

Random Musings

By Darryl Richardson
Editor-in-Chief

"My father always used to say that when you die, if you've got five real friends, you've had a great life." — Lee Iacocca.

Well, this is it. The final edition of Random Musings of all time. Yes, after today, you won't have the opportunity to be entertained by the wit and wisdom presented in this column over the past 58 issues.

OK, so maybe this wasn't as wonderful an experience for all of you as it was for me, but I do hope that you have enjoyed the fruits of my labor.

For my final column, I want to discuss a topic that is near and dear to my heart nowadays: graduation.

Next Saturday will mark the

end of my second career as an undergraduate, but it will be my first actual graduation ceremony. I was a summer graduate from Arizona back in 1992 and didn't feel right walking in the May graduation. Then I really felt strange about going back to march in December, even though I was at the ceremony. So I am really looking forward to this opportunity to be with my friends down on the floor of the T&M.

Graduation is the final chance to gather with all of your friends that you have made over the past four or five or however many years it took. But, as important as that is, graduation also serves an even more important purpose. It gives each of us the opportunity to reflect on our

time in school and remember what it was that made the time so special.

Each one of us will have a different view of what was important and not important during the past couple of years. For example, 20 years from now, will we remember who was the president of the school (no offense intended, Dr. Harter!)? Will we remember who won awards or who was a newsmaker during the year? I doubt it.

But what we will remember vividly in 20, or 30 or even 50, years will be the friendships and good times that we shared with those friends. You see, college is not simply about the classes and book learning. It is all about meeting people who have similar interests, goals and dreams as you. Back in high school, you were stuck with whoever happened to attend the same school as you did. You may have had little in common with any of the other members of your class, since they had differing ideas of

where they wanted to be in 10 years.

However, when you attend college, you see the same people day after day in many of your classes. You have seen them stressed out over term paper, mid-terms and finals. You have seen them in both the best and worst of times. And, of course, they have seen you through the same situations.

While many of your best friends from high school are now just a distant memory, the people you are close to today will likely be with you for the rest of your life. If you are lucky enough to have five real friends, as in the quote above, I'm willing to bet that at least three or four of them will be from your college days.

I know that I have been blessed in my life with some great friends. I still am close to four of my old gang from Tucson and I'll get to add another group to that list from UNLV. Between working on this paper and being active in the po-

litical science honor society, I've gotten to know some of the best and brightest that this school has to offer. It's going to be tough to say good-bye, but at least I know that I can count on some everlasting friendships. That's the true importance of college.

Las Vegas, particularly UNLV, has been a great experience for me, although I can't wait to get out of here and let the next phase of my life begin. Next month, I'm packing up and leaving town for good. Next stop, Washington, DC, with a brief stopover in Oxford, England. Time to try the East Coast for a while. But, rest assured, UNLV will always be in my thoughts.

It's now time to put this column, and the entire year, to bed. Thanks again for putting up with my rantings over the past 10 months. So, to close out the year, I'll leave you with another quote. Thanks again! Bye!

"I'm leaving Las Vegas and I won't be back." — Sheryl Crow

The reasons why I love UNLV

By Tracie Walker
Contributing Opinion Writer

My friend Kelli is obsessed with one thing: leaving UNLV.

"God, I can't wait to leave this place," she says at least once a day. "I should have gone to UNR," she laments.

She talks about the lack of parking, the expensive food, the bad elevators and the musty dorms.

She swears that her professors are biased, that the students are snobby and that the administration is plain greedy.

Needles to say, she will be transferring next semester. But despite her fixation with negativity, a lot of students share her sentiments about this campus.

I am not one of them.

In fact, I'm really going to miss this place when I leave,

which might explain why it's taken me four years to reach senior standing. No, strike that; I blame pre-calculus, which took me four semesters to pass.

So, reveling in semester-end nostalgia, here's a few cool things about this campus that you may or may not have noticed:

- the grass, especially on the hill in front of the Health Sciences building
- saying hi to cool professors
- the free veggies and dip at every special event or speech
- hearing the marching band practice
- the way the scent of sage fills the air after it rains, especially around the Student Union
- the free e-mail account
- the free (though ancient) candy in the Rebel Yell office - Halloween candy in the fall, Easter

- candy in the spring
- meeting cool people in the dorms
- meeting cool people from other countries
- meeting cool people from this crazy town
- riding in a campus golf cart
- working with cool T.A.'s (like Jen and Jamie!)
- using the handicap button to open the door instead of pulling it open
- the Desert Landscape Garden at night
- hearing a cool band in the outdoor amphitheater
- catching a glimpse of one of the white rabbits that lives on the school grounds (usually in the shrubbery around the round building of the library)
- all the campus organizations
- all the departments and colleges

Spiderwebs

Butterfly Kisses

Hannah Jane

I'll Be Missing You

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2:30AM -
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EQUALLY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

OUI BOUND
4PM -
8PM