

Under the Influence With Otis & Arthur

The cause of the Lambdas a righteous one?

Otis

Otis has great things for our readers this week. Then I think I'm taking a permanent vacation. Yes, dear readers, even after my untimely death and miraculous return earlier this year, it's time for Otis to retire to warmer climes. My parting words are for the Greeks.

It seems a couple of the fraternities have been very naughty this semester, especially Lambda Chi Alpha; who have just been sentenced to death by the Greek council for unfair recruiting practices and publishing offensive material.

Arthur, I wasn't offended by any of the material that I saw. I'd like to see more of it, but that's just the way my brain works.

Now, as the readers are well aware, I think the fraternities are a waste of all the rich boys on campus. Their parent's money could be much better spent on buying these boys better cars. They could even spend money buying me a car, if they wanted to.

But I don't see the big deal in the Lambda's recruiting practices. It was rush, they were just trying to recruit some new dues, I mean members.

As far as their magazine with the offensive material goes: Right on! God forbid a little free speech goes around the campus. The Lambdas have a right to talk trash if they want to. It may not show a lot of class, but they should be allowed to do it. Where would this country be

if everyone with an opinion were censored?

I know a lot of Greeks, there is this front they put up as good ole' American boys, when they really are the hardest partiers on campus. The Lambdas were just trying to be a bit more honest about what they are about. Otis has been to some of these parties; go Greek!

I think the Greek people are getting a bit overzealous in the persecution of this particular chapter, though. Their decision against the Lambdas includes a \$500 fine and a year's suspension from the Greek system. That pretty much leaves one less fraternity on campus, because no one is going to pledge Lambda now (speaking of Lambda Lambda Lambda, remember "Revenge Of The Nerds," now that was a fraternity).

I don't want to see any grudges develop between any fraternities as a result of this escapade. That would only lead to more suspensions and fines for other fraternities, leaving the Greek council a complete mess.

The Greeks need to realize that they need each other to survive at UNLV or else they are always going to be a joke on this campus. There are already enough Greek jokes, some of them even holding office in our beloved student government.

It's like DeNiro said in *Goodfella's*, "Never say nothing to nobody, and never rat out on your friends." Take heed of Scorsese wisdom my Greek friends, consider the appeal of the Lambdas carefully, you'll thank Otis later, when you see him on the beaches of Tahiti.

Arthur

Well, Otis, the announcement of your retirement comes as something of a shock, but I think it's for the best. I can now get on to better things.

And stop trying to defend and justify the actions of the Lambdas. The Greek council was well within its rights to sanction them. Without doubt, the right course of action was taken.

I never saw the recruiting pamphlet in question, but obviously those responsible for making the decision to fine the Lambdas were satisfied that some wrong had been done, so I, too, am satisfied. We must be able to trust those who lead us. Look at the quality, unblemished record of the student government.

Otis, you have the audacity to justify the Lambdas by whining "free speech?" Since when was free speech meant to condone racism? It may allow it, it may protect it, but it still doesn't make malicious statements right. Racism and prejudice are not right, ever.

But I'm reminded of the old argument by those purveying pornography on adult channels: "Your TV comes with an 'off' switch, use it."

We can use that motto to our advantage here. I don't want to promote censorship, but we can all choose to censor ourselves. Similarly, we can choose not to put up with racist remarks in a campus organization that claims to encourage brotherhood.

When the Greeks get away with something, or see another fraternity get away with something, it only rein-

forces the belief that their autonomy is above reproach, above anyone else's standards of quality, character, and behavior.

Aren't those things that the Greeks also claim to represent?

Where is the quality in an action ridiculing others based on ethnic origin?

And you yourself state, Otis, that the Lambdas are "the hardest partiers on campus."

So much for their standard of behavior.

You seem to think that no one would pledge the Lambdas because of the fine and suspension they have received. I would have to question anyone wanting to pledge that fraternity now for any reason, at least until the Lambdas clean up their own act, and form a new commitment to the true Greek ideals. What's really too bad here, is that they had to be caught at all.

Aren't there enough members with the strength of character to know what's right, and stand up for it, even and especially in the face of their own brother's opposition?

Or is this just another example of Greek sheep?

I've got to say, Otis, that I can think of no real reason at this time that the UNLV chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha should even keep its doors open.

I think they were lucky to have gotten off as lightly as they did.

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

HERO OF THE WEEK: Props and supports out to Kathryn J. Wilson, asst. director of Student Employment & Client Services in the Financial Aid Office, for helping UNLV students make the financial aid paperwork process as painless as absolutely possible.

ZERO OF THE WEEK: Stephanie Araiza, CSUN elections board director, for not being on the job for two-and-a-half critical weeks prior to a major election.

THE REBEL YELL

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Prime mistake by UNLV

Bureaucracy is the birthplace of all illogical decisions.

Because it is self-perpetuating by nature, it usually follows the path of least resistance. If it entails a hassle, the anemic monster Bureaucracy rolls over and plays dead.

The dorms at UNLV are not equipped with cable, which means the students who live there are not receiving UNLV TV, the student-run television station for the university.

Certainly there are many expenses which take precedence over getting cable for the dorms. The bottom line is always relevant.

The exact figure it would have cost to install cable in the dorms when being built is—absolutely nothing.

Prime Cable offered to install cable for free during the construction of the dorms. Incomprehensibly, we turned them down.

Naturally there are many arguments against having cable in the dorms.

Study time may be reduced because of more time spent watching television, for instance.

Get real. It is not the task of the university to baby-sit students. By taking on this task,

Guest Column

APRIL PARTRIDGE

appropriate time management skills.

In addition to insulting the students, the policy sets a disturbing precedent of interference in personal decisions.

Admittedly, cable in the dorms, even for free, would take some time from the administration.

What if something should break? Yes, it would definitely be easier to forget the whole thing.

Convenience—the benchmark of all good bureaucrats. As little work as possible will suffice.

Notwithstanding the many administrators who work astonishing hours for laughable pay out of sheer dedication, there are many of these scapery-by.

Early Thursday morning, *The Rebel Yell* will be conveniently deposited for UNLV students to pick up. Broadcast is another story.

Broadcast is a 20th century

phenomenon, requiring more sophistication to get from sender to receiver. UNLV has shunned the 20th century by refusing free cable. And sender is exasperated.

"I feel like I'm struggling against myself," Callie Kolb, a UNLV-TV worker said.

It is unlikely that Prime Cable will ever renew the offer. The offer was made because when the building was being

built it would have been simple to install the cable then.

So, on into eternity, UNLV-TV will be whistling into the wind. The dorm

students will probably not get plugged in ever. But take heart—most of those bureaucrats can sit back and turn on UNLV-TV at home.

Maybe UNLV-TV should change its target audience, to those with both cable and the leisure time to watch it. How about renaming it ADMIN-TV?

April Partridge is a staff news writer for *The Rebel Yell*.

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