

Let's put all the scandals behind us

Most universities around the country build their reputation on tradition and achievement, letting one aspect or another shine through as their focal point.

Our university has the dubious distinction of being the most scandal-ridden in the nation. Let's face it folks, we are the Miami of the West.

The problem doesn't lie within the student body; it's within the administration that leads us. In the past we couldn't even trust the leader of this institution.

Remember when our ex-president, Bob Maxson, was involved in a secret deal with Rollie Massimino? (Didn't the good doctor seem to get off real easy for that whole mess?)

I, like many of the student body, have become disgusted with the state of affairs at this university. Nothing surprises me anymore.

No one can deny the tre-

Living at Large
VINCE CALIGUIRE

mendous growth this school is going through. In the four years I've been here, the whole campus is practically brand new. We may look

like a real school from the outside, with all of our shiny new buildings and that trippy herb garden, but that's an old Vegas trick: appearing larger than life when you're really the smallest on the block.

Money is not the problem. All the alumni money in the world can't produce the pride that this university desperately lacks. I could care less about new equipment or any BS like that. Still, it seems like the administration goes gaga when a fat cat drops us a bone, usually to name a building after himself.

I would be more excited if they hired more faculty or offered new classes. If you signed up for college algebra this semester then you understand the faculty problem firsthand.

What good is a new building if you have no one to teach the classes inside it?

It's getting so bad that the administration has to market itself so we appear to be a real school. Just look at those billboards around town that declare us a "Flagship University."

What the hell does that mean? Someone has to be making this award up, it sounds like the game "Battle-ship."

Ever the optimist, I do think things will get better here. All the "bad apples" have left in disgrace. Hopefully, the problems they created went with them. The new administration seems to have integrity and vision. It will take some time to see if it's legit.

Head Football Coach Jeff Horton is a fine example of what is needed at UNLV, and not because he was directly responsible for this university winning the Las Vegas Bowl.

That's great and all, but his attitude and demeanor are what make him a respected man. He believes in this university. I think it's safe to say that he won't let UNLV students down.

The hiring of Coach Bill Bayno for the basketball team will also help. The guy is young and can establish some accountability in what has recently been a fiasco of a pro-

gram. It will take a few years, but I think the program will return to its national prominence.

The most important figure in UNLV's restructuring is our new president, Carol Harter. The fate of this university will be decided with her performance as president. President Harter's experience in the SUNY education system will help a great deal.

We need someone who will take a stand against the corruption and establish some accountability for this university's actions.

Since she is new, it will be harder for a hidden agenda to ferment. A new vision is needed at this university and I think President Harter can achieve this goal. I wish her luck because, make no mistake about it, this is our last chance.

It's sad that we, as students, have to worry about something like corruption instead of academics. It would be nice if the administration could focus on accrediting some of the departments in the doctoral programs like a grown-up school. I realize many of you have great concerns like these and others.

Imagine busting your butt here for four plus years only to discover that your degree isn't worth the paper it's written on.

Don't trust all the promises about when this or that is going to happen, just ask the same students who were promised the same thing a few years ago. The architecture, communications and social work programs are a testament to this.

It's time for the students of this university to get pissed. These trivial incidents that have been a staple of this university for so many years should end. Just once, I'd like to turn on the television and see something about this university that doesn't make me ashamed to attend UNLV.

Let's try to focus on the reason we came to this university: to get educated. 'Cause so far, we're getting ripped off. Our energy needs refocusing toward refocusing on making the degrees we leave with have value. Anything else will be unacceptable. The apathy that looms over the student body needs to dissipate.

I have faith in our administration; I think the worst is behind us. So, if you are in the administration and happen to be reading this, take heed because our future lies in your hands.

—Vince Caliguire is an Opinion writer at The Rebel Yell.

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In Our Opinion...

Hero & Zero of the week:

Hero-Props to landscape and ground-keeping crew, Mike and Brett for helping Rick, the copy editor, and me when the newspaper cart turned over and we couldn't right it by ourselves.

Zero-Ultimate disrespect to the university rent-a-cop that blew me off and called me stupid when I asked for assistance with

the cart. Now look who's stupid, you jerk! The power of the pen cannot be denied!

Editor's Note: Too bad you didn't get the security-slug's name! This weekly feature is dedicated to improving the general quality of life on campus.

Submissions for "Hero & Zero of the Week" accepted from students and faculty for publication at The Rebel Yell office, 3rd floor, MSU. Deadlines are Fridays at 11 a.m.

—Vince Caliguire

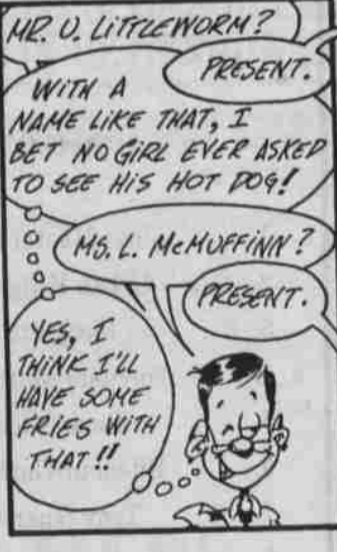
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SHMUCK



HEY! LET'S NOT ALSO FORGET I GOT A Ph.D!

by Chill



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