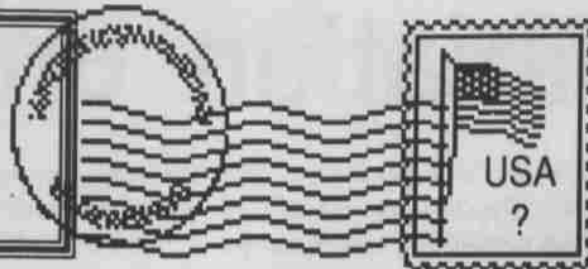


## Letters to the Editor



### Objectivity sought in smoking issue

All of the tactics, condemnations, complaints, and countercomplaints have appeared to have subsided, resulting in a "cold war" type of attitude toward the campus smoking policy.

Consequently, I feel now is the time to pose a few questions related to this hot campus topic.

As smokers and non-smokers have witnessed, with the posting of numerous signs designating certain areas of campus buildings as being "no smoking" areas, Nevada state law (NRS 202.2491) is now being applied on a campus wide basis.

These non-smoking areas have been provided for a good reason and it appears that students who smoke are accepting and abiding by this law.

For the compliance I compliment them. As a student who is concerned with the rights of all, several questions have come to mind in regards to the smoker's side of this issue.

First, the Yellin' Rebel reported in the issue printed on Feb. 9, that the law requires posting of both "designated smoking and no smoking signs in buildings on campus."

It seems to me that only one half of this requirement has been met. Although I attend classes in only three of the many campus buildings (Beam Hall, Humanities, and the Education building), I have yet to have seen a sign designating

any area in these building as being a smoking area. Thus, my question is, where are the signs designating smoking areas and moreover, where are these smoke areas located in our campus buildings?

Second, I would like to know more about the enforcement of this smoking law. Who are the people who enforce this law, and how can a student verify their identity? Are these people the campus police, members of the group Nevadans for Non-Smokers Rights, or are they any member of the student body or faculty at large?

In regards to all non-law enforcement groups, how do they obtain the information needed to file a complaint against a smoker who has violated this law, and how do these groups go about obtaining this information from smokers who may be reluctant to provide this information? As for this information, what exactly does this information include?

Third, as complaints arose from non-smokers regarding the air space smokers violated, there are now those (as there were in the past) who are increasingly complaining about cigarette "butts" littering the grounds of the campus.

I would like to ask why ashtrays are not provided at every entrance to every building? Would this act not make the cleanup procedures easier, as well as aid those

smokers who would, if this equipment were more readily available, avoid extinguishing their cigarettes on the ground?

As a note of information to those who complain that the resources presently provided are adequate; due to the fact that cigarette "butts" are frequently seen lying next to an ashtray, I would like to point out this situation is mainly due to the fact that, as many smokers will tell you, these ashtrays are usually full. They are rarely full of cigarette "butts", but rather, innumerable types of other trash.

If people who insist on using these rather small receptacles for throwing away cans, cups and especially paper (which may ignite from a hot ash) would only lift the ashtray, they would find (in most ground based ashtrays) a rather sizable trash can.

My final question is as to whether or not there are any campus groups whose purpose it to protect the rights of smokers, as opposed to groups like Nevadans for Non-Smokers Rights.

I would also hope that all the parties involved in this apparent "cold war" would keep an open mind in regards to this topic and view this letter objectively.

James W. Henry  
Junior/Business Major

### Pro-choice advocates wrong in their approach

I am responding to the article in the March 13 issue regarding the Thomas and Mack Center versus the Students for Choice and Pro-Choice Advocacy. I witnessed the verbal exchange between the two groups and I must say I was appalled.

I am a strong supporter of a woman's right to make her own choices regarding her body, but I have to question the actions of the pro-choice members. Instead of handling the matter in a mature and professional manner, these members became loud and obnoxious. This is exactly the type of behavior which causes their campaign to lose support.

Both Hamilton and Trudell, the leaders of the two pro-choice groups claimed their civil rights were being violated by not allowing them to present their petition. This statement is simply not true.

The Thomas and Mack Center did not deny the groups an area to solicit signatures, they merely des-

ignated an area for them to do so.

This is in accordance with the law that says constitutional rights cannot be denied on public property but they can be directed to an area designated for this purpose.

Hamilton claims that "as a recognized student organization we have a right to be anywhere on campus we choose."

If she feels she can demonstrate anywhere on campus, I suggest she start petitioning in the lobby of President Robert C. Maxson's office and see how long it takes before she is asked to relocate.

She also claims students pay for the university and it therefore belongs to them. This is a nice idea in theory, however Hamilton obviously hasn't seen the UNLV books lately.

UNLV students pay a very small fraction of the overall university costs, the majority of which come from private donations and government funding. The Thomas and Mack Center itself is a self-

supporting operation funded by various concerts and sporting events year round, much like Cashman Field or the Aladdin Theatre for the Performing Arts.

The groups were given permission to demonstrate on the sidewalks on Swenson Avenue which is public property; yet they chose to trespass and create a public disturbance. I am not questioning their rights to petition or freedom of speech, I am however challenging their right to do so wherever they choose. These actions can be compared to those pro-life demonstrators blocking entrances to abortion clinics on private property, in both cases the behavior is illegal and offensive.

Both groups should consider the fact that they lose credibility for their cause when they infringe on the civil rights of others. We must ask ourselves, was the battle really won if other basic civil liberties were lost?

Paula C. Bennett, sophomore  
Civil Engineering

### Upcoming elections called unfair

Enough! Let's get on with what the students want, a fair, open, competitive CSUN election.

Here we are again, nearing the end of the spring semester with the CSUN elections making their annual appearance with the smell of foul.

Is it so foul and the competition becomes so scary that an implied action by the election board committee selectively reduce the number of combatants through smokescreen tactics by hiding behind an interpretation of the election rules, the very rules which are said to be fashioned after the Nevada Constitution? Hogwash!

If there has to be a loser in this

race, look around you. The students are the ones who are losing; losing because of the lack of competition; losing because of the quality of politics in our very backyard; losing by interpretation.

Speaking as President of IFSEA on behalf of the Student Branch (with a membership of 75 in the Hotel College), I submit that the upcoming elections are unfair and should be voided due to the circumstances involved.

When the punishment fits the crime so be it, but disqualification is an overkill. Give us a chance, let us decide!

Bill Niver  
Senior/Hotel

### Alumni resents author's characterization

We are writing in response to an article by Aletra Hart which appeared in the Yellin' Rebel.

Although Ms. Hart's article is concerned primarily with student parking fees, she is erroneous in her characterization of the UNLV Alumni building as a "Money-wasting...potential threat to the financial resources of this institution." She later questions the contribution the Alumni Association makes to the university which would warrant the construction of such a structure.

Since its founding with the first graduating class in 1964, the Alumni Association has sought to recruit, reward and promote academic excellence. The Alumni Association will utilize this alumni complex as a gathering place in which to link our alumni and the community to UNLV, an effort which eventually will provide gifts and endowments for academic concerns of the university.

From the beginning, it was understood the building would do more than house the Alumni Association. Consequently, the complex functions as a gateway to the university.

The \$2.5 million 23,000 square foot complex is two stories with a gallery for display of student and faculty art work. It houses an information/visitor center, faculty lounge, office space, board room, catering kitchen, spacious 250-300 person capacity grand hall, and an outdoor courtyard. The floor lounges and entertainment areas are designed to be utilized by the entire university community.

Recognizing the significant role that alumni play in the growth of major universities, the University Board of Regents in 1983 desig-

nated for alumni use the property located between Frazier and Grant Halls. Then in 1987 the Nevada State Legislature passed Assembly Bill AB613 which provided \$400,000 for construction of the Alumni House. The balance (\$2.1 million) was raised by the Alumni Association through private donations. No money—not on penny—for the construction of the Alumni Complex came from the university budget of funds earmarked for education.

However, fund raising activities of the Association have not been limited to the alumni building. Beginning with modest \$50 text book award in early years, the Association has now donated more than \$190,000 to deserving students in the form of are, department graduate and freshmen scholarships and tuition waivers. In recent years more than \$26,000 per year has been allocated to various scholarship programs.

In addition, the Association funds the UNLV Honors Program and sponsors the annual Career Week program which brings prospective employers to UNLV to interview students.

Currently the UNLV Alumni Association serves more than 16,000 alumni. Each year that number increases dramatically. We are proud of the many programs and benefits we offer to our members; however, we remain dedicated to one primary goal—academic excellence at UNLV.

The construction of our UNLV Alumni Complex is one step in the process to benefit UNLV and the entire Southern Nevada area.

Alumni Board of Directors