had a great summer!