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Directors receive paychecks while ineligible

Judicial Council fails to hear complaint about Student Government directors' eligibility

by Bonar Tucker

In what UNLV President Robert Maxson said is "a problem the university has never been faced with before," the registrar's office has now confirmed that at least two directors of Student Government have received monthly paychecks and have had their classes paid for without meeting eligibility requirements.

However, Student Government's Judicial Council has failed to hear a complaint, filed by 18 students in mid-February, which requested that the council verify the qualifications of all Student Government directors.

Student Government rules list the following qualifications for holding a position:

- Cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0
- Currently enrolled with at least six credits or above
- Completion of at least six

credits the previous semester. Student Government internal operations state that the sole responsibility for verifying the qualifications of holders of all Student Government positions (with the exception of the Executive Board) lies with the Senate President.

Concerning verifying the director's qualifications, Senate President Gina Polovina said, "If they are ineligible, of course they would be notified."

When asked if she thought any director in Student Government was holding office illegally she responded, "Not that I know of. I'm not aware of anyone."

The Senate recently approved a measure placing responsibility for checking on officers' and directors' eligibility with the CSUN business manager.

The business manager, Susan Hobbs, acknowledged her new responsibility but said she has not

yet checked grades and enrollment status.

"I'll probably be starting that next week," she said.

The registrar's office told *The Yellin' Rebel* that at least two of

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- Mike Barclay

the directors were not enrolled for classes last fall. Some directors are reportedly not enrolled for spring semester either.

These directors have apparently received their monthly paychecks even though they have not

been eligible to hold the positions under Student Government requirements.

The original February complaint, which called on the Judicial Council to verify eligibility of President Joe Bunin and the directors working under Bunin, was brought before the Council again on April 13, exactly two months after it was first filed.

Chief Justice Mike Barclay refused to hear the case, claiming the directors needed to be notified.

But the notice released on Feb. 21 by the Judicial Council and signed by Associate Chief Justice Paul Stuhff prior to a preliminary hearing said it was "for all of the parties in the case."

About the complaint concerning the directors, Barclay said, "I would think that a president or a vice president or the Executive Board would not put people in those positions who are not eligible."

Dr. Robert Ackerman, vice president of Student Services, said, "All members of the executive branch take an oath to uphold the constitution. (President) Joe (Bunin) has repeatedly told me he's responsible for the directors. It would be up to Joe to enforce this."

"It is clearly right that it is the Judicial Council's responsibility," said Maxson. "Who else in Student Government could possibly rule on this? We can't expect the administration to come in and say 'This is the decision.' That would take away the rightful autonomy."

When asked what happens since the situation has not been handled and the end of this semester is now so near, Barclay answered, "Perhaps the next (Student Government) president will have to deal with this."

Tricia Ciaravino contributed to this article. See related article on page 2



Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. at press conference

photo by Eileen Brady

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. speaks on environment

by Jeannine Cota

With a passion much noted in his father, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., son of the late senator and political activist in his own right, addressed a captive audience Saturday evening about immediate and long-term environmental concerns of our planet.

Kennedy, a Harvard gradu-

ate and clinical professor at Pace University Law School, credits present-day environmental ills, such as the deteriorating ozone layer, acid rain and the accelerated cancer rate, as being a result of not only neglect and misuse of natural resources but of a profound misallocation of government funds to the military.

"Due to justifiable concerns of my father's generation, we have created a condition where \$1 trillion a year is being spent to service the military," Kennedy said. Meanwhile, thousands of species are lost each year due to habitat destruction.

One such ecological disaster is Long Island Sound. Once abundantly filled with 200-300 kinds of fish, half the water is now dead due to metallic chemical pollution.

While one East Coast shoreline has diminished, another—the Hudson River—has been able to survive despite great residential and environmental pressure. This outcome can be largely accredited to men such as Kennedy. A member of the Hudson River Fisherman's Association and a law professor, Kennedy requires students to partake in a special program where, by court authoriza-

tion, they are able to scour the Bay to bring litigation against polluters.

According to Kennedy, aside from economic ramifications, environmental concerns have medical implications as well. For example, 25 percent of all pharmaceutical products are derived from rain forests. The Rosie Periwinkle, a once-abundant, now rare product of Madagascar, is presently grown in greenhouses in the United States, and is used to save children from illnesses such as leukemia and Hodgkin's disease.

Ultimately, environmental questions are political questions, Kennedy said. The primary obligation is to think globally and act locally. For Nevadans, that would mean conserving of water and staying informed about the proposed nuclear dump site.

In referring to St. Augustine, Kennedy reminded his audience that in nature, we learn about humility and the creation of ourselves.

"It's an irony that what we destroy becomes a part of us," he said. "We have to make an affirmative decision toward the destiny of our planet."

Alumni center landscape stirs controversy

by Tricia Goldberg

Oleander trees planted recently outside the Richard Tam Alumni Center have caused a controversy of greater than campus-wide interest.

"They are heavy pollen-bearing plants that are poisonous," said Maureen Collins, a graduate student at UNLV. "Oleanders were banned by the (Clark County) Health District. Southwest Landscaping did the

work. Operations and Maintenance oversaw it. The arboretum guy was there."

"The oleander is not among the trees that have been banned," Mike Naylor of the Clark County Health District said. In an earlier statement, he said, "There has been no documentation of what the oleander spews into the air. It's never been studied before. It might be something that might be regulated."

"Oleanders are bad," said Dr. Joseph Tangredi, a local allergist, in direct contrast to Naylor's comments. "It's an accident waiting to happen."

Dennis Swartzell, Grounds Supervisor at UNLV, said, "They are poisonous, but we don't burn any plants on campus. I have no documentation available to me that says they are high pollen-producers. There is no documentation whatsoever. Many fears are unfounded. There is no evidence. They are probably misled. I don't see anything wrong, although I have had a couple people call and even accost me on campus."

A 1987 *Las Vegas Sun* article quoted Swartzell as saying, "UNLV no longer plants oleanders because they are poisonous. They certainly cause some allergy problems to people sen-

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"A child who eats a small bit of a leaf will die."
- Dr. Joseph Tangredi



Bark litters sidewalk next to Richard Tam Alumni Center.

photo by Morgan Fisher

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