



# The Yellin' Rebel

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## UNLV Senator resigns under pressure

by Gary Puckett

In what was the first occurrence of any person being brought in front of the Senate Rules Committee, Senator Kyle Kannenberg appeared before the committee on Feb. 28. to discuss possible violations.

Kannenberg was charged with neglect of his duties as a member of the UNLV Student Senate. The charges were that he did not fulfill

his duties on senate committees due to absences, he did not make his class speeches on time and he did not attend the Student Senate retreat.

Kannenberg, who seemed surprised by the charges, said that it was his understanding that he was only to give reasons for the tardiness of his speeches. He explained that he was pressed for time due to classes and labs and was not fully aware that so much

time would be involved with being a senator. As a result, he agreed to step down and resigned at the Feb. 28 senate meeting.

Although the committee is two years old, this has never happened before, according to Mike Bunin, chair of the Rules Committee.

Kannenberg recently was under fire for his signature on a complaint filed with the Judicial Council Feb. 13, which asked the Judicial Council to check the eligi-

bility of Student Body President Joe Bunin.

In addition, Kannenberg was quoted in an article which appeared in *The Yellin' Rebel* on Feb. 26 that reported on the Judicial Council meeting.

"In my opinion," Kannenberg was quoted in the article, "I don't appreciate people in leadership who don't hold their own. They are students and they are here to

get an education, not just to be a figurehead."

The Senate Rules Committee is composed of Mike Bunin, Chair, Chris Lee, Asst. Chair, Wendy Finmark, Joel Kostman, Mike Young and Crystal Ortega. All members were present for this meeting as were Senate President Gina Polovina, Judicial Council Justice Mike Quick, and Jorge Gonzalez.

### Letter to the Editor

## Stop the censorship

This article represents the views of Mr. Murphy and in no way reflects the views of either the Greenspun School of Communication or UNLV.

Censorship exists at UNLV. Perhaps not in the forms we imagine censorship - book banning, album labeling, etc. - but it does exist. The censor is the Student Government; the victims are *The Yellin' Rebel* and the entire UNLV community.

How is it that the Student Government is a censor? Consider the following statement in a brochure, "Get Involved!" published by CSUN: "The Publication Board is perhaps the most influential board because it reviews and sets guidelines for all Student Government-funded publications..." While one may argue that reviewing is not censoring, I disagree.

Given the editorial control of Student Government over publications, the "Yell" becomes indistinguishable from other state-sponsored publications and broadcasts. You've heard of them - Pravda, Tass - and others. When the Yell publishes any article critical of Student Government, they are most likely pressured to "tone it down."

Some suggest that, if the Yell is supported by Student Government, then Student Government should retain content control over the newspaper. Again, I disagree. As the only newspaper on the UNLV campus, the Yell serves, and should serve, more than CSUN. To assume that the Yell must rubber stamp all that CSUN does would be akin to saying that all students support CSUN.

In addition, the Yell is perhaps the only vehicle through which the accountability of Student Government may be determined. Student Government is small and not likely to capture the attention of even the local media. The Yell, for all practical purposes, is the media when issues arise concerning Student Government.

Given that the Yell must act autonomously, what has happened at UNLV? My own experiences with several past members of the Yell's editorial staff indicates that CSUN exercises their power of review frequently. In what areas? Content of stories, selection of stories, selection of reporters, etc.

In one particular instance, CSUN pushed publication of a story that contained, in my opinion, libelous material. While that story did not result in a lawsuit, in that area that Yell is like a ticking bomb.

Finally, I would like to address one major source of the problem: the Publications Board. At most universities, once the Pub Board has selected the editorial staff for university publications and reviewed their budget, their job is over. At UNLV, it appears to be the starting point.

If the Publications Board at UNLV is going to intervene to the point of questioning the selection and placement of news stories or reporters, then why is there a need for an editorial staff in the first place? Why not just have Student Government members write the stories and

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## Brents speaks at lecture on 'Feminization of Poverty'

"An entire generation could be lost, unless national policy toward the poor changes direction."

by Karen Splawn

Anyone wanting to learn about the feminization of poverty need only hear the story about "Jane," said sociology instructor Barbara Brents, during a Feb. 27 lecture.

Jane, a Las Vegas, had a 10-year-old son, who hadn't seen his father in seven years. Jane lived with her boyfriend, but her life went haywire when he began to physically abuse her.

She left him and tried to receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children benefits, but that fell through. Brents said Jane was able to get a casino job, even though the wages weren't high.

Later on, Brents said, Jane was able to put her son in a state-funded day care program, but that was only temporary.

Once again, Jane's on her own, with a low-paying job and no assistance to help her with rent or food, Brents said.

"The main reasons so many single mothers are in poverty are low wages and high child care and rent costs," Brents said, adding "between 1959 and 1979, the population of poor women doubled in the United States, and if the trend continues, the poor in this country will be comprised solely of women."

Currently, about 36 percent of all female-headed households are poor. For single male-headed households, the figure is 18 percent.

Women have always been more economically vulnerable than men, because of lower paying jobs, she said. "The situation gets better for everyone else, but women stay at the bottom," Brents said.

"Many women with children are constantly in the crisis of poverty...we blame women for having too many children, we blame couples for getting divorced too quickly. As a consequence, we end up giving no one support. The problem of poverty among women is too staggering to think it will go away."

"An entire generation could be lost, unless national policy to-

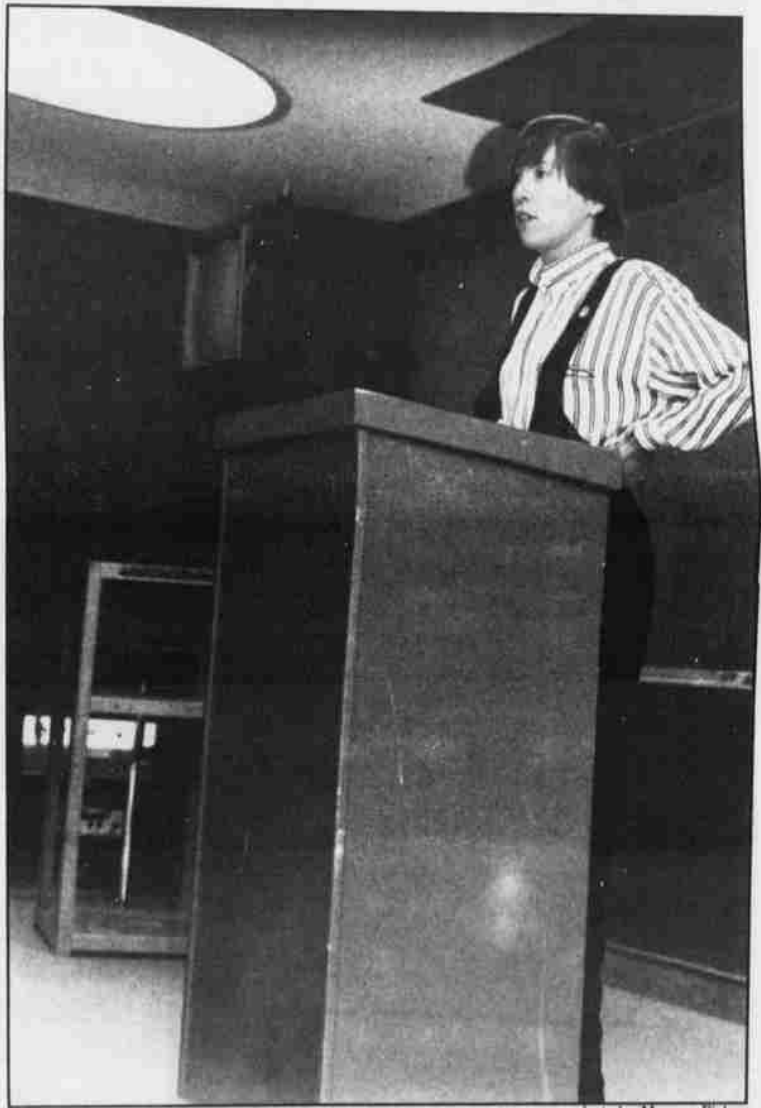


photo by Morgan Fisher

Dr. Barbara Brents, assistant professor of sociology at UNLV.

ward the poor changes direction," Brents said. "Different types of social programs, such as those in Sweden, could be beneficial in America. In Sweden for example, coalitions of labor unions, businesses and government officials sit on planning boards to determine wages."

In the 1980s, U.S. poverty benefits were reduced by \$51 billion, she said.

Poor women could also benefit from a stepped-up affirmative action plan of, comparable worth and effective unions.

Motherhood is something that should be rewarded, rather than being punished in the form of low welfare payments, by the federal government.

Critics say that such ideas are outdated and may contribute to a sagging economy, but Brents said,

"If we shy away from social programs, things will only get worse."

If the federal government can spend \$61 billion on war in the Middle East, they can come up with funds necessary to improve existing programs, she added.

An audience member said she identified with what Brents was talking about, because the woman was once on welfare.

"Greed is a problem and a moral dilemma," the woman said. "How are you going to get people to have a heart?"

"Unfortunately people are at the bottom of what we care about in this country. Media coverage of poor women tends to be stereotypical, but it's hard to do a 30-second spot of a structural problem," Brents said.

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### WE SALUTE OUR FRIENDS OVERSEAS.



MAY THEY RETURN SAFELY AND SOON.

Due to incomplete information provided concerning the election candidates, *The Yellin' Rebel* will not be printing candidate autobiographies until each has been signed and submitted. Candidates are urged to complete this information at once and turn it in to the newspaper office.