

Students' money should be repaid 'quickly'

Former Student Services Director Mike Quick has a debt to pay to the students of UNLV and Student Government should see to it that he does.

On Tuesday, Quick admitted to having dropped classes last semester, classes which were needed to be eligible for the position he held. Quick was aware of the bylaw which states eligibility standards and, in fact, was approved to receive a monthly stipend as Student Services director.

Then, he vacationed on student's money, traveling to Florida where he was to attend a Student Services convention. While there, Quick drove a rented car to Georgia to spend the day with friends and also played at Disneyworld.

Jami Nalder, a senator who also attended that convention, said Quick had told her at the end of the semester that he had dropped the necessary classes. She said she told him he'd better go to the Executive Board about it to clear things up.

"He told me he would take care of it and that he'd tell them. But when I returned from Christmas vacation, I found out he hadn't told them," Nalder said.

Since that time, Quick no longer holds the position of director. Although Roderick Colebrook, student body president, denied comment on reasons for the vacant position, Vice President Kevin Briggs said, "If he (Quick) hadn't resigned, he would have been terminated."

Bravo to Student Government for acting so quickly.

But their job is not complete.

"There is a lot of hostility right now between Mike (Quick) and Scott (Fisher, another senator who went on the Florida trip), and me," Nalder said. "I won't say who talked to me but I was asked to lie about the trip to Georgia (that was taken in the rental car)." Nalder later said it was Scott Fisher who had asked her to lie.

Nalder said she felt a reason for the hostility is that Quick wanted to get the directorship position back. When he knew he would not be supported, she said, she was told to help lobby other senators for Quick.

"I was told if I didn't help out on this that they would 'take care of me'," she said. "But I think it is best to tell the truth."

Student Government has work to finish. Quick is being allowed to carry on in a different position as a consultant to the Career Days project for Student Government. Quick has already taken freely of the \$375 needed for air fare for the convention in November, the \$277 registration fee, the \$79 hotel room per night and the meals provided with student fees (not to mention submitting receipts for reimbursement for the rental car he drove to Georgia on unofficial business) all while not having the necessary credits to hold his title. He is performing in a position which represents Student Government while making threats to Senator Nalder and *Rebel Yell* News Editor Tricia Ciaravino.

Student Government needs to demand payment from Quick. It has a responsibility to the students of UNLV to do so. And Quick should be removed from further responsibilities at once. There are too many competent students at this university who would not take their obligations so lightly.

We can do without "quick" fixes.

The above is the opinion of *The Rebel Yell*.



The case of the missing taxpayer dollars

by Thomas Cacho

These are the signs of our times. America's list of current socioeconomic problems reads like a litany of horrors: drugs, unemployment, skyrocketing health care costs, a deteriorating public school system, rampant poverty and homelessness, the recession and George Bush. Indeed, the list seems endless.

How did we get ourselves in this God-forsaken condition? Many look back at the '80s for answers. This was the decade of "Reaganomics" (when big business actually ran the government) which was characterized by an increasing shift in emphasis from domestic to foreign issues and concerns. As defense spending skyrocketed, domestic spending nosedived. Former president Ronald Reagan actually seemed intent on making the rich richer and the poor even poorer.

It is time Americans start taking a much closer look at exactly what our government's foreign policy concerning defense is.

Take for instance El Salvador's long, bloody civil war which, as recently reported by the major networks' newscasts, has finally come to an end. This eleven-year conflict, which pitted the far-to-the-right government of Alfredo Christiani (a

faithful servant of Washington policymakers) against pro-reform leftist rebels, claimed tens of thousands of innocent civilian lives. What was not reported however, was our own government's involvement in the conflict. Over the last decade, the Reagan/Bush Administrations managed to funnel some \$4 billion to the Salvadoran government, much of it military aid to that country's brutal army.

Add the billions of dollars in military aid sent by our illustrious government (also in the last decade) to dictatorship governments in Guatemala, Chile, Angola, Greece and Turkey, and the billions spent "defending" Europe and Israel during the Cold War, then a clearer picture emerges as to where our hard-earned tax dollars go, and why America is in the socio-economic condition it is today.

Furthermore, let us not forget the hundreds of millions of dollars racked up by exploding "smart bombs" and "kicking Saddam's ass" after all the years of U.S. military support for Iraq during that country's eight-year war with Iran.

It seems the longer our political leaders remain in office, the less they relate to the American people. Incredibly, President Bush was still insist-

ing, up to as recently as December of last year, that there was no recession. As unemployment increased so reports came out of the White House that the economy was on the rebound. Illegal drugs continue to ravage our communities, yet the word from the Bush Administration is that we are winning the war on drugs.

According to the president there is just not enough money for domestic spending due to the enormous budget deficit. Amazingly our government, somehow or other, always finds money to send overseas.

Obviously, it is time to start re-investing in America. It is time our government starts investing in education, health care, housing and energy. A nation is made up of people, not corrupt, worthless politicians and a military. The days of playing "international policeman" are over. America, apparently, cannot even police itself, much less the world. Indeed, we have seen the enemy and he is us.

Cacho is a freshman