

The compass should point toward students

The Civil War is alive and well in the University and Community College System of Nevada.

The
Iconoclast
WILLIE
PUCHERT

I attended last week's Board of Regent's meeting, and was present to an argument amongst the Regents on furthering the process to build Nevada's first law school at UNLV.

One of the northern Regents interrupted President Carol Harter's presentation on the issue and an argument between other

Regents ensued.

Now, of course, there was "concern" with the financial direction where this was going. The real issue, of course, is that it was going south.

I have also noticed that the college in Reno advertises itself as the University of Nevada, forgetting the city's name. Yes, UNR was the first in this state but Las Vegas, too, is also a part of this university system.

As a former Northern Nevada who is still adjusting to the change of a big city, I can

understand the rivalry mentality that has manifested over the years. The expression of this, of course, is taken out everytime the Rebels play the Wolfpack.

What is important, though, is that this state needs to begin to work together, recognizing our differences, but not tear each other apart. That's what the game is all about.

From someone who has gained the perspective from both ends of the state, I have discovered that Nevada is very unique. In many respects, we have many untraveled roads to discover. It's far better to

take that journey together.

The university system, north and south, has a common goal: To educate students. Priorities should be viewed toward what will serve students more effectively, instead of worrying about which campus has the most buildings.

Nevada was "Battle Born" during the Civil War and has many of its connotations. After that war, soldiers from the blue and the grey stood and saluted each other, demonstrating a willingness to move forward together. History teaches us that working together provides for a greater

good.

The greater good in this university system are the students. The Regents should learn this lesson, act accordingly and provide for this greater good.

Although the North might have won the Civil War 130 years ago, I'm hoping that history doesn't repeat itself at Mackay Stadium this weekend in Reno. GO REBELS!!!

—Willie Puchert is a Staff Writer at The Rebel Yell.

Letters to the editor

To the editor:

I wanted to notify you of an error in the opinion column, "Something stinks in the UNLV Student Senate," written by Vince Caliguire. The article incorrectly states that I represent the students of Liberal Arts in CSUN Student Government, and that I had not changed my major when filing for Engineering Senator. I have since November 1, 1994 represented students who have not declared a major, also known as the Student Development Center. Previous to filing for the current CSUN election, I changed my major to engineering. I did not violate Senate guidelines for elections as alleged in the article, and have never been a Senator for the college of Liberal Arts.

I agree with Mr. Caliguire that Senators need to be more accountable and responsible in their decision-making, and it is my sincere hope that we have attracted responsible, intelligent, and hard-working individuals in the next Senate session. Mr. Caliguire is welcome to ask me any questions in regards to my past performance in the Senate, and I anticipate that a correction will be made.

Terence Carroll
CSUN Senator for
Student Development

Editor's Note: We stand corrected. Thanks.

To the editor:

Rumor has it that famed atheist Madelyn Murray O'Hara has disappeared; no one is saying whether she is alive or dead.

I admire the faith of O'Hara and other atheists. They must have a remarkably strong faith to believe the following scientific formula: "Nobody" times "Nothing" plus "Blind

Chance" equals "Everything!" Have you ever seen a watch without a watchmaker?

Marsh D. Norton
English
Senior

To the editor:

On October 12, I was on the UNLV campus to attend an outdoor noon rally at which the Latino student group MECHA was going to discuss the issue of affirmative action. I am extremely glad that I went because what I observed needs to be commented upon.

Despite what I understood to be widespread advertisement of the event, I did not see the president of the University, and vice-presidents, department chairs, or directors. Worse yet, the only Latino administrator attending the event was John Lujan, the director of Affirmative Action. What happened to everyone: the totally white university administration and UNLV's Latino employees? Why weren't they there to listen to what the students had to say on this critically important issue?

Beyond these valid questions, what does their overt absence say to us? That they don't care? That they don't perceive affirmative action to be an important enough issue to adjust their schedules? Or, maybe, just maybe, that they really don't care? That they really don't give a damn? What do you think?

Ideally, a university is supposed to be a reflection of the community it serves. In Southern Nevada, that means that UNLV ideally should have roughly 25 percent minority students and staff. Does it? Not even close! Maybe that's why the MECHA students felt they needed to discuss this important subject?

A further examination of the UNLV administration and faculty, from a Hispanic perspective, reveals that there is not even one Hispanic person on the President's Cabinet, no Hispanic vice-presidents, one

department chair, and three directors. Furthermore, unless I am mistaken, just about every appointment that the president has made since she took over, has been a white male. What does this say about diversity? And about commitment to affirmative action?

Fortunately, actions always speak louder than words. And action in this case includes the orchestrated stripping of duties and influence from John Lujan, UNLV's director of affirmative action for the past 14 years and the highly questionable placement of the Affirmative Action Office in the Department of Human Resources, under a Hispanic director no one in the Hispanic community knows or ever sees. This is progress? This is commitment? Not!

Ironically, though I doubt seriously that Dr. Harter knows this, John Lujan was her biggest supporter in her pursuit of the president job. It was Lujan who stood up before the Board of Regents and made an eloquent statement on why a female should be hired as the next president of UNLV.

It was also John Lujan who was quoted in the newspaper, along with Regent Shelley Berkley, as supporting Dr. Harter's candidacy. Funny how things turn out, isn't it?

In closing, it is clear to me by the total lack of attendance by university administrators and Latino staff at the MECHA rally on Affirmative Action, that UNLV has a long, long way to go before it can hold itself up as a role model of racial/ethnic/gender equity or as a beacon of educational enlightenment.

Thomas Rodriguez
Former President
Hispanics in Politics
of Nevada

UNLV and affirmative action: A case of apathy and neglect

I have been a student here at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (de Aztlan) for over three years now, and increasingly I find that the university ad-

ministration and staff in general has become blind, deaf and dumb to many of the "controversial" issues that make a university a truly diverse learning atmosphere. I, as a Chicano, am convinced that until something threatens them adversely, the administration does not care to listen to the Latino/Chicano community. Do not misinterpret what I am stating here, just consider that I am Chicano, and that is the perspective upon which I draw to make my conclusions concerning relative issues.

I attended the inauguration of Carol C. Harter as our seventh president, and I was disgusted by false words and promises of "hope," "diversity," and "tradition." I have heard these words many times over, said by many people, and there still persists this apathy toward such things as an Ethnic Studies curriculum, diversity in entertainment and programming, and the problem of campus police harassing students on campus. I cannot speak for the majority of students (nor do I wish to represent the statistic, apathetic majority that elects a Student Body President in the matter of 1,100 votes out of a student population of over 20,000), but I can say that as the President of M.E. Ch.A., I am the unsilent minority, and things are going to change very soon for this university, whether one may like it or not.

Many people do not know the true history of this "Battle Born" state, of the sacrifices, as well as the contributions, that the Mexicanos have made to this state. After all, "Nevada" is a Spanish word, and Nevada is part of what is known to me as Occupied Aztlan. This entire state (along

Guest
Column
MATEO
EDUARDO
NARES

with much of California, Arizona, Colorado, Tejas, Utah, and Nuevo Mexico) is in violation of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo signed in 1847, which "guaranteed" that Mexicanos that

owned land in the "United States" would not lose this land, nor be forced off of it. When I see the words "Battle Born" I also see the blood of Mexicanos running down the stark blue that constitutes our state flag. Very few people can see as I do, which is a shame given the aforementioned historical facts.

The fact that many people choose to remain ignorant of such issues is not the source of any criticism. There will always be people who will always choose to remain ignorant, and abide by their own self-interests to guide their hedonistic tendencies. This is a human constant. What I am concerned about is that there is no program to educate those of us who desire to learn of our own people, to learn of the injustices which have molded this land which is not rightfully occupied and developed.

If people can learn French (which has absolutely no practical application in Aztlan, unless you plan to earn your career in France), why in the hell can we not find a university that will educate us in Chicano History, Black Awareness, Native American Tradition, Asian-American History, etc.?

I have an answer to that question. The University of Nevada, Las Vegas (de Aztlan) will become such a university. And that is not an empty promise, nor is it one of the "guarantees" set forth by an educational and emotional war.

—Mateo Eduardo Nares is a junior applied physics major, and the president of Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan

Hero and Zero

Hero—All the folks who came for the "Coming Out Day" and "Take Back The Night" rallies. You did a great job and showed some courage in making a stand. Right on!

Zero—That little sports monkey with his bad picks. If the Yell staff loses anymore money on the monkey we're putting him

back in his cage and let Otis and Arthur do the picks. Bad monkey, bad!

Double Zero—This week there was a need for a double zero. Vern Williams, president of the UNLV Republican club, for appearing utterly ignorant in his quotes about gay rights in last Tuesday's *Rebel Yell*. Perhaps Vern is fronting his true nature. Come out, come out wherever you are, Vern.

The Rebel Yell

encourages students, faculty and staff to write letters to the editor. Letters should be typed, double-

spaced, and include the author's name, address and telephone number. Writers affiliated with UNLV must include class and major, or faculty or staff position.