

THE REBEL YELL

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Letters to the editor should be typed and be fewer than 300 words. Each letter must include name, address and telephone number. Writers affiliated with UNLV must include class and major, or faculty/staff position. Letters are subject to editing for length and clarity.

Welcome back to Rebalilty

trevor hayes
opinion editor

Don't let the calendar nor the thermometer fool you. Fall is here.

The unmistakable sight of well-dressed, tanned, happy people walking around campus means we have a batch of first-time college students on campus.

Remembering my early college days (yes, I can remember that far back), I always thought it would be nice if someone would have taken the time to give me the inside tip on college life.

I am not talking about showing me where the Registrar's office or library are located. I mean the real deal. What's important and what's not, how to identify fellow freshmen and how to make the most of my experience. Without such guidance I've found myself at the start of year number six, which is actually the norm at UNLV rather than the exception.

First things first: How do you tell who is who on campus? It is key for your academic success to be able to differentiate between fellow rookies and career students.

Let's start with that 8:30 a.m. class. Everyone else in your class is: a) a fellow freshman, b) a non-traditional student (a.k.a. adults) or c) deranged. Those students who speak of academic and career goals fall into the a or b categories.

Take a good look at those students in your 11:30 a.m. class, the ones draped in wrinkled clothes with pillow marks on their faces because they just rolled out of bed. You will not see them for a couple of weeks after the first day. These are the student who pick up the syllabus on the first day and only come back on review and exam days.

The description of these students must be applied on a case-by-case basis, however this group of Rebels is definitely not type a nor type b students. A confused and baffled look is usually worn like a badge of honor on the faces of those students in the middle.

Members of this second group are usually somewhere between sophomores and seniors in class standing. But don't expect straightforward responses from them. They identify themselves with witty titles like "redshirt sophomore" and "third-year junior" (translation: the third year they have been a junior, not to be confused with third year of college.)

Academic planning for these students means making reservations early for spring break and arranging work schedules around the ever popular "ladies night" at all the hottest clubs.

When speaking of what they learned in college, the importance of networking, getting a well-rounded education and Tahoe replace the traditional answers involving classes and books. They take the most pride in being regulars at the hip new club and avoiding the passé night spots long since abandoned by the cool crowd and replaced by the bandwagoning masses.

And then there's the seniors. They are the few and the proud who have survived the previously mentioned phases and somehow achieved a place within striking distance of graduation in less than a decade.

The seniors tend to be a bit more mellow, almost in a state of comatose. They are tired of the mellow-drama. These people have been there and done that everywhere in town and don't care to do it any more. They smile at school for the first time since freshman year. They wear clothes that were in style in the late '80s and don't seem to care that they look goofy.

Seniors appear to be worn, weary and tired individuals. Finding a marketable achievement to place on the resume is their only concern. Their greatest collegiate achievement is that they were regulars at Tom & Jerry's when they were the only people under 40 in the entire place, and that they spent spring break in Havasu before MTV's commercialism destroyed the soul and spirit of the annual desert ritual.

Now that you know a thing or two about the people at UNLV it's time to let you in on some of the trade secrets. For starters, the best place to park is in the new multi-level parking garage, complete with shuttle service to and from all areas of the campus. When you're stomach starts to growl, head on over to Spago, located inside the Moyer Student Union. And when you're done stuffing your face with delicious

MSU food, why not engage in some fun after-school activities? Visit the bowling alley inside the MSU or relax and enjoy a movie at the new theater in Beam Hall.

The dorms are a great place to live. Greek Row is where you'll find all the best parties. And remember: Student government really cares about you, the student. Go check out what they have to offer. I've heard something about free meals at up-scale restaurants for all students.

Before all you freshmen storm my office and try to burn me at the stake for giving you the inside scoop on things and places that do not exist, I have some more words of wisdom: Before you know it, you'll be in my position telling tall tales to the bright-eyed, sickening, blissful freshmen.

I hope that new students have picked up a pointer or two that will aid you in your pursuit of academic excellence at UNLV. Those of you returning for another year, I hope I provided some comic relief and a reminder of your early days here when the Rebels played hoops and Pub and Grub flourished.

My final words of advice to all students is have fun. Don't take school too seriously and get involved. Join a club or an organization and build that resume as you go along. Be a part of the university experience. Be a Rebel.

