

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Guest Editorial

by mary whalen

staff writer

Thursday, Nov. 19 is the anniversary of The Great American Smoke-out.

Posters can be seen around campus announcing the event. Notices are printed in *The Yellin' Rebel*.

Thursday, there will be buttons and pamphlets handed out and kickoff celebrations taking place.

Last year, while students applauded and the band played, UNLV athletes and cheerleaders participated in a balloon release in honor of the event.

But, that was outside on the campus green.

While this university sponsored event was going on, inside campus buildings, teachers were smoking in classrooms, students were smoking in

hallways and restrooms and staff members were smoking in their offices.

I have a hard time with that hypocrisy.

Even worse, one year later, little has changed.

With increasingly prohibitive announcements seemingly issued by the Surgeon General daily, has anyone at this university taken heed?

When he issued his report one year ago, that "second-hand" smoke from the burning end of a cigarette is more toxic to non-smokers in a room than "mainstream" smoke inhaled by a smoker, was anyone listening?

When the State of Nevada said that, "The smoking of tobacco in any form is prohibited if done in any room located in a public building..." (NRS 202.249) did we just turn

our heads?

Has the faculty taken any steps towards discouraging smoking on campus? Has the student newspaper charted any new course for others to follow? Has the student senate instigated any bright, innovative policy in support of a smoke-free campus? Not at UNLV.

But at our sister school, the University of Nevada, Reno, students and faculty have been listening and they are making a difference.

Last week, in support of a smoke-free campus and NRS statutes, a sweeping resolution was proposed by the UNR faculty senate which called for a complete ban of all smoking on campus.

It stated that "The smoking of tobacco products is prohibited in all buildings on the UNR campus, particularly those with central air systems which bring smoke-

contaminated air to non-smoking areas, because the effects of tobacco smoke has proved harmful.

UNR Faculty Senate member Pete Perriera said, "Because 1,000 people die each day of tobacco related diseases, the university needed to take a stand."

Unlike *The Yellin' Rebel*, where not only the editor smokes, but staff members are permitted to smoke, *The Sagebrush*, UNR's student newspaper set a no-smoking precedent two years ago.

"We had people working in our production room who were smoking while they were using our equipment," said Editor Geoff Schumaker. "They were dropping ashes down between the keys on the computer keyboard and damaging the equipment, not to mention the fact that it was damaging to everybody's health. So we put

up no-smoking signs.

"As non-smokers we have a Constitutional right to breathe clean air. Smokers are infringing on those rights," he said.

When asked why the school has suddenly taken such a strong stance against smoking, Schumaker simply said, "There's a state statute which prohibits smoking in state buildings. We hadn't been abiding by that. Now we are."

As a staff reporter for *The Yellin' Rebel*, I wrote a memo to my editor last week, asking that he remind smoking staff members of the state law regarding smoking. The memo was tossed into the trashcan.

Despite all the hoopla and celebration surrounding this year's Great American Smokeout, I feel this action typifies UNLV's real attitude on this issue.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor may be dropped off anytime between noon and 5 pm at the *The Yellin' Rebel* offices on the third floor of the Moyer Student Union, Monday through Friday. All letters must include the name of the author. No letters will be run anonymously, no names will be withheld. The opi-

nions expressed are not necessarily those of *The Yellin' Rebel* or CSUN.

IFC

Dear Editor:

There are several issues I need to clear up regarding Steve Giddings article on the anti-hazing

policy that appeared in the Nov. 13 issue. I do not want the background and the intentions of the anti-hazing policy to be misinterpreted.

First of all, I have asked for help on this policy since August. At an all-greek meeting I heard that UNLV had no anti-hazing resolution and offered to

research other university's anti-hazing policies with Intrafraternity council (IFC) and Dean Robert Ackerman in student services.

At the first IFC meeting in September, I explained what was being done to make anti-hazing policy and asked for help.

I have attended almost every IFC meeting after

and done the same with only two people offering assistance.

Secondly, I took on this project as a concerned greed, not a CSUN official. We are one of the few universities in the country that does not have an anti-hazing policy.

In addition, 27 states have anti-hazing laws, Nevada does not.

It is urgent that UNLV officially denounces hazing.

Thirdly, the policy submitted to IFC is indeed a copy of Arizona State's. However there is no need to re-invent the wheel. The ASU policy is consistent with every national fraternity and every university's hazing policies which were reviewed.

The policy submitted was for input and then, hopefully, approval. It was submitted in consultation with Al Izzolo, the IFC faculty advisors and the two people who did offer their input. It was not cast in stone.

Cont. on pg. 7

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