



Students urged to vote in favor of health fee measure

Results of a survey which compared the health facilities and services of UNLV with those of five other universities show UNLV's to be truly pitiful. Of the schools surveyed, only one was comparable in size to UNLV. The rest were all significantly smaller, while all possessed substantially greater health care facilities.

In addition, the authorities from the health center are quoted with alarming statements about this frightening lack of facilities. One gets the impression that health care at this university is a disaster waiting to happen.

A measure was placed on the ballot Oct. 2-3, in the election for Homecoming king and queen which, if passed, would have billed all students a mandatory fee of \$20. This fee would have gone toward the construction of larger health center facilities and the hiring of a larger staff.

However, due to a printing error, the ballot was declared invalid and tossed out. Students in need of health care are still waiting.

There is hope. A new election is tentatively set for Nov. 19-20 to again determine if the students of UNLV will be charged the \$20 fee to increase health care facilities.

If the measure is passed, the situation at the Student Health Center would be greatly relieved. Everyone at UNLV would benefit.

"I believe all students should support the measure," said Director of Student Health Services, Lori Winchell. "Not only do we provide health care, but we also support the educational mission of the university by providing an on-campus learning experience for students."

Winchell is far from alone in her desire for the passage of this measure. University of Nevada Regent Shelley Berkley is adamant in her endorsement of this measure.

"For a very modest sum every student on campus can be provided the highest quality medical attention," Berkley said. She further elucidated regarding other advantages of the proposed measure.

"Students who are away from home for the first time have no alternative but the Student Health Center," Berkley said. "We have a responsibility to reassure parents of students that their children have a reasonable expectation of quality health care."

Opponents of the measure point out that, if passed, many students will be billed for care they never receive. Students with their own health insurance or their own medical programs may never use the center even though they have paid.

While this is certainly true, even those with their own insurance could make advantageous use of the center in the case of an emergency. In a crisis, the added facilities could make the difference between life and death.

For those with no insurance, however, the additions to the Student Health Center would be absolutely invaluable. For these students, this measure may mean that they will have health care instead of being forced to do without.

This university, as a whole, can only benefit from the passage of this measure. The health care facilities, as they now exist with a student population of more than 19,000 students, are an embarrassment to the university and the community. A fee of \$20 is a cheap remedy to this embarrassment.

The Yellin' Rebel urges all students to vote in this election and to vote in favor of this measure. Its passage will relieve a heavy burden from the shoulders of those trying to provide health care at this school. In addition, it may save lives.

Opinion of the Yellin' Rebel



Illustration by Jason Bermingham

STUDENT VIEWS

Student health fee a must

by Tuija Kyrolainen

A few weeks ago, UNLV students were asked to vote on whether they wanted a health program that would cost \$20 and would be paid at the same time with the registration fee. The health program would cover the cost of the medical bills from mi-

nor illnesses and injuries, and it would also cover the cost of testing.

The bill did not come through because, apparently, there was a problem with the wording of the question on the ballot. But according to Student Government, there will be another vote soon.

Students should vote yes on this issue for both their own and the school's benefit for these reasons:

This health program would be beneficial to students who would only have to pay \$20 for nearly complete medical care. With a program like this, the students would be encouraged

to seek medical care because they would not have to worry about the cost.

The Student Health Center would also benefit from this program because it would be much easier to control viruses on campus if more people came in to get proper care.

An opposing view

Health fee should not be forced

by Angela Ramsey

The decision concerning the health fee issue, which was disqualified in last month's election, has yet to be solved.

Ultimately, the bill would force students into paying a \$20 fee at registration, an arrangement many students find unacceptable. Although student health services may improve over time as a result of this

measure, student rights are violated.

There are seniors at UNLV who have had multiple illnesses over the years and have never used the facilities on campus, not because they are ignorant of the free health care provided on campus, but because they simply choose to go elsewhere.

A student may feel that health care isn't the responsibility of the school but

rather a private matter to be handled by a doctor or family physician. Students may have insurance considerations that discourage the use of the facility as well.

Yes, free health services for students is a good idea, but it is one that was formulated by UNLV and, therefore, a matter to be dealt with by UNLV. Students appreciate and take advantage of the service because of the mere fact that it is free

and an attractive alternative. As tuition continues to rise, UNLV students will become unwilling to pay any additional costs.

If revenue is needed to improve the health facilities, students should have the option to donate money. UNLV should not take away this option to donate money. UNLV should not take away this option and force students to pay. It simply isn't fair.

Compliance should not mean a denial of rights

by Tanya Friend

Compliance in sports rules are essential in all athletic departments, but invasion of privacy is against the law.

The UNLV basketball team has had its problems with the NCAA, but installing a hidden camera in the gym without the players consent is the last straw.

Booke did not confirm or deny the allegations until after he talked with KTNV-TV and even then he called

his unjust actions, "an unusual compliance measure."

By Democracy's strong standings, every individual is guaranteed the freedom of privacy, even the UNLV basketball team. When this right is taken away, there is little left to say.

These so-called compliance measures within the NCAA need to be reviewed by a judiciary committee and those that are obviously taking the law into their own hands should be reprimanded.