

## 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.

## Slamming Greeks is for conformists

**trevor hayes**  
opinion editor

So, you've watched Animal House, Revenge of the Nerds and Beverly Hills 90210 and you think you have an understanding of what fraternities and sororities are all about.

Don't be fooled by creative exaggerations and stereotypical extremes used to make money at the box office.

At the beginning of each semester these organizations recruit new members during Rush Week. The rush process gives prospective members the opportunity to meet the members of these organizations to see for themselves what Greek life is all about. It enables students to make informed decisions without obligation. This opposes the trend of following the crowd, who are quick to reject something they know little or nothing about.

Joining a fraternity or sorority is just buying friends, or so some say. That's another popular misconception that prevents many people from taking a chance to see how much their entire lives could be enriched through involvement with a Greek organization. Incidentally, membership costs less per month than cable television.

By now you're probably saying, "I don't have a lot of money and you're trying to tell me this is better than cable TV?" All I can do is share the valuable skills I've learned from my involvement with my fraternity and let you decide for yourself.

Since joining a fraternity during my sophomore year of college I've learned valuable leadership skills, ranging from conducting orderly meetings to planning and organizing events for hundreds of people. I've also learned motivational skills and the value of helping others through community service work. Most importantly, I've learned how to get along with a wide variety of people.

"What do you mean get along with a variety of people? Aren't you guys all clones?" you ask. No. In a group with 20 to 60 members, chances are you will not like every single person, not to mention those people in other Greek organizations you will encounter frequently. But my fraternity experience has taught me to put aside my per-

sonal differences for the benefit of the group.

Before joining a fraternity I would have avoided a person I didn't like. Even worse, I may have engaged them in a confrontation. It's amazing how much I've learned from interacting with people who dress differently than I, who listen to different music than I do and who come from socio-economic backgrounds different from my own.

In a real world full of unemployed college graduates, employers look for people who not only attended class, but who maximized their opportunities at their universities.

At UNLV Greeks comprise slightly less than five percent of the student population yet hold a majority of campus leadership positions. At least 10 leadership positions in CSUN belong to Greeks, including student body president and senate president.

These figures hold relatively true nationally. Fraternity men comprise about two percent of the male population in the United States. However, these men account for approximately 76% of U.S. Congress, 80% of Fortune 500 CEOs and 71% of all men listed in Who's Who in America. What's more, 85% of Supreme Court justices since 1910 and all but three United States presidents since 1825 have been fraternity men.

"That is all fine and dandy," you say, "but no amount of success is worth being degraded and beaten." Perhaps you didn't know about UNLV's strict policies that prohibit hazing. Majority of national fraternities with chapters on this campus also prohibit hazing.

Greeks attempt to create an atmosphere that promotes personal, professional and moral growth for each and every member. Destroying the self-esteem of a young person does not coincide with these goals.

So, before giving in to conformity by blasting the Greek system before learning anything about it, stop by Rush and talk to some members. Greek organizations aren't for everybody. But don't allow someone else to make your decisions for you. Only you can decide whether or not joining a Greek organization is for you.

## Minimum enrollment policy inspires phlegm

**s. t. sutherland**  
staff opinion writer

A popular movie from a few years ago informed us that "White Men Can't Jump." Well, it seems that they can't spit either.

I spent ten weeks this sum-

mer living and studying in Costa Rica, an experience I hope to share more of with readers of *The Rebel Yell* in later issues, and I can offer this cultural observation: Central American men, at least "Ticos" - as citizens of Costa Rica prefer to be called - definitely can spit.

## Don't need to be Greek to have fun

**robyn jana**

contributing opinion writer

When I began attending UNLV as a freshman four years ago, I felt no need to join a sorority. I lived on campus so I made many new friends and had no interest in being sociable with a bunch of strangers who run around campus in matching sweatshirts with Greek letters draped across their chests.

I've found Las Vegas to be a relatively easy town in which to meet people. Since my first day of school here four years ago, most everyone I have encountered has been friendly and enthusiastic. I moved to this town not knowing a soul. Yet I've managed to be an active participant on campus without Greek life.

I've met some wonderful people on campus throughout my college experience. Some I got to know in class; others, in the dorms. Combined, these people are among my closest friends. Yet I didn't need to join a sorority to meet them. Those of you who are new to UNLV need not worry about meeting people. Social opportunities will arise in class, at work, even in line at the Dining Commons.

Did I ever consider joining a sorority? Honestly, I can't picture myself in one. I'm just not the sort of person who would be happy having to dress like my friends and think like them. No thanks. Besides, I think I'd always feel like I was being judged for my every move. How else do you think those sorority girls determine whether or not potential members have what it takes to be a part of their group?

I once considered joining a sorority, I must admit. But five seconds later I changed my mind. It was the application process that most disturbed me. I mean, it's a requirement to hand in about five photographs of yourself so that they can be passed around to all of the different sororities. Perhaps I misunderstood and thought they wanted photographs for superficial reasons. How could

I have made such a mistake? (Yes, I meant that sarcastically.)

I wouldn't say I'm anti-Greek because that's not the case at all. In fact, I have several friends who belong to Greek organizations. I've even been to fraternity parties, probably too many of them, so I can't say that Greek life is entirely a waste. Some people actually enjoy spending their time surrounding a keg and making trivial conversation.

It seems when people are members of organizations as cliquish as the Greek system, group-think occurs.

People don't want to be themselves. Why should they when it's so much easier to be like everybody else?

Having graduated, I can look back now and say how thrilled I am that I didn't focus on only one group of people. Why limit yourself to just one group when there are scores of interesting people in this town and on this campus?

Most people I know who joined fraternities or sororities four years ago became inactive within two years. Maybe that's how long it took for them to grow up. That just makes me realize how little joining a Greek organization actually affected their lives.

Another problem I have with Greek life is the cost to join. Hey, becoming a member of a fraternity or sorority is pricey! I don't know about you but I'd sure rather have cable than pay monthly dues for my friendships. Some of us don't have to pay for our friends; we get them for free.

Another factor to consider is how Greeks choose their members. As far as I'm concerned, it's pretty rude to exclude individuals who don't look, dress or act like the other members. I guess individuality isn't emphasized in the Greek system.

Don't get me wrong; my point is not to bash sororities and fraternities. Instead, my goal is to inform everyone who's thinking about joining a sorority or a fraternity that I've had a perfectly active social life without Greek involvement, I'm sure you can too.

Anywhere, anytime, for just about any reason, those guys can hawk up and hurl the big white juicy and hit a 50-colon piece at 20 paces without fail. And without thinking about it. Like I said, it's a cultural thing.

I saw a man this summer spit out of anger when he dis-

covered his flat tire. I saw another huff a gob of disgust when he missed his bus. Others spew simply out of boredom, just because. Sometimes the expectorant wad was ejected for empha-

See Enrollment, pg. 4