

# Take a moment for hometown appreciation

In the three years of my residency here, I have heard the phrase, "Vegas sucks" or some close equivalent uttered by locals way, WAY too many times.

I am willing to forgive chronic gamblers and native New Yorkers for their disenchanting attitudes; chronic gamblers because for them, living in Las Vegas is like an alcoholic shackling up in a bar, and New Yorkers because complaining is their way of life.

Everyone else, however, needs to shut their trap, open their eyes, and take a closer look at just how much Vegas has to offer.

Okay. I'd like to start by attacking the number one complaint about our home: there's no nature!

Now, even in the midst of my little pro-Vegas frenzy I must admit that we are not exactly overwhelmed with an abundance of towering redwoods, crystal lakes, and frolicking Bam-

bi's.

We do, however, have some extremely beautiful terrain within our reach: Red Rock Canyon, Lake Mead, Mt. Charleston, and Valley of Fire, to name a few of the closest nature spots.

Red Rock and Valley of Fire provide some stunning desert scenery as well as ideal places to hike, climb, or risk your life scaling sheer cliffs, should the mood seize you.

Mt. Charleston has a genuine waterfall, lots of trees, snow in the winter... even little woodland critters! There are also two lodges with restaurants and scenic views. One is rustic (cheap) and the other is elegant (expensive).

Lake Mead is a vast, tranquil spread of water that's perfect for just about every watersport except swimming. I suggest sticking to your pool if you want to take a dip. Jetskiing, boating, waterskiing, and windsurfing, however, are all viable options.

All of these lovely spots are within 45 minutes of the city

and even if you don't own a car, I'm willing to bet you know someone who does.

So next time you get that whiny, "pining" for the trees feeling, put some gas in the tank and get out there! Either that, or go on the Nature Walk at the Mirage, complete with pink plastic flowers and mood music.

Now let's take a look at the night life here. What other towns have you been in that are just as hopping at 3 a.m. as they are at 6 p.m.? Where else could you have a choice of places to dine at 2 a.m.—not including fast food joints?

Where else are supermarkets, gyms, and even car repair shops open 24 hours? (Yes, Honda is now open at all times.)

To all of you silicone-obsessed men, for a low, low price (snort, snicker) you can hit a strip joint morning, noon or night.

We have a zillion and one forms of entertainment available to us: a choice of glitzy shows, live musical performances, comedians, bars, dance clubs, amusement

parks, games, half-naked people writhing for dollars, food, food and more food... the list goes on and so does the fun!

Most folks are limited to one three-screen movie theatre, a couple of greasy restaurants and a murky bar called Joe's Tavern. They're lucky to have one country dance club within a 45-minute drive, much less about 300 featuring every type of music and atmosphere imaginable!

And if you've ever been out partying elsewhere you'll know that fateful cry at 1 a.m.: "Last call for alcohol!" Oh yes. Mercilessly they will confiscate that Everclear you paid \$5 for—forcing you to gulp it frantically for fear of wasting money. That could be bad for your health. Not so in Vegas! Partying lasts around the clock, if you so desire.

How about the economy? Everything is CHEAP here—rent, food, property... that is, of course, because the economy is sky high and we locals are floating on clouds of cash circulated by the tourist industry.

Did I mention sunshine? We

rarely went below 60 degrees this winter. Rain? Not much. Snow? Except for yesterday, the only snow you'll find is at Mt. Charleston. Talk about temperate!

I'll admit the summers can be a tad, ahem, scorching, but I personally enjoy it. I'd rather lounge by the pool in a swimsuit than trek through snow, ice, hail and whatever plagues infest most other places.

So as a final word, let me say that the proof is in the pudding, and the pudding is the tourists.

Bottom line: Many, many thousands of people pay many, many thousands of dollars to come here for vacations to see and do all the things that we can see or do whenever we want. We live in one of the world's top vacation spots! Don't forget to be appreciative.

*Stephanie Reidy is an Opinion Writer for the Rebel Yell*

Stephanie  
Says

STEPHANIE  
REIDY

## Letters to the editor

### Frat president challenges article

#### To the editor:

I would like to thank *The Rebel Yell* for taking an interest in an event that affected my life, but at the same time I would like to have a problem I have with the article about this incident be known.

In the last section of the article titled "Fraternity president faces legal battle," located on the front page of Volume 19, No. 35 (15 February, 1996) of *The Rebel Yell*, I was said to have "admitted" that several members of my fraternity had "jumped" Brian Stedeford following the incident involving Brian and myself.

I would like to clear one thing up, at no time have I ever "admitted" to anything, the mere use of the word "admitted" suggests that I was reluctant to answer a question because I would possibly be showing guilt.

To my knowledge the brothers of Kappa Sigma have never "jumped" anyone, the very idea of doing so goes against every principle the fraternity stands for. Further, our members have been very mature in showing restraint from even getting involved. They are content, as am I, with allowing the court system to punish Brian if he is found to be guilty. At no time was this matter ever a Fraternity vs. Fraternity problem, nor was it ever made out to be so by either party.

Again, I do appreciate the

fact that *The Rebel Yell* expressed enough interest in this incident to take the time to research and publish the story, and I hope that the paper will be equally diligent in clearing up this problem with the greatest of expediency.

Steven Pearce  
President  
Kappa Sigma Fraternity

#### Editor's note:

*The Rebel Yell stands behind its reporter and the story that ran in the Feb. 15 edition of the newspaper. We are confident the story is an accurate representation of the interview in question.*

### Student response supports Clinton

#### To the editor:

Permit a response to guest columnist Robert Uithoven's tirade against President Clinton. His impetus to "wake up" is a welcome one. However, his words would indicate that he has been slumbering for some time.

Uithoven attacks the news industry with cliched quips about "media elites," made famous by such independent commentators like Rush Limbaugh and Fred Barnes (who make their living in the MEDIA!)

Uithoven rambles on about mudslinging and then pro-

ceeds to start a mud slide against President Clinton. He states that many in the Clinton cabinet have been in jail, or are defending themselves in court. Apparently, Mr. Uithoven slept through the eighties. Do the names Sununu, Watt, North, Bush, and even Reagan not ring a bell with questionable activities and the law, not to mention indictments and jail time? Perhaps *Iran Contra* rings a bell?

His comments are nothing more than invective, substantiated by his opinion. With his comments, Uithoven lumps himself into the categories of "uninformed, misinformed or don't care" students he so vehemently rebukes. Uithoven blames racial tension, social strife, and low republican public opinion on President Clinton; the first two are beyond the President's control, the last—a compliment to the President. If someone tried hard enough they could probably link the President to the blizzard of '95 and the recent flooding in Oregon, too.

If Mr. Uithoven cares in what direction the country heads, he will have to start by educating himself with regards to philosophical fallacy and logical thought patterns. His statement: "I would hate to see us head down the path of socialism the liberal Democrats have set for us," amounts to nothing more than a hasty generalization, not to mention that he provides no link between "socialism" and "Democrats." There is no slippery slope from democrat to social-

ist. Mr. Uithoven's impetus to "look past the rhetoric, hype and hypocrisy" is dead on delivery. He just encouraged everyone to "look past" his own article. His article is nothing more than rhetoric and hype, not to mention his demonization of the President.

If conservatism is alive and well as Mr. Uithoven would have some believe, why are Newt Gingrich's disapproval ratings lurking in the 70 percent range? With nine candidates running for the republican presidential nomination, why are nearly 30 percent of the registered republican voters of many states UNDECIDED? And best of all, that political-moderate—Pat Buchanan wins the New Hampshire primary. These are not signs of a healthy party.

With so much at stake in this country, why does Mr. Uithoven not propose any solutions? To complain without remedy is sloth, or as President Clinton puts it, "Cynicism is a cheap excuse for inaction."

My intention with this response is to show that one should not rant without research, plunder without proof, fight without facts. Offer solutions, not opinions, to solve current problems, God knows opinions are like...well the point is obvious. We don't need politicians to solve the nation's problems, we need more proctologists!

Tod Story  
Senior  
Communications

### Senator speaks up

#### To the editor:

I am writing in response to the "Otis & Arthur" column published on Thursday, February 8.

In his half of the column, Otis states that the student senators "have given themselves a pay increase without the approval of others."

Otis should have done his research. According to the senate bylaws, no senate is empowered to give itself a pay increase.

Before the current senate session, which began on Nov. 1, CSUN senators have never been compensated in any way.

During the previous session, the senate voted to begin paying the senators in the current session \$50 per meeting and a 12 credit fee waiver.

Senators Campbell, Fleischman, Moore, and I were strongly opposed to this measure, but we were in the minority. Upon being re-elected to the senate in the fall, I refused both the stipend and the credit fee waiver. In addition, approximately two-thirds of the current senators are new to office, did not vote on the stipend bill, and were not aware of the stipend when filing for election.

Joe Laxague  
Student Senator  
College of Business and  
Economics

## The Rebel Yell

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. Writers requesting their name be withheld must include their name and telephone number for verification. Letters submitted without this information will not be printed. Letters are subject to edit for length and clarity.