

# Student cries 'Racism'

by Victor Ingram

A UNLV student has filed a formal complaint alleging harassment from University Police. Charles Troutman Jr., a junior majoring in computer science, said he was harassed when he attempted to file an official complaint against Department of Public Safety.

The initial grievance began when Troutman received three parking tickets for having an invalid parking sticker on his vehicle. Following his first ticket, Troutman was informed he would have to get an updated parking sticker. After receiving a second ticket soon thereafter, Troutman said he was informed by a student parking enforcement representative that he would be mailed a new parking sticker. While this information was inaccurate, there was yet another ticket issued Sept. 30.

Following the third ticket, Troutman went directly to the office of the chief of Public Safety. It was during his meeting with the Chief David Hollenbeck that Troutman alleged he was the

victim of racism.

Troutman said he was misdirected and denied the opportunity to file a formal complaint of harassment against the department. He said he was referred to the standard parking violation appeal form as the method for filing formal charges. The form, which is used for complaints against wrongful ticket citations, was in Troutman's opinion inadequate for his specific complaint of harassment. Troutman subsequently requested a formal police report, which would provide less generic documentation of his complaint.

He was denied the form because the complaint was not deemed valid enough by Chief Hollenbeck, said Troutman. Chief Hollenbeck responded to the accusations by saying Troutman was given every opportunity to file a complaint according to specific guidelines set forth by the University Board of Regents.

"The student was given every opportunity to file a formal complaint referencing the ticket. Only after getting emotional did

Troutman decide to follow standard procedure and complete the appropriate form," said Hollenbeck.

Hollenbeck described Troutman's attitude as hostile and said it wasn't a matter of discrimination, but a mere lapse in communication on Troutman's behalf. Troutman subsequently contacted university President Robert Maxson and the university's department of Affirmative Action.

After sending a letter to President Maxson, Troutman received a letter from the president's office seeking a resolution to the situation. Maxson stated in his letter that he believed there may have been an issue of miscommunication, but sincerely doubted an issue of blatant racism.

"I certainly apologize for any errors that may have been committed by any of our people, although I can assure you that none of them are racist," Maxson wrote.

Along with this letter, Troutman was forwarded similar responses from the office of the vice president and the office of Affirmative Action.

Troutman said he will continue to express his complaint until a formal apology is given from the university's Public Safety division. He said he felt that his situation was trifled and toyed with when he attempted to be taken with the utmost sincerity.

"I was specifically told that my complaint wasn't important enough and I would therefore be denied the opportunity to file," said Troutman. "This, to me, represents a total disregard of my civil rights and therefore constitutes a blatant violation."

Troutman further stated that along with being denied the opportunity to voice his complaint in a formal manner, he was laughed at and maligned by Hollenbeck and a fellow officer. He said he felt a certain degree of appeasement from President Maxson and other university departments which have responded to his complaint, but he said this far from makes up for the initial mistreatment by the department of Public Safety.

KUNV

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year's officers agree that the "divorce" needs to happen and that it's just a matter of making a successful transition.

Rosenthal said he feels that the question, "How does KUNV operate when the divorce comes?" is a more difficult one to answer than it was for *The Yellin' Rebel*.

"We are a federally licensed radio station with a potential audience of 800,000 people. We can't one night suddenly decide to change how we operate. We have a responsibility," he said.

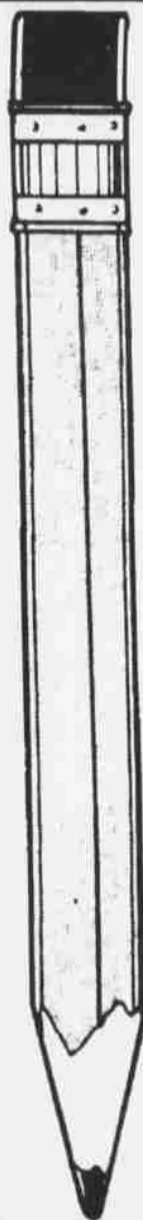
"The Yell' can say with a stroke of a pen, 'No more CSUN,'" he said. *The Yellin' Rebel* is not licensed to anyone and has only a potential audience of 16,000 people.

Rosenthal believes that UNLV Student Government President Roderick C. Colebrook is interested in Student Government and has the energy to be interested in making this project happen. He said that he feels last year's administration under President Joe Bunin would have lacked the energy to get a project like this started.

"I am in support of KUNV going independent, if they should choose to do so. However, this independence should be a slow and well-organized process so that the radio station can maintain the high level of quality and student support that it now enjoys," Colebrook said.

KUNV hasn't formed a committee to begin the divorce, but Rosenthal wants the committee to be headed by Sen. Bud Bennamen, who also headed the 'ad hoc' independence committee of *The Yellin' Rebel* last spring.

"The energy behind this decision is stronger than at any other time," Rosenthal said. He expects the independence project to be well on its way by May 1992. "It has to be methodical. We can't rush in."



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