



# The Yellin' Rebel

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## Students wait at UNLV Student Health Center

by William Holt and Sean Higgins

Students are being asked to vote Oct. 2 and 3 on whether an extra \$20 should be applied to the student registration fees each semester for the use of the Student Health Center.

If enacted, the fee would guarantee a significantly shorter waiting period for students to be seen at the health center and would

increase the number of examination rooms and health care providers at the health center, said Ray Rodriguez, health educator at the Student Health Center.

The fee is not an insurance cost, as Lori Winchell, director of the Student Health Center, said that the CSUN Times implied in the Sept. 12 issue of *The Yellin' Rebel*. It is a fee that guarantees use for any student, all semester.

"UNLV doesn't have the proper resources, funding or space to provide services comparable to other colleges

our size (apprx. 19,500)," said Winchell. "Given our present resources, we have four and a half exam rooms and see 40 to 60 students a day. Any catastrophe would wipe us out. We can handle 60 at best, and have 18,000 who might need to be quickly cared for."

Governor Bob Miller is

**"Any catastrophe would wipe us out."**

— Lori Winchell

considering a cutback in the university system that could be as high as 4 to 8 percent. Obviously, this would not enhance the care received by students at the Student Health Center.

"The reasons for waiting in line for medical attention are due to drastic budget cuts initiated by the state Legislature," Winchell explained.

When students come to be seen on a walk-in basis, they are often told that they may have to wait up to three hours or may not be seen at all. Many times, students

have to leave campus and go to the University Medical Center if they have a medical problem.

There are currently only four examination rooms in the building (there is one more room which makes five, but has to be reserved for supply and equipment storage). There

is also only one part-time physician.

Because of these factors,

the health center staff must resort to turning students away.

"This place is too small to handle 20,000 students. We don't want to give bad health care. We don't want to be a bandage shop," Rodriguez said.

When asked about the long wait at the health center, Dr. Robert Ackerman, vice president of Student Services, said, "Those kids aren't standing there for any real length of time. We are in bad economic times. The budgets are all figured out by a formula that needs to be updated. How long do



Students waiting for health care at the UNLV Student Health Center

you stand in the line at the Veterans Administration sometimes?"

A Student Health Center comparison survey done in 1991, compared universities with a similar demographic make-up to UNLV, with no medical schools.

In this survey, UNLV had 18,000 students and only five exam rooms. St. Cloud University in Minnesota, had 17,000 students and 10 exam rooms; the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, 14,900 students and 10 exam rooms;

the University of Oregon in Eugene, 7,000 students and 20 exam rooms and the University of Tennessee in

willingly pay an extra health fee each semester. Of those asked, 837 said yes. Of the 837, 61 percent were willing to pay \$20 or more.

The fee would help the center expand its building from its current 28,000 square feet to 68,000

**"We don't want to give bad health care. We don't want to be a bandage shop."**

— Ray Rodriguez

Knoxville, 19,055 students and 24 exam rooms. The university closest to UNLV statistics is the University of Nevada, Reno, which has 11,500 students and eight exam rooms.

"UNLV is greatly lacking in building size, staff and money," Winchell said. "If we could keep a current health level, all health costs would remain the same and the services could be greatly expanded with a \$20 semi-annual fee."

According to Rodriguez, 1,362 students were asked if they would

square feet. According to Rodriguez and Winchell, the fee would offer shorter waiting times, a full time physician, part time physician specialists, extended hours for nutritionists, a full time pharmacist, more exam rooms, a full service pharmacy, extended lab services and X-ray facilities.

Before 1988, the health center was a single room operation that served the campus's medical needs. In 1988, Winchell was hired to help meet the medical needs of the campus community.

## Student Senate approves shuttle

by Karen Splawn

The Senate voted 13-1 to give \$20,000 to the Department of Public Safety for a shuttle program Sept. 19.

The shuttle program is designed to escort students around campus and parking lots at night.

Senators tabled the funding request during the previous meeting due to questions over how monies for the service were spent in the past by the campus police department.

A contract, signed by public safety Director David Hollenbeck and Student Government Executive Board Assistant Heidi Smith, stated the "entire \$20,000 is...for the salaries and for any other reasonable expenditures associated with the maintenance and operation of the shuttle system."

"This amount is to be set up in a separate account through (Harry Neel, vice president of finance and administration) and is to be monitored by the Student

Campus Safety Committee," according to the contract.

"Student Government will be able to watch over the money," said committee member Jorge Gonzalez.

Although they voted in favor of it, some senators wanted more control over the funding account.

"We'd be more comfortable if we had a specific break down (on how the \$20,000 is being spent)," said Sen. Mike Bunin (business and economics). "The contract is not clear enough."

"As senators, we're here to budget the students' money," Bunin said after the meeting. "And we have to find some kind of protection for their money."

Sen. Tracy Barkhuff (education), who voted against the funding, agreed with Bunin about the contract.

"The shuttle system is really bad," said Sen. Wendy Finmark (student development). "Is it going to improve?"

"I'm hopeful it will improve, but part of that de-

pends on you," replied Director of Public Safety David Hollenbeck. "But if we don't start developing a shuttle service, you're going to have to deal with this thing down the road."

Currently, the shuttle program consists of one six-seat cart; two gasoline vehicles will be added soon.

If they didn't like the contract, senators had the alternative of not voting for funding, Hollenbeck said. "I feel like I'm being approached as a snake oil salesman," he remarked.

Sen. Mike Young (liberal arts) said the contract is acceptable. "There is such a thing as good faith (in the contract)," he said. "The committee will be a valid check."

Bud Bennemen, business and economics senator, said it was better to have more money than really needed to expand the program. "I get the impression some of you guys think they're going to take some of the money and throw a party," he said.

In other business, the Senate:

—Voted 10-3 to allow Sigma Alpha Epsilon member Chris Jones (with Bunin, business and economics Sen. Scott Fisher and Finmark opposing) to sit on the Elections Board

—Approved 13-0 Joe Alemda as a member of the Entertainment and Programming Board

—Voted 12-1 to make Sigma Chi President Joe DeMarco a member of the Elections Board

—Voted 13-0 to allow Christana Hunt, a junior majoring in education, to sit on the Elections Board.

Bunin explained that he voted against DeMarco and Jones sitting on the board because there must be a balance between Greeks and non-Greeks on the board. "I would like to see a 'half and half board,'" Bunin said.

## Fraternities recoup from court battles

(CPS)—George Mason University officials acted unconstitutionally when they suspended a fraternity for holding an "ugly woman contest," regardless of how tasteless the event might have been, a federal judge has ruled.

The Sigma Chi fraternity chapter was suspended last spring for two years because university officials said the contest was offensive to women and minorities.

Women from different sororities dressed Sigma Chi brothers in women's clothes and paraded them on stage. One man padded his chest and buttocks and painted his face black.

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## Memorial service to be held

Friends and colleagues of the late Keith Dupre, chair of biological sciences, are inviting the entire campus community to a memorial service today, Sept. 26, at 2 p.m. in the lobby of Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall.

Viewing is set for 3:30-6:30 p.m. at Palm Mortuary Valley View, 7600 S. Eastern. The funeral service will be at 7 p.m.

The family requests that donations be made to the American Heart Association in lieu of flowers.