

Under the Influence with Otis & Arthur

And the debate rages on...

Otis

Hey, Arthur, how many frat boys does it take to screw in a light bulb? Three: one to screw in the bulb, the other two to make T-shirts about the event.

You know, having fraternities at UNLV is like having Bob Stupack at a good taste convention. The Greek life here is pretty lame compared to other universities. We don't even have fraternity houses on campus, so they don't have a significant presence.

We are basically a commuter college which leaves school activities to a minimum for most of us, especially if you work. After all, Greeks only make up 3 percent of the student body here. So why is it that the Greeks dominate student government? It could be from not letting losers like Arthur join, but Arthur does play a mean game of biscuit. (Ask a fraternity friend if you didn't get that one.)

The main reason that Greeks seem to dominate student government and many other organizations on campus is that the Greeks are the only students running for positions. They have the resources to spread out their members for campaigning and are usually successful. Actually, if the Greeks weren't running we would have Joe Mills sitting in an office managing student government by himself. Wow!

The only people to blame are ourselves. No one else runs against them. It's easy to bitch when we're on the sidelines. We need more people to run as independents as (dare I say) Joe Mills. People don't understand all the perks you get if elect-

ed. Tuition is paid for as an official, and you can earn up to \$1000 a month. Now there is something to think about...

The Greeks may have an agenda in student government to help out their own fraternities, but that is to be expected. It would be hard to imagine distancing themselves completely when their brothers helped them get elected in the first

place. That depends on the extent of favoritism that is shown.

Currently there is an inquiry into whether the organizations board allocated disproportionate funding to the Greeks. That kind of thing can't be allowed. With a majority of student government being Greek, how can it be checked? That fraternity row won't take too long if this continues. You could pledge, Arthur, and make lots of friends—at least until you skip your dues.

We need to have some real leaders who are just there for the students. I'm not saying student government is corrupt, but when a majority of members come from the same type of club, trouble is suspect to happen. Student government has over a million dollars to screw around with, anything they vote on could become reality.

So, readers, if you never thought about running because it's not your thing, don't be selfish. You could be offering a lot to this school, even you, Arthur. We need a varied leadership to keep all the university's best interests intact. Otherwise, don't complain about the Greek leadership in student government. You voted for it.

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Arthur

Greek is good! Otis, the rush is on, get with the program and rush one of those fraternities on campus this week. Or rush a sorority and watch them scatter.

The frats are just waiting for you. I know they need someone of your caliber. You may not be much fun at parties, but you'll sure help their GPA.

So what if Greeks make up the majority of representatives in student government? Anyone is free to run. Evidently no one else cares to. Except, of course, Joe Mills. He is a good example of quality non-Greek leadership. Though you deny it, Otis, I know you voted for him. He has just your style of vanilla pudding non-conformity.

Greeks in government are good. They are training to lead our country someday, so let them practice on us. Most future captains of industry will eventually come from the Greek system as well. We owe our outstanding position in world markets today and tomorrow to them. I think it's very important for these free thinkers to become Greek. They receive leadership training and develop lifelong friendships at slap-on-the-back seminars.

Greek membership tends to be made up of the "joiners": those who feel that their contributions to society occur best when they have a sense of belonging. Some would argue that it's best to have them all in one place, anyway. I don't feel that way, of course, but even if it were true, why not focus those energies into productive areas, like

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student government?

But seriously, having our student representatives comprised of mostly fraternity or sorority members doesn't bother me at all. Most are fine students and do a fine job at the helm. And they really do need the experience. Heck, we all need that kind of experience for our futures, so if anything bothers me at all in this, it's that more people from the general student body don't run for office. Who can blame the Greeks if there is a disproportionate number of them in government?

Otis, you should run next term. I can think of three people who would vote for you, that's a start. Here's how to run your campaign:

Go down to your neighborhood thrift shop and invest in a dapper little suit. Make sure it's polyester and some color not in fashion for the last 10 or more years,

like robin's-egg blue. Walk around handing out suckers to all the suckers in sight and sit back to count votes.

Or, you could run a more traditional campaign. You could get all your friends to stand just outside the polling locations on election day, handing out flyers and making sure your name would be most prominent in the voters' minds as they enter the polls. That worked for most of our current leadership, and for many in years past.

On second thought, Otis, your friends could only cover three of the polling locations. Stick to the sucker idea.

"Otis & Arthur" is co-authored by S.T. Sutherland and Vince Caliguire.

Is changing images changing problems?

One of Chancellor Richard Jarvis' proposals at last week's Board of Regents meeting was an idea to repair the Nevada university system's image.

The \$120,000-a-year idea may seem like an innovative way to better prepare for the next legislative session and regain the respect of the private sector, but putting a happy face on the same problem doesn't change anything for the average student.

The Nevada Legislature was suspicious about funding the UCCSN's entire \$768 million request because it felt it had to address the question of fiscal accountability, in response to a woeful amount of financial scandals. So now there is less and guess who really is paying?

An apathetic student population is fodder for administration to find ways to ease budget shortfalls. Take a look at the tuition increase and parking fees students have to

pay.

"There's a time when the operation of the machine becomes so odious, makes you so sick at heart, that you can't take part. And you've got to put your bodies upon the gears and levers, upon all the apparatus, and you've got to make it stop."

These words were uttered by Berkeley Free Speech Movement leader Mario Savio over 20 years ago. This was in response to University of California, Berkeley's administration repressive tactics thwarting the rights of its students.

Today, students are under a new form of oppression, but they accept it with a wondering sigh. The only thing students are willing to put their bodies over are cellular phones, Levi's jeans, Rollerblades and Birkenstocks.

Students are supposed to have some representation at the student government level.

But has the student government really addressed our problems? I often wonder if student government is necessary. It caters to the interest of a select few on campus, but then again this is also due to apathy. And at least, students are receiving bigger crumbs than they would if no student government existed.

So, Chancellor Jarvis, the problem isn't so much the image, but rather the way this system is run. The system will continue to manifest itself into more financial scandals which will bring about more questions of financial accountability. Guess who'll suffer?

This is why I have come to the conclusion that universities should solely depend on private contributions. Not only would administrators never dare go into the red again, but things would be run with greater efficiency.

And now would be a great time to go in that direction.

Since the new politically trendy buzzword is "privatization" in Washington, D.C., let's put our money where our mouth is.

By the time the 104th Congress adjourns, the wealthy in this country should have a surplus of money. They could spend it toward education. Instituting a system where the rich could contribute to education would probably help alleviate many problems.

First, it would justify the wealthy's tax exempt status. Since the upper class doesn't really have a willingness to pay taxes they could donate what they had to universities, fostering the growth of our nation's economy by investing in the quality growth of its citizens.

Second, businesses would take universities more seriously as future personnel resources.

This would require, however, necessary training on up-

graded equipment. Since the university seems to balk at anything dealing with advancement in technology (except, of course, how it collects its money from its students), I'm sure the private sector would be more conciliatory.

Third, unnecessary programs would be cut thus ensuring that resources would be going where they're really needed—I'm sure this would force those who are lazy and needlessly entitled to find real work to do.

Perhaps this suggestion could be implemented by the chancellor's other proposal to the Board of Regents—a system wide budget and planning analyst, which is the chancellor's \$55,000-a-year idea.

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