

# Those opposed to the smoking ban should attend meeting

By Bonar Tucker  
YELLIN' REBEL

Persons who are opposed to the smoking ban in Moyer Student Union are invited to voice their opinions at the next Union Board meeting.

Theresa Chiang, the responsible person for enacting the smoking law in MSU, said, "Anyone who would like to oppose the ban is welcomed to come in and speak to the Union Board at our next meeting and we will be happy to discuss it."

Chiang, who said she would like to accommodate everyone, was in charge of enforcing the recent law whose intended meaning is admittedly said to be "permissive" by one of the law-making senators.

"I'd like to see if we can place tables and lighting in an enclosed room so that we could make that room a designated smoking area for those who want to go there," said Chiang. "Right now, all the signs

are posted to conform with the law." Chiang said she feels like the student union needs to treat everyone equally, but with the statute, it is difficult to do.

"According to the statute, smoking has to be separate from all public areas. In MSU, everything is open so that is not possible," Chiang said.

A smoking committee, put together to interpret the law last fall, was headed by Margaret Louis. Louis has been unavailable for comment because her office has indicated she is on sabbatical. However, the committee issued a memorandum to President Robert Maxson in January which implies each building should have one designated area for smoking.

"Our reading of Chancellor Dawson's (Mark Dawson, Chancellor, University of Nevada Systems) memo is that only one area will be designated for smoking in each building and that all areas will be posed as 'no smoking'." (from

Margaret Louis, Chairperson, Smoking Committee, Jan. 9)

But in the Clean Air Policy (which this committee wrote) it is stated, "The designated areas must be closed or confined in some manner, so air in the non-expected areas will not be affected."

Mary Whalen, of the Nevadans for Non-Smoker's Rights, said, "Our group had no intention of having smoking banned in MSU. The smoker's have their rights also. The university's attitude is apathetic and inefficient on this issue."

Whalen said, "NRS (Nevada Revised Statute) 202.2491 states that the person in control of a public building, 'Shall, except as other-

wise provided in this subsection, designate a separate room or an area which may be used for smoking.'"

Whalen said that doesn't leave it up to discretion.

Persons interested in lifting the smoking ban in MSU are gathering together in room 202 of that building on April 5 from 7p.m. till 8p.m. for discussion. The meeting is organized by Jean Boudreau, UNLV English major. He can be reached for further information at 644-3253.

Persons wishing to use Chiang's invitation to attend the next Union Board meeting may call Chris Robertson, Chairman, at 739-3221 for information concerning date, time, and place, which, at this

writing, has not been posted.

Meanwhile, the confusion leaves those in charge of posting the designated signs "crushed somewhere in between."

"Because of the unavailability of agreement on which areas are to be used for smoking, responsible parties have chosen to respond to it according to their own interpretation," said John Amend, physical plant director.

In March, Amend said, "About 50 percent of the buildings are posted now. We have limited time and resources."



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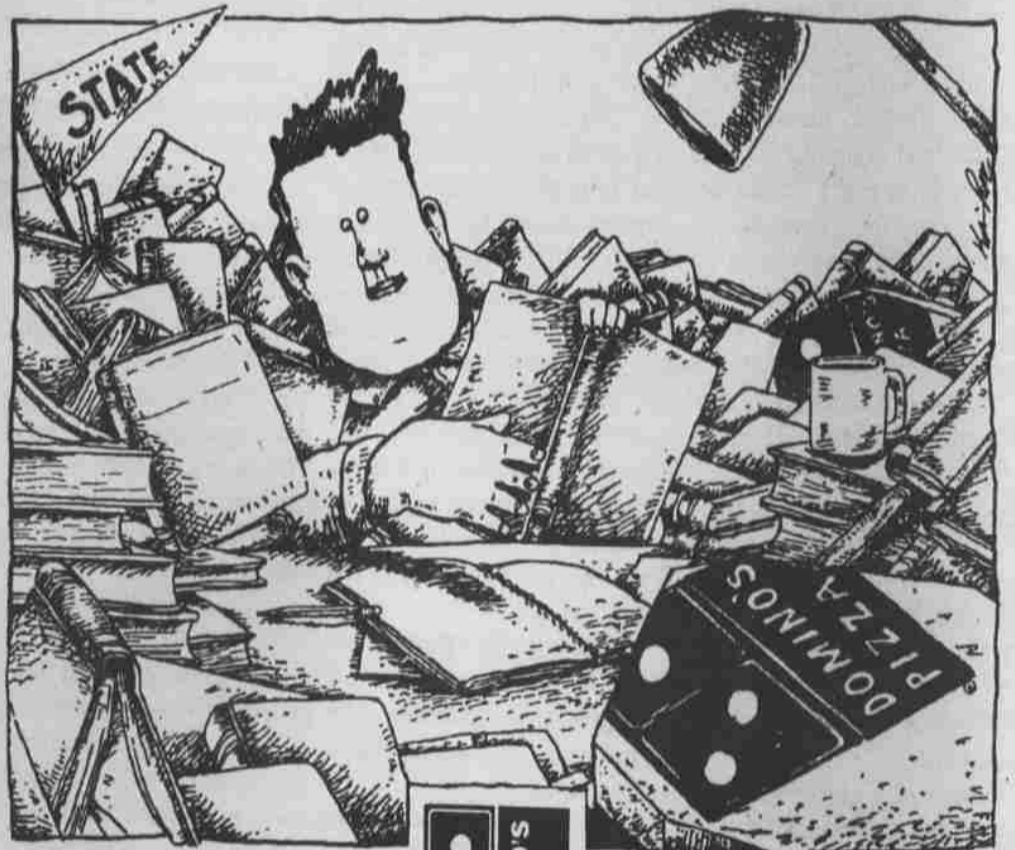
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