

News Features

# Mysterious malady strikes dorm residents

by kurt hildebrand  
managing editor

A mysterious disease struck nearly 50 Tonopah Hall residents, last week, with symptoms ranging from nausea and vomiting to diarrhea, according to Dean of Student Services, Robert Ackerman.

Ackerman, who released an official statement, April 2, said some of the students were ill enough to need medical attention.

The Nevada Public Health Service was called

in to investigate the illness due to the severity and prevalence of the symptoms.

The investigation included interviews with students to determine food habits, Ackerman said to preclude the possibility of food poisoning. He added that although the investigation is not complete, no common food has been found.

The Health Service also took stool samples from the students and food samples from the

cafeteria.

Ackerman said the Health Service has certified the cafeteria for continued service and that he intends to continue to eat meals in the cafeteria to rebuild student confidence.

Director of Resident Life, Bill Pell said the illness was first reported by a concerned parent.

"We tallied up the number of people who were sick," he said.

"Then we got in touch with the University Police



**LOW EATER TURNOUT**— Rumors of food poisoning, substantially reduced attendance in the dining commons Thursday.  
*photo by bruce claver*



**STILL DISHING IT OUT**— The dining commons remains in operation after being cleared by the Health Department.  
*photo by bruce claver*

who called the paramedics," Pell said. "So far the evidence leans toward some sort of disease. People were still getting sick the day after, and the doctor came in."

Steve Nold, an Engineering major described some of the symptoms he felt.

"I was violently ill with vomiting and diarrhea and it went on from 6pm, Wednesday night until four or five, today (Thursday)," he said. "I had the chills and felt really dizzy."

Adam Bassuk, Resident Advisor for the third floor said six people went to the hospital at about 11:30pm on the night of the incident.

"I woke up at 4am in the morning and I was dizzy and started vomiting until 9am," he said. "I just suffered through it all."

Teri Pace, a Health Education student said, "I ate lunch at SAGA, Tuesday and I started to feel ill on Thursday morning, causing me to miss an important Math class. I also

had to take an exam while I was sick."

Chris Leyba said he had "big time" stomach cramps by 4:30 on the morning after he had eaten at SAGA.

"They are telling the students not to sign any waivers or settlement papers until more is found out about this illness."

According to Ackerman, the results of the lab tests will not be available until April 7 when he will inform the dormitory residents of them.

## Safe sex pros and cons debated

What message can be sent to teenagers and adults about the prevention of AIDS? Total abstinence? How to achieve "safe sex"? And what responsibility does the broadcast industry have in carrying condom advertising?

These hotly debated issues will be aired in a public forum, 7pm, Wednesday, April 8 in the boardroom of the Clark County School District Office, 2832 E. Flamingo.

"Aids, Sexuality Education and Condom Advertising" is cosponsored by UNLV's School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation and the Southern Nevada Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Dr. Warren McNab, professor of health education, will present an overview of current thought and policies on sexuality education. He will also introduce an AIDS education film and curriculum materials approved by the School District.

Margaret Eilgar, a school district nurse and

teacher for the Pregnant Teen Program at Sunset High School, will report on recent Clark County studies and her first-hand experiences with students and sex education.

Ruth McGroarty, director of the Pro-Life League of Nevada, which advocates total abstinence rather than "safe sex", will respond to McNab's presentation.

Marti van Dorn, KVBC-TV's health editor, will report her findings on condom advertising, and will show a videotape of typical condom ads.

"We have no problem about teaching abstinence as part of a sexuality education course," explained McNab. "In fact, most courses include it as an option."

"But, studies show that some 50 percent of all teens are sexually active, by their own decision. We must give them information, options, so they can now make other decisions about health."

The majority of Americans surveyed nationally support sexuality

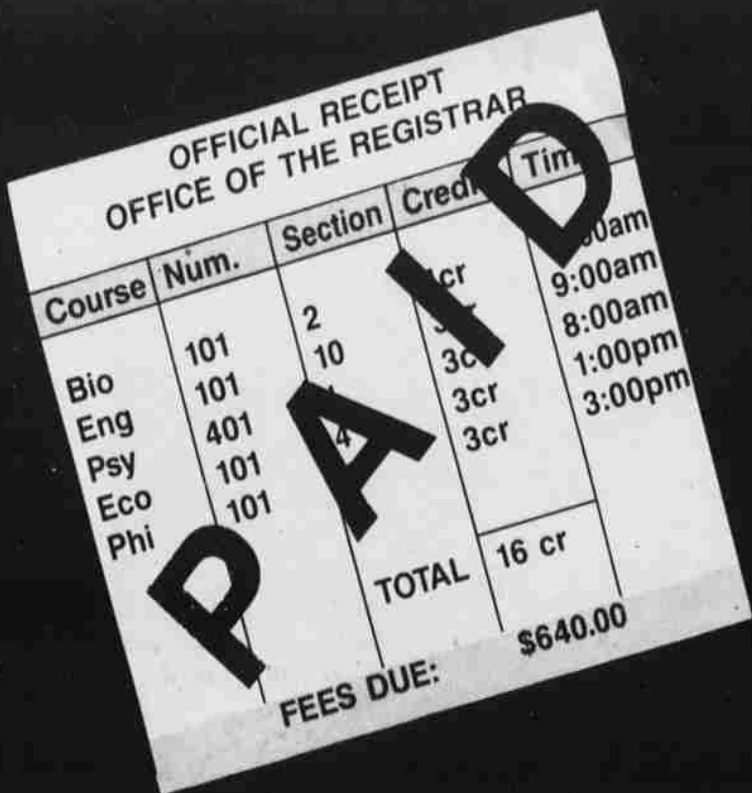
education in the schools as a way to get vital information to those who did not choose abstinence.

"Sexuality encompasses more than just intercourse," McNab said. "Sexuality is relationships, self-esteem, communication. People have the right to get this information so they can decide how to live their lives."

He emphasized that sex education and AIDS education are essential, not only in the schools, but for parents and religious groups who need to convey this information to others.

The ACLU is interested in several aspects of AIDS education, according to Sari Aizley, director of the Southern Nevada Chapter of ACLU.

"Free speech is a major issue. In a democracy, ideas must be freely expressed so that people can weigh and choose options. We must have respect for our listeners and trust their intelligence to deal with these issues."



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