

Senate President needs to take action

Of themselves, by themselves and for themselves. Yep, that's our Student Government.

Mike Kennedy, our so-called senate president, was put into office to represent the students of this campus. However, he has taken little action for the students' best interest.

His "sweep it under the rug" attitude is evident in his non-action concerning the controversy surrounding Student Government.

Four student government representatives — Vice President Kevin Briggs, former Director Mike Quick, Sen. Scott Fisher and Sen. Jami Nalder — "borrowed" student money and waited seven weeks to pay it back, interest free. It is alleged that these representatives cashed in on a hotel room while attending a Student Services national convention, took the money and goofed around at Disney World. Quick has admitted to driving the rental car across state lines into Georgia to visit friends.

Nalder admitted to knowing that Quick, who was at that time director of student services, had dropped his classes in mid-October.

Two senators, one of whom is Fisher, have filed charges against Nalder for not coming forward with this information about Quick. These same two senators are members of the Rules Committee, which will review these charges.

Kennedy advised all four involved in the scandal that the last senate meeting was open and anything they said could and would be used against them in the student newspaper. He encouraged the senators to call for a closed session.

At Wednesday's Rules Committee meeting, he told the senators to define their charges in writing to avoid press coverage.

He did not hold a senate meeting because he said there was not enough business. He also implied he was waiting for someone to request a closed session.

In other words, by Kennedy's way of thinking, if the press and constituents are present at a meeting, better to be silent or secretive than to reveal the truth.

He has not yet ordered an investigation of the two senators involved (with the convention) because Kennedy claims no one has filed any charges. He said he couldn't take the initiative himself because he did not know what laws these senators had violated. However, our senate president had a full week to find out.

"I don't want to jump into something and do something wrong," he said.

Like a true politician, Kennedy wants to satisfy all of the people all of the time and prefers to wait until the students cause an uproar due to bad legislation.

When the Student Advisory Committee met with the administration to discuss budget cuts, Kennedy abstained from voting. How, then, did he represent us, the students? Our fees may increase and our classes may be cut as a result of the student representatives' input. Kennedy's abstention said we didn't care.

He also has the power to appoint temporary senators to the Rules Committee to review pending cases involving dramatic conflicts of interest but has failed to do so.

Our student government is a learning lab; and Mike Kennedy gets an A+ for learning how to be a Mickey Mouse politician.

This is the opinion of The Rebel Yell.



Representatives are accountable for the political arena

by Todd Webber

Recently, several articles were published in *The Rebel Yell* concerning the matter of a CSUN (Student Government) trip to Florida in which four representatives of Student Government were to attend a conference to benefit Student Services. Unfortunately, it appears that the trip, in fact, has done just the opposite.

I am very disappointed that what was originally proposed as an educational conference on Student Services to benefit our school has turned into a fiasco of personal threats and allegations of wrongdoing, all at UNLV's expense. The personal problems between these representatives have unfortunately found their way into the political arena. It is important for student representatives (including myself) to remember that we are accountable for our actions at all times, because of our positions as

representatives.

In addition, it is important for students to take the time to find out for themselves what we are doing in Student Government. Only one article, such as "Student Government Trip Questioned" or "Plot Thickens at Senate Meeting," can leave a bad impression of CSUN, when in fact, the matter of the trip is being quickly and properly dealt with.

There are many great things that Student Government, its boards and committees, are doing. Student Government has put together things such as James Brady lecturing on campus concerning gun control and the controversial "Brady Bill" and having Dr. Kunjufu on campus to speak during Black History Month. These are only two of the examples of work that CSUN is doing.

I want to emphasize that students should not let this one incident distract them from realizing what a dedicated Student Government we have. Our

Executive Board is constantly reminding the Senate and other representatives to maintain a positive, no-nonsense attitude and to remember that Student Government is there to serve you, the students.

If there is a matter which students feel needs to be addressed, Student Government is easily accessible in the MSU, room 160. The senators, directors, Executive Board members, and justices all have mailboxes in the CSUN office that we check daily. Please take the time to get involved and see for yourself all the good things that Student Government is doing, and the progress we are making.

Remember, we should be "Consolidated Students" in more than just name.

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or bring your letter directly to us on the third floor of the Moyer Student Union in room 302.

