



# The Yellin' Rebel

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## Sigma Chi Fraternity under investigation

by Tricia Ciaravino

Two incidents of possible hazing by the Sigma Chi Fraternity are under investigation at UNLV. The first may have involved blindfolded pledges who were made to stand on the roof of a house and recite material.

In the second incident, pledges were allegedly forced to jump in the pool if they could not correctly recite material.

However, both events are still under investigation, by the fraternity. A trial is scheduled for March 1, which will include a judicial review board to determine if these events did occur.

"Those found guilty of hazing will be put on probation, fined, temporarily suspended, and required to perform 20 hours of community service," said Buck Hawkins, president of Sigma Chi.

As a result of these suspicions, the national chapter has put the fraternity on "show cause" status. This means they have until April 15, to provide reasons why their charter should not be revoked.

No formal charges have been made by the university.

The Sigma Chi fraternity admitted to hazing through misunderstanding and a lack of educa-

tion. "Some of the things we did, the university considered hazing, which we didn't," said Tim Haughinberry, Rush chairman.

"They were ignorant in the fact of what was, and what wasn't hazing. It's no one's fault. They weren't educated. Now they are," said Vincent Fernald, assistant executive secretary of the Zeta Chi Sigma Chi national chapter.

"We're exploring some educational avenues through the university system. We will be doing some educational programming from this end as well as from the national end," said Jay DeLeonard, director of student affairs.

The pledges of Sigma Chi insist they have not been hazed. According to Scott Mellin, a pledge of last semester, "The material was the hardest part."

It was rumored that Chris Danish, also a pledge last semester, was hung over Hoover Dam, by his ankles. Danish, who denied this, said, "I looked over the dam, that's about as far as I got."

"We've chosen not to rush (this semester), so we could work on bettering our chapter," said Haughinberry.

A better education process will be available for both brothers and



The Sigma Chi Fraternity

photo by Rich Mealey

pledges. Community awareness will be raised by speakers on alcohol awareness and hazing. The fraternity will also work on rebuilding Greek relations.

"(We) apologize, not just to the Greek Affairs Council, but to all Greeks whose reputations may

have been tarnished. We know the actions of one are a reflection of all," said Haughinberry.

Fraternity members said they regret what has happened.

"But," said Haughinberry, "it's a great learning experience and will help us in the long run."

The Interfraternity Council supports the Sigma Chi fraternity.

"It's not being taken care of in our jurisdiction. We're glad it's not. We're going to do what we can to help them," said Mark Henness, IFC president.

### Former Mayor Barry wants to become a college teacher

Former mayor, adulterer, cocaine possessor and defeated city council candidate Marion Barry now wants to become a college teacher.

Barry's supporters so far have managed to get him a temporary teaching appointment in the criminal justice department at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC), though he has not been cleared to teach yet.

UDC, scene of extraordinary student unrest in recent years, is

again being rocked as students and administrators try to decide whether they want the former Washington, D.C. mayor to teach there.

Barry, Washington's mayor for 16 years, was convicted of a misdemeanor last year on one count of possession of cocaine and chose not to run for another term.

In November, he was defeated in a campaign to capture a seat on the City Council.

Since then, Barry's friends

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MARION BARRY

## Senators discuss independence proposal for The Yellin' Rebel

by Karen Splawn

Some Student Government members said during the Jan. 31 senate meeting that an opinion piece that appeared in the Thursday issue of The Yellin' Rebel is inaccurate and unfair.

The opinion, written by several staff members, stated in the headline that the proposal calling for The Yellin' Rebel's independence had been "shot down" by Student Government.

The proposal, written by former Co-Editor-in-Chief Richard Crow, called for gradual decrease in Student Government funding to the Yellin' Rebel.

The opinion piece also said some senate members have accused the newspaper staff of being biased.

"Any story about Student Government—and there have been many—without adequate verification was thrown out," the piece stated. "Many others were put on hold, or shelved, because the very same people sitting on review boards, disciplinary panels, or merely in charge of dispensing the funds needed to make the paper appear every Tuesday. Student Government, on the other hand, has been anything but kind, or even courteous, in its treatment of the paper."

Reporters who wrote controversial stories about Student Government "have felt the hot ire of Student Government officials," the opinion piece said.

Currently, the Yellin' Rebel receives some \$70,000 in student fees, via Student Government. This money is generally returned to Student Government in the form

of ad revenue. The newspaper is also overseen by a publications board, although neither the board nor the senate has any power to censor stories.

Sen. Mike Bunin (Business and Economics), said he was disappointed in the opinion because it overlooked those who do support independence for the paper.

The article, Sen. Bunin said, gives students the idea "that we don't want [the paper] to go free because we have powers of censorship over them."

Sen. Bunin said he and other members are interested in setting up a committee to study independence for the paper.

Senate President Gina Polovina said Student Government has never had anything but the desire to have an open relationship with The Yell.

"It's ironic that we get treated in a light that is the total [oppo-

site] of what we've tried to foster," she said, adding that she hoped tensions between the publication and the senate subside.

Student Body President Joe Bunin said he has also been philosophically in favor of The Yell's independence.

The newspaper's staff, he said, is lucky, because past Student Government presidents, if angered by a controversial story, would have "been tougher" on the paper.

President Bunin also criticized previous articles involving Student Government members.

"They were probably prompted by malicious sources," he said. "But [The Yell] can write what they want."

Sen. Bud Benneman (Business and Economics) said that he is in 100 percent support of The Yell's campaign for independence, but

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photo by Rich Mealey

Student Government and The Yellin' Rebel staff discuss issues.

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### WE SALUTE OUR FRIENDS OVERSEAS.



MAY THEY RETURN SAFELY AND SOON.