

Editorial

Oust incumbents in election

This is the week, folks! It's your chance to stand up and be counted during the primary elections for next year's student government.

If you don't vote, don't complain about the representation you find yourself with after the elections.

Primary voting will be held Wednesday and Thursday on the UNLV campus for the executive board positions. That's student body president and vice president, as well as president of the student senate.

These key positions have been filled by controversial characters this year. People need to turn out to ensure that we experience a much needed changing of the guard.

As far as student government is concerned, most of the politico's that held office this year should not be held over next year. Since the operative word here is "student," let's give some new people a chance to benefit from the learning experience of being part of student government.

We need no career politicians at the university level. If it's a question of leadership, others need a chance to practice those skills. If it's a question of salaries and tuition waivers, the incumbents are trying hard to become the career politicians that we don't need.

We shouldn't assume that only this year's haggard flock can competently represent us. Anyone who has followed the hi-jinx of our current "leadership," knows that we need to do away with the majority of the incumbents. When you see one on the ballot when you turn out to vote, vote for someone new.

We don't say that lightly. You may be asking, "But what about the issues? Who are these people wanting our votes, our money for their salaries and tuition?" Clearly, our present student government president John Pida; senate president Pat Smith, and senate secretary, Dineen Barkhuff want it all. The "gang" treated themselves to a whopping \$200-plus dinner Thursday night where King Pida ordered rack of lamb, no less, and Smith brought along two dates: his fraternity brothers. This was another in a series of blatant abuse of privilege.

Under standard protocol, it is common for a CSUN member to escort a guest speaker to dinner before or after the event. Kim Peek, the inspiration for *Rainman*, and his father, were extended the practice, however, it did not necessitate an entourage of student government officials.

Therefore, *The Rebel Yell* strongly admonishes their actions and encourages everyone to seriously consider their allegiances.

Senior Scott Schwartz, hotel administration major and former senator, is vying for the position of student government president. Based on his previous track record, genuine involvement in the day-to-day affairs of student government, and his keen ability to vocalize his concerns for the student body, *The Rebel Yell* endorses his candidacy.

Student government president candidate Aaron Rosenthal, a senior finance major, has also defended students by protecting their funds and blocking tuition fee increases. Three years ago he lobbied as student representative to the Legislature to place a freeze on tuition increases. This is the type of

candidate we need to support.

Student senator Lea Fleischman, a senior theatre major, is also running for student government president. She gets a "thumbs up" for her dedication and hard work.

Joe Mills, student government vice president, is running again for the same position. He has continuously been undermined and disrespected by Pida and Smith. *The Rebel Yell* feels the guy could do a decent job if not for the obstacles he's encountered.

The only other incumbent candidate that we endorse is Joe Laxague for senate president. Laxague has demonstrated his leadership abilities as a student senator who has continuously voted in the best interests of the campus population as a whole.

He holds himself outside the usual CSUN "cliqueishness" that has plagued and detracted from the quality of our leadership throughout the past term.

So again we say: If you do recognize any of the names on the ballot as hold-overs from this year's dis-passionate, dis-dainful, dis-organized group of student government "leaders," be sure to vote for someone else.

We need to send a clear message at the polls that we want a government that won't "dis" us yet another year.

We want representatives who truly represent us, not themselves. We want leaders that know that leadership means more than free tuition, free trips, and free reign with the million dollar budget that student government enjoys.

Indulge your wanderlust

Have you ever thought about foreign exchange?

Have you ever imagined travel? I'm not talking about a summer visit to Gran and Gramps in Oklahoma or a quick and drunken weekend in San Diego. I'm not even talking about a sun-drenched (and sweat-drenched) excursion to the beaches of Florida—considered by many to be the ideal vacation.

Stephanie Says
STEPHANIE REIDY

I mean real travel—travel that requires some serious plane time and a handy pocket translator for communicating with the natives. Imagine experiencing not only a different climate, but a different way of life!

Instead of hitting that fraternity party on the weekend, how about hopping on a 45-minute ferry to Paris? Why not see the Louvre instead of the Liberace Museum?

I know you've all heard tales of those marvelous cafes in Amsterdam where they serve more than just coffee and bagels. How about the infamous red light district (I'm not suggesting that anyone patronize it, just that it might be fun for the, ah, view)?

The point is, there's a beautiful world out there with infinite experiences to offer and a multitude of new sights, sounds, cultures and surroundings to pay tribute to.

To truly expand your world-views and taste another way of life, a two-week trip isn't sufficient. Better even than visiting a different country is living in one! (That is, for a while. I'm not trying to chase anyone out of the U.S.)

Yeah, yeah, okay. So, packing up the futon and heading for Spain isn't a viable option, financially or practically. You may have "Spanish I" under your belt, but you still have trouble pronouncing your dinner at Ricardo's, let alone sur-

living in a Spanish-speaking nation.

Even for the most adventurous among us, living in another country is a pretty intimidating concept. Where do you live? Work? How do you survive? How do you know if you're breaking the law?

In two words: foreign exchange. You've all heard the term before, and it probably conjures

up images of that Swedish babe with an accent who sat next to you in English class. How would you like to be the one with the accent?

Foreign exchange programs are widely available to you as a student, and they offer solutions to all of those confusing survival dilemmas.

Housing and food are provided, either by local university students and families, or through a dorm residence program. Since the program is organized through the school, there is always assistance available and people ready to answer any questions or concerns. In essence, it's spoon-fed foreign survival.

Another major benefit to this program is the fact that by traveling to another country you don't interrupt your education; you enrich it. The courses offered are accredited by American universities, and are transferable to your school in the states.

Also, many non-language classes are taught in English, which helps a lot if you love the idea of living abroad, but not of stumbling along semi-illiterate in all of your classes. There are program-organized field trips, cultural and sporting activities available. Like I said: spoon fed!

If you really can't cope with the whole communication thing (i.e. you got a D in your

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THE REBEL YELL

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