

Coffin and Keys



The Fall 2009 Dead Snow Day Edition



History

On the night of October 24, 1916, ten men representing each of the various factions existing at the time at the University of Nevada, and comprising men of all walks of college life, met together with the idea of promoting the common good. The consensus was that a force was needed to give the proper impetus to affairs of school life. At the time, the rivalry among the various groups threatened to supplant the steadfast loyalty to the University that all its citizens should unite in giving. It was evident that unless energetic steps were taken at once, our community would become a collection of wrangling cliques instead of a united whole. Under such conditions, no progress would be possible. The very life of our University would be threatened. Realizing this, and bound by a pledge to work for the common good, these men founded this society in which all the component parts of our school may be represented around the council table.



Club Un-Support Funding

Director of Clubs & Orgs Patrick Delaplain (in one of his four-hour digressions on why OrgSync is the best thing that ever happened to the four people who actually use it) recently called our current club funding policies a “club un-support” system. The Men of Coffin and Keys couldn’t agree more. Here’s why...

The original Club Support and Funding system was designed as a way to supplement a club’s internal fundraising. It was intended as a way for newer, smaller clubs to leverage the money of the students to increase recruitment, grow, and thus become self sufficient. Think of it like a start-up business loan, which the clubs pay back by providing students one more potential option for an extraordinary college experience. However, the system has done none of these things. In fact, it has done the complete opposite. The big clubs and fraternity houses are using political clout to ensure their funding requests get approved—if you have a \$100,000 budget, buy your own fucking watermelons. Meanwhile, many smaller clubs are being created merely as an outlet for a small group of buddies to take advantage of free student cash, not attempting to recruit, grow, or participate in any sector of campus life. The current club support account has over a \$170,000

budget (all of which you, the students, pay for). Worst yet, instead of this money supplementing internal club fundraising, it is replacing it. This is creating a dangerous interdependency between student clubs and ASUN club funding. Angry yet? If not take a look at these recent APPROVED club funding requests:

- American Institute of Chemical Engineers - **\$900** for pizza. Only pizza.
- Anime and Manga Society - **\$3,921** for “Shadows.” ...
- Art of Living - **\$4,000** for a fee waiver
- Men’s Ultimate Frisbee - **\$1,427** for pizza, poker, iPod, stereo system, digital expenses
- The Apple Poppers - **\$500** for apples. At the going Winco food stamp rate, that’s roughly 568 pounds of apples.
- Kappa Delta Chi - **\$462** for food, supplies, new member attire, pins, and fraternity letters. And to think, SAE got denied their request for hair gel, blow dryers, and new affliction rush shirts.
- Students Against Parking Services - **\$5,000** for quarters. Save your change, the meter fairy will save you!*
- UNR Students for Liberty - **\$5,516** across a variety of tiers for catering, plane tickets, a speaker etc. It doesn’t seem like UNR Students for Liberty practice the “sound money” that they preach.
- Computer & Gaming Club - **\$270** for four copies of the Left for Dead II video game

Beyond these specifics, many clubs spent over \$1,000 on plane tickets, and 14 percent (\$5,752) of the total allocated amount was spent on pizza alone. More and more clubs are becoming dependent on this inefficient method of fundraising, making potential solutions to the problem increasingly difficult as time progresses. Director Delaplain and his club commissioners have realized this, and are meeting over winter to discuss solutions. While this is an important first step towards a solution, many of the ideas being proposed so far do not even come close to solving the problem that is inherent in the current policy. Drastic measures need to be considered at these meetings and implemented as soon as possible to avoid further hurting the clubs on this campus.

*Don’t be stupid.



The Royal Falcons Rise Again

Rumors have been circulating about an incident that occurred at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity house in early November. Here is some of what the Men of Coffin and Keys have overheard:

- Luke Lippincott was in a thong playing Candyland. Twelve Greek actives were sent to the Health Center as a result.
- A sorority member gave birth to a feces child in the tunnel of love.
- Sally Morgan was found emceeing the bi-annual SAE elephant walk, informing Greeks on the proper finger and thumb position.
- Bums from Fourth Street who were high on rocks, pushing shopping carts and rolling their own cigarettes stormed an SAE/Sigma Kappa philanthropy.

Although it does not take much effort to discover the specifics of what the university is *actually* investigating, the members of SAE have not attempted to put forth the minimal amount of time required to find out what they're being investigated for. So, we won't tell them and reward their passive ignorance. We can only hope that someone will step up to save their century-old legacy at this university before the Delta Gammas get a housing upgrade.

As for the rest of the Greek readership, this event should just represent one more link in a long chain of fuck-ups. Although the events themselves may slightly differ, the lessons are all the same, and they are consistently ignored again and again. Let's start with a major preventative lesson: If you don't agree with the rules you have pledged to follow, actively work to change the rules. Don't just blatantly break them. Although the university's overbearing rules regarding the Greek system have been slowly strangling the houses and pushing them into the shadows, no fraternity or sorority has once tried to step up and defend themselves. If the university makes rules, and you sign them, what do you expect them to do when the rules are completely disregarded time and time again. A proactive discussion on the inefficiencies of the current university/Greek housing and conduct agreement could have prevented the current (and most past) events from ever happening.

One more method of preventative insurance: build worth with the university. Take a second and ask yourself: how does someone who is not Greek (i.e. a campus administrator) perceive my house on a daily basis? When you talk to your brothers/sisters in class, do you talk about how awesome it is when Tri Delta donates so much time and money to charity or do you talk about how stoked you are to go get fucked up and try to steal shit while gorging yourself on pancakes? With all the things our university is currently dealing with (budget cuts, staff firings), they have no patience left for the debauchery of the Greek community. Realize how others perceive you and begin to build a meaningful legacy here at Nevada. If the university and administrators have no reason to keep you on this campus, they won't.

So, now that you've royally screwed the pooch by thinking you could secretly break the rules forever, what do you do? Here's a start—don't spread baseless rumors or make scenes at bars around campus, and take accountability for your personal actions.

Realize the effect that one dumb person can have on the Greek community as a whole. If you wear letters (it doesn't matter what order they are in) you are tasked with the difficult job of acting as a representative or ambassador for all Greeks. Spreading rumors to try and defame or bring down another house will only hurt your organization in the long run. If you think that you can break the rules forever *or* that the university doesn't have a huge case of Hoover files on your house *or* that the current course of action of our Greek houses is sustainable for any duration of time, you are an idiot. There needs to be a major ideological shift in our Greek houses if any of them are going to make it out of the next four years. Our advice: revisit your founding principles, read (yes, actually read) your ritual and ask yourself if you epitomize anything the document entails. Are you trying to personify the high ideals of your founders or are you merely hiding behind fake claims of "brotherhood" so you can get fucked up and further belittle any remnant of a meaningful fraternity or sorority experience.

Greek life simply will not survive on this campus if there are only three fraternities left. You may think you are invincible behind the brick walls of your big house, but yet ATO, a fraternity with over 80 years of history and alumni is gone, and SAE is teetering on the brink of the same cliff. Take a second and think about it, no fraternity that was founded before 1970 might be left on this campus in a few years. The university will be run by Pi Kappas, Phi Deltas and TKEs.



Snow Blow Day

Snow crystals form when tiny, super-cooled cloud droplets freeze. Once these droplets freeze these crystals join with others to form flakes. Once they accumulate enough mass they fall to the ground. Each snowflake forms differently, but on December 7th every one of those fucking flakes ruined our DEAD DAY. Reminiscent of fifty-eight years ago at Pearl Harbor, these kamakazi snow flakes obliterated our day to relax, recover, and do some fucking tarea.

Most of you woke to realize there was no way your rice rocket would make it to campus. Hordes of women slid around Virginia and Sierra St. crashing into parked vehicles like an adventurous day of bumper cars. University officials made the decision to cancel classes and close campus. Hurray, SNOWDAY! The snow day may have been fun, but it actually didn't help at all.

1. Tuesday and Wednesday are going to be just as dangerous and icy as Monday,
2. Our Dead Snow Day was without university resources, including: The Joe, The Knowledge Center, and Lombardi (Lambda Chi Alpha members were in complete and utter shock!),
3. Students with prearranged plans and activities are now forced to attend Wednesday classes.

A university provost sent university officials and employees a message that Wednesday's makeup class is now at the discretion of the teacher. The importance of Dead Day is vital to finals at the University of Nevada. Most students will agree that Wednesday's class time will be better used to finish final projects, meet with groups, and complete papers. Students cannot afford to miss this last prep day.



The Word Campaign

The “Word Campaign” is an ASUN-sponsored “social norming campaign” that is attempting to raise awareness on the consistent misuse of derogatory racial slurs. The campaign wants to promote discussion on how the everyday words we use can negatively affect the lives of friends and family. Here is how the campaign will work—new racial slurs or other derogatory words will be picked each month. Then, a student on campus who supposedly “self-identifies” as representing the specific group referenced by the word is chosen. By connecting these derogatory words with a campus leader or role model who is directly or indirectly hurt by their use, ASUN is hoping to send a message to students about the true cost of using racial slurs. Have an idea for a new word? So do we: Pipe-layer, Mexinugget, Flied Lice, Colon Camper, Twat Bandit, Jizz Junkie, Dreidel-Spinner. Email your suggestions to Vice-President Charlie Jose @ vicepresident@asun.unr.edu.

This program is an interesting beast for the Unity Commission to tackle. Historically, minorities have worked together to stop the use of racial slurs; however, the commission is taking it in the complete opposite direction. Will these words, plastered on billboards and TV screens around campus, help to promote conversation on the true social cost of their use, or will they merely act as entertainment for those who already abuse these words the most? Time will tell the answer, but either way the Men of Coffin and Keys respect the Unity Commission for going out on a limb, taking a risk and attempting to bring something actually *new* to this campus.



JCSU—Angel Tree

Come help support the Sierra Vista Elementary School, the closest school to the U of N, during the Holiday season. The Joe is working with the school to provide more than food stamps and coals in these children’s stockings. The Men of Coffin and Keys suggests you stop by the Joe’s 1st floor desk and help support this worthy cause. Here are the easy steps to participate:

1. Select an ornament from the tree
2. Buy a gift. Last time XK checked Wal-Mart had Barbie’s for only \$5.
3. Wrap your present. We highly encourage using real giftwrap, let’s show these kids all gifts don’t come in newspaper.
4. Place the ornament tag on your gift box or bag
5. Bring the gift back to the Joe by Friday Dec. 11th, 2009.



Hot Dog Fingers

Last Saturday, the University of Nevada held its 119th commencement ceremony in Lawlor Events Center. As usual for the winter ceremony, a procession of “graduates” walked into Lawlor, received their degrees, blacked out later that evening, then returned to the tedious act of studying for finals. Commencement is a marvelous tradition which reaches back to the renaissance and serves as a punctuation to a student’s long and arduous college career. Walking across that stage represents the culmination of

years of hard work and dedication. But...some smart soul forgot two quintessential parts of commencement, “the turning of the tassel” and “the throwing of graduation caps.” We expected to see the engineers nail students with their hard hats. The university should put in the time and effort to make this joyous and important event memorable and impactful.

At our University, the percentage of students who graduate in four years is a dismal 12 percent. That’s right: 12 percent of the kids you lived in the dorms with, 12 percent of those you sat next to at opening ceremonies, or 12 percent of your pledge class will walk across the stage after 4 years. The Men of Coffin and Keys understand that not everyone could or should graduate in the regular 4-year cycle, but the percentage of freshman that graduate in six years is still only 42 percent. So why is this? Well, nobody really knows. There are a lot of areas to point fingers at, but fundamentally, it is everyone’s fault. It is tough to say that any one area of campus is more or less responsible for our ridiculous graduation rates. University officials and students need to do their equal part to strive for success. Work hard to use university programs that facilitate a successful graduation.

Graduation is the first step in a potentially long process to success. This achievement at the U of N is just the first of many accomplishments. Seeing the graduates of this great university walk across the stage at commencement reminds the Men of Coffin and Keys of the promise our graduates represent for our collective futures but also reminds us just how difficult that future could be to achieve.



The Fakeaway

It was a magical place on the edge of campus, a place where you could always find a cheap drink and a couple tasty under-aged coeds. Known as Lambda Chi and Pi Phi’s home court, it’s surprising their house composites never made their way to the grey greasy walls. What happened to the conquerors (80’s mullets and all) of the 99 bottles of beer on the wall? Nickleback said it best, “We always looked at those photographs. Every time it made us laugh.”

Possibly the first bar your fake ID ever worked at, the first urinal you ever puked in, the first place you legitimately got away with playing *Truly, Madly, Deeply* by Savage Garden on the Jukebox; where has the Breakaway gone?

The new owners (uglier, more grotesque versions of Ellen DeGeneres and Portia De Rossi) say they are trying to clean it up. They hope to serve lunch in the near future. The drinks on Thursday are still \$.50 gut bombs, the men’s bathroom is still mirror-less, and the bartenders still look like they are from Pahrump, NV. So what’s really changed? Our college shithole bar is no longer our college shithole bar. The bare red walls and wood floors seem to have changed the college crowd that once raged at 9th and Virginia. Somehow the Breakaway has transformed from the pregame of every weekend to the local hang out for Southpark’s Mr. Slave and his posse of dikes on bikes.



Hey Griswold...

The Multicultural Greek Council (MGC) was started on this campus in 2005, and since its inception has been comprised of young men and women who incorporate and uphold diversity throughout their organizations. Historically, minorities were not allowed to participate in the formal Greek organizations until the late 1950's. Thus, multicultural fraternities and sororities began to evolve in the early 1900's.

Nevada's MGC has been suffering from a lack of collaboration between themselves, the Interfraternity Council (IFC), the Panhellenic council, and the administration. This is one of the largest setbacks that the Greek community currently faces.

The process of bettering the Greek community starts with the councils. MGC, IFC, and Panhellenic need to work together, reshape their attitudes, and change the outlook of the University's fraternities and sororities. MGC, and the newly elected president Emma Garcia: please work on getting MGC more involved in the Greek community. Tell your organizations to stop being islands and start working together. Victor Gamboa did a wonderful job opening up communication between IFC and Panhellenic; now continue this and begin creating new relationships. Continue down a good path and MGC will grow to be a prominent group and council on this campus.

The officials of IFC and Panhellenic need to understand that communication must go both ways for it to work. There have been MGC representatives at both IFC and Panhellenic meetings, but the action hasn't been reciprocated. It says specifically in the IFC Bylaws *Article III, Section 6. Duties of the Vice Pres., number 5*: "Attend a monthly meeting of both the Panhellenic and Multicultural Greek Councils as IFC representative." Travis Wideen has not gone to one MGC meeting, thus he failed his duty as VP. Whoever the next IFC President is needs to enforce the rules and regulations that IFC created and is bound under. To the Greeks under Panhellenic: good job for having socials with MGC Fraternities, and attending MGC philanthropy events. Have more socials with MGC sororities, and learn about them and allow them to learn from you. Send a Panhellenic representative to MGC meetings.

During all Greek events the communication between culturally different organizations is more awkward than middle school dances. Greek organizations are all founded on the principals of Brotherhood and Sisterhood. Allow these ideals to take place within *all* members of your Greek community and strengthen the Greek system as a whole.

*Existing solely for the betterment of the University of Nevada, we are the Men of Coffin and Keys:
Deeds, Chinoak, Schlitzes, Smalls, Butters, Shylock, Judas, Yellow Belly,
Kobayashi, The Graduate, Seaman, Boomerang, Johnny Utah, Keiko*



Grades

F: Sean Hostmeyer. You cannot re-write all of the Senate Rules or Laws by yourself to make them "easier to understand." Legal language is titled as such for a reason. Senators: read the potential ASUN Revised Statutes carefully and give them the attention and time they deserve.

F: SAE. Eliminating the booze shouldn't eliminate the brotherhood. The moment you stop acting like you have a house is the moment it is gone. Stand up and do something—show the university that there is something worth saving on Evans Avenue.

Inc: Senator Renee Freeman. We can't give you a grade until you show up to more than half the senate meetings. Division of Health Science students: email her @ senatorfreeman@asun.unr.edu to tell her she can't represent you until she actually shows up.

F: Re-Model Curse. The re-model curse has struck again. Sigma Nu, you're next.

D: All Greek Ball. Meatballs + Egg rolls ≠ crazy delicious.

B: Nevada Football. (8—4) You won every game you should have (except Co. St.), yet blew every chance to beat a quality team. Congrats to the three 1,000 yard rushers: Lippincott, Taua, Kaepernick.

A: Panhellenic President Ashley Huffelpuff has had 6 separate deposits in her Gringotts account in the past 3 months. That's one Chamber of Secrets we don't want to explore.

A: Delta Delta Delta. Your comical drink-throwing at sigma nu's dance was hilarious. Once again, someone left ET's face dripping.

F: Cantina Del Lobo. Filing for Capitulo Once. They're On The Border.

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