

# I've got my degree, now what?

I can almost taste it, the moment I've been waiting four-and-a-half years for. That's right folks, in a couple of weeks I is a college graduate.

(With a little luck on my math final, thanks Dr. Burthe).

The thing is that I have no clue what to do next. I always thought there would be enough time to figure out what I was going to do with my life.

I'm sure a lot of you out there know how I'm feeling. You've worked up to this point in your life promising yourself that you would have a job when you graduate, only to find that it's harder than you thought. Generation X is a reality, folks.

I can tell you one thing, the school is no help whatsoever. Career placement makes you buy this disk to make a resume, then you have to go to a stupid "interview savvy,"

Living  
Large

VINCE  
CALIGUIRE

meeting that does you no good. Not only that, but you have to sign up for interviews in advance. If you're lucky there is space. How about a job, that would be cool!

One thing not to do is graduate in December.

Nobody really hires in December, especially in the hospitality field, and there isn't even a graduation ceremony.

Over the last few months I've been sending resumes all over, only to find that the career I've chosen—the casino industry—is difficult to break into. You would think there would be a lot of jobs out there, especially in Vegas. The only job I can find in my field seems to be dealing.

Some industries are like that, you just have to work from the bottom up, whether or not you have your degree.

That sucks doesn't it? What the hell was I doing here for four-and-a-half years?

When you do graduate there are a lot of things to consider besides a job, like whether to stay in Vegas or not. To make things even harder, I've accumulated a lot of stuff over the years. I don't feel like hauling it back to Jersey. Still, I don't want to sell it either.

Vegas is like that, it grows on you but it's hard to imagine spending the rest of your life here. You live in a place where most people take their vacations. I mean, how many of us really thought we would be going to school in Vegas? It's funny how you end up here.

The truth is, I don't have much of a choice in going back home. My mother gave my old room back to my way-older brother. Here I am working hard on my degree and supporting myself while unbe-

knownst to me, a coup d'etat was instigated at my crib. And people wonder why I live so far away from my family.

Another thing to consider when you graduate is whether to continue your education. A bachelors degree isn't much in today's world. More and more people at UNLV have been taking classes after they graduate, not even for a degree, just to take them. Look at the amount of non-traditional students on campus. A lot of students are taking classes just to learn something new.

Whatever happens, I'm just glad I'm graduating. It's a milestone in one's life that precedes the next stage of life: 40 years in the work force. My father was a working man. He realized the hard way how not having the right education can hold you back. He used to tell me that an education is everything. I hope I can take heed of that wisdom soon, I know it will help along the way. I just hope more sooner than later.

In any event, since this is

probably my last edition, I would like to thank the readers of my column and "Otis & Arthur." I would like to thank Scott the editor, too, for driving me crazy and making me write to my potential. I hope I made you folks think a little and laugh a little. I had a ball doing it.

I encourage anyone out there who might be interested in the paper to take a shot. It's important to take advantage of the things you can in college, because it could be your only chance to do them. There is more to an education than just a degree.

Jobs will come and go. So will careers. It's the life experience and friends you make that count. College is about learning who you are. If you can get that much out of this school, you're on your way to success, maybe even a job.

Take care!

—Vince Caliguire is  
a Staff Columnist  
at The Rebel Yell.

## Letters to the editor

### Affirmative Action rebuttal

To the editor:

I have for some time resisted the temptation to respond to the many misguided allegations, arguments and accusations offered by the parting director of Affirmative Action. His latest efforts, however ill founded, deserve a response if only for the record.

During Mr. Lujan's 15-year tenure, not one minority, aside from himself, or a female was appointed to an executive position. Nor was even one Affirmative Action plan completed as required by federal law. It was precisely because of the 15-year failure to conceptualize and implement a comprehensive affirmative action program that former President Guinn assigned the primary responsibilities of Affirmative Action to the department of Human Resources.

In less than 18 months, Human Resources has effectively implemented several critical parts of a basic Affirmative Action program. For example, written recruitment procedures, guidelines for search committees, an applicant tracking system, exit interviews, and an effective selection process. Data is being collected which will allow Human Resources to assess and develop recruitment strategies and retention programs. Affirmative Action progress is not measured in rhetoric, a la Lujan, but on carefully planned strategies and the commitment of the President and other executive officers.

The hiring statistics for faculty indicate that of the 53 faculty positions that have been filled this year, 22 (42 percent) are women and eight (15 percent) are minorities. Statistics for Executive/Administrative/managerial category indicates that of the 58 positions filled this year, 26 (45 percent) are women and 14 (24 percent) were minorities. The most telling statistic is that women and minorities were hired at the same or higher rates as the percentage of women and minorities that apply.

Given the record, it's my

opinion that Lujan's dissatisfaction with the reorganization of the Affirmative Action office and his criticism of President Harter has more to do with the fact that Dr. Harter did not acquiesce to his demands to be reinstated to his old position and his do-nothing attitude. On the contrary, Dr. Harter recognized even during her own campus visits while still a candidate for the presidency, that UNLV was woefully lacking in its commitment to Affirmative Action as demonstrated by the absence of appropriate programs and the dearth of women and minorities in campus administrative and leadership positions. Upon assuming the presidency, Dr. Harter immediately initiated a strategic planning project and appointed a special Task Force to review, evaluate, and develop a plan (mission statement, goals, and objectives) to incorporate diversity into the very fabric of the institution.

Mr. Lujan's parting salvos notwithstanding, I am confident that this administration will make serious strides toward the inclusion of all ethnic groups and women into the campus community.

Jose Escobedo  
Director of  
Human Resources

### Tolbert speaks up

To the editor:

For two years now I have had the pleasure of attending an institution of higher learning where students publish a bi-weekly newspaper. Some of the articles I have thoroughly enjoyed and some I haven't. I can proudly say that I have had the same experience with the *Review-Journal*, as well as the *Sun*. Thus, I did not make my prior statement to slam *The Rebel Yell*.

As a member of the Ethnic Student Council I work on a daily basis to increase the participation of underrepresented populations on campus. Furthermore, it's important that our involvement is encouraged, because how else can we learn how to access systems, and the majority population learn about different

types of people and the issues that are important to us.

I view the student newspaper as a resource on this campus that can be used to bring about a sense of community on our campus. *The Rebel Yell* can and should be a vehicle, that whenever it can, create a sense of community amongst all UNLV Students. (Not just between those students who happen to be affiliated with Greek organizations, or those who have the same view on women's issues, or ethnic issues, etc.)

For the past three weeks, on the front page of every *Rebel Yell* an article has appeared about my appointment to the Senate, representing the Greenspun College of Communications.

Last year, I was an elected Senator representing the Liberal Arts College; a member of *The Rebel Yell* Advisory Board; a competing member of the UNLV Forensic Team; and a voting member of the Elections Board.

As the Vice President of The Black Student Association; a member of The Ethnic Student Council; and an Orientation Leader, I ran for the College of Liberal Arts Senate position, and lost. However, I did not let this deter me from wanting to provide my student leadership experience to a very influential presence on the UNLV Campus—CSUN. Instead, I added the major of communications. As a result, of my adding I have been accused of being unethical.

For someone who has spent their entire college career communicating academic ideas; representing various organizations whose sole purpose is to communicate the views of various populations of students on this campus; and competing and winning various awards on my ability to communicate better than most, you must understand why I am thoroughly confused as to why everyone is in an uproar about my representing the Greenspun College of Communication, as senator. Why wouldn't a natural communicator not choose communications as a major? Why wouldn't a student leader not choose to seize an opportunity to lead?

If my only reason to run for

senate is for the "so call" (sic) prestige of holding office, surely it would have been easier for me, a sophomore, to drop my major and run for the Student Development Senate Position. After all, I don't have to declare a major until my junior year.

Furthermore, I have not broken any student government constitutional rules or policies, even *The Rebel Yell* and my opponents have stated this to be a fact. And my opponents, as well as I, do not believe this is an issue based on my race or ethnicity... so what's the problem?

In Volume 19, No. 25 of *The Rebel Yell* Michelle Alexander was quoted, telling a communication class that "We don't have proper representation for our school". Even the Director of the Greenspun School of Communication was quoted in this same article as saying, "As of now he's only taken that one class (Communications 101)."

Everyone is entitled to their opinions. However, someone needs to show me where it says that senators must have taken a certain number of classes, in the college that they are representing, to be qualified representatives. I am being asked to present a resume of my qualifications. Has anyone else had to show their resume to qualify for the positions that they were elected for, or appointed to? If this isn't an issue because of who and what I am, then do not start to discriminate now, by asking that I produce materials that no other senator has been required to present.

I have met the GPA requirements, and all other requirements for this position. Inturn (sic), the majority of the Senate, all who know Michelle Alexander and I very well, appointed me to the position. Thus, I ask again, if I have broken no rules or policies; and no class fulfillment requirements have been set for this position, what makes me unqualified for this senate seat? I have plenty of proven student leadership abilities, and the issues that I commit myself to, are not just those that exist in the Greenspun College of Communication, but also provide a voice for underrepresented populations of

UNLV students, on the CSUN level. Because I represent many populations of students by holding this Senate position, it troubles me that the articles that have appeared in *The Rebel Yell*, and the rhetoric being spread on campus, is forcing our student body to choose sides. For whatever reasons!

The bottom line—if Michelle Alexander is so much more qualified than I, why was she not appointed by our peers, and I was? After all, I did not appoint myself.

Carl Tolbert  
Sophomore (sic)  
Communications Senator

**Editor's note:** *The Rebel Yell* applauds Mr. Tolbert for making his long-awaited public statement regarding the controversy surrounding his appointment to the Senate.

There is no issue with his leadership abilities, nor with the fact that he has met the CSUN Constitutional requirements to fill the Senate seat.

However, Mr. Tolbert has still missed the point.

As evidenced by the petition that was signed by more than 10 percent of students in the the Greenspun School of Communication, Mr. Tolbert's minimal familiarity, participation in and involvement with the school has resulted in a lack of confidence among communication students in his ability to effectively represent their school and its needs to the Senate.

Further evidence for this argument is substantiated by Mr. Tolbert's own words. Three times in his letter he erroneously refers to the school he was appointed to represent.

Mr. Tolbert first calls the school he represents as the Greenspun College of Communications. Furthermore, he twice referred to it as the Greenspun College of Communication. Only once does he get the school's name right: the Greenspun School of Communication, and that was copied from an article that previously appeared in *The Rebel Yell*.

We wonder how Mr. Tolbert can competently represent a school when he doesn't even know its correct name.