

Put it to the board

Students attending UNLV both this semester and last semester may be curious as to what became of the Student Health Center fee which was voted in by students last November. What has actually happened with this fee is nothing. With problems pertaining to the budget crisis and the distractions of seemingly endless controversy swirling around campus, the Student Health Center fee has been brushed aside. The fact of the matter is, President Maxson has not presented this to the Board of Regents.

When asked if he had made the recommendation yet, Maxson replied, "We have not at this point. It's something that I want to talk to Dr. Ackerman about. I haven't made a recommendation yet."

Vice President of Student Services Robert Ackerman was helpful in explaining the delay.

"What we decided to do, was to make sure that we did this apart from the tuition increase," Ackerman said. "We didn't want the issue to get confused. I would guess it will be recommended at the next meeting." The next meeting, scheduled for April 9 and 10, will be held in North Las Vegas at Community College of Southern Nevada.

Ackerman added there may have been other reasons for the delay, at least with regard to the issue not coming before the board at the last meeting.

"I didn't get the formal proposal until it was too late to be placed on the agenda for that meeting. I got the proposal Feb. 9, and the last day to get something on the agenda was Feb. 7."

The two people who worked on the final wording of the proposal were Student Senate President Mike Kennedy and Director of Student Health Services Lori Winchell.

"Lori Winchell and I finished the proposal by 5 p.m. on Thursday (Feb. 5)," Kennedy said. "I assumed she got it to him the following day."

However, when asked about this Winchell said she was not sure when she got it in. She was certain that it did go to Ackerman, but with the passage of time, she was not certain of the exact date or time.

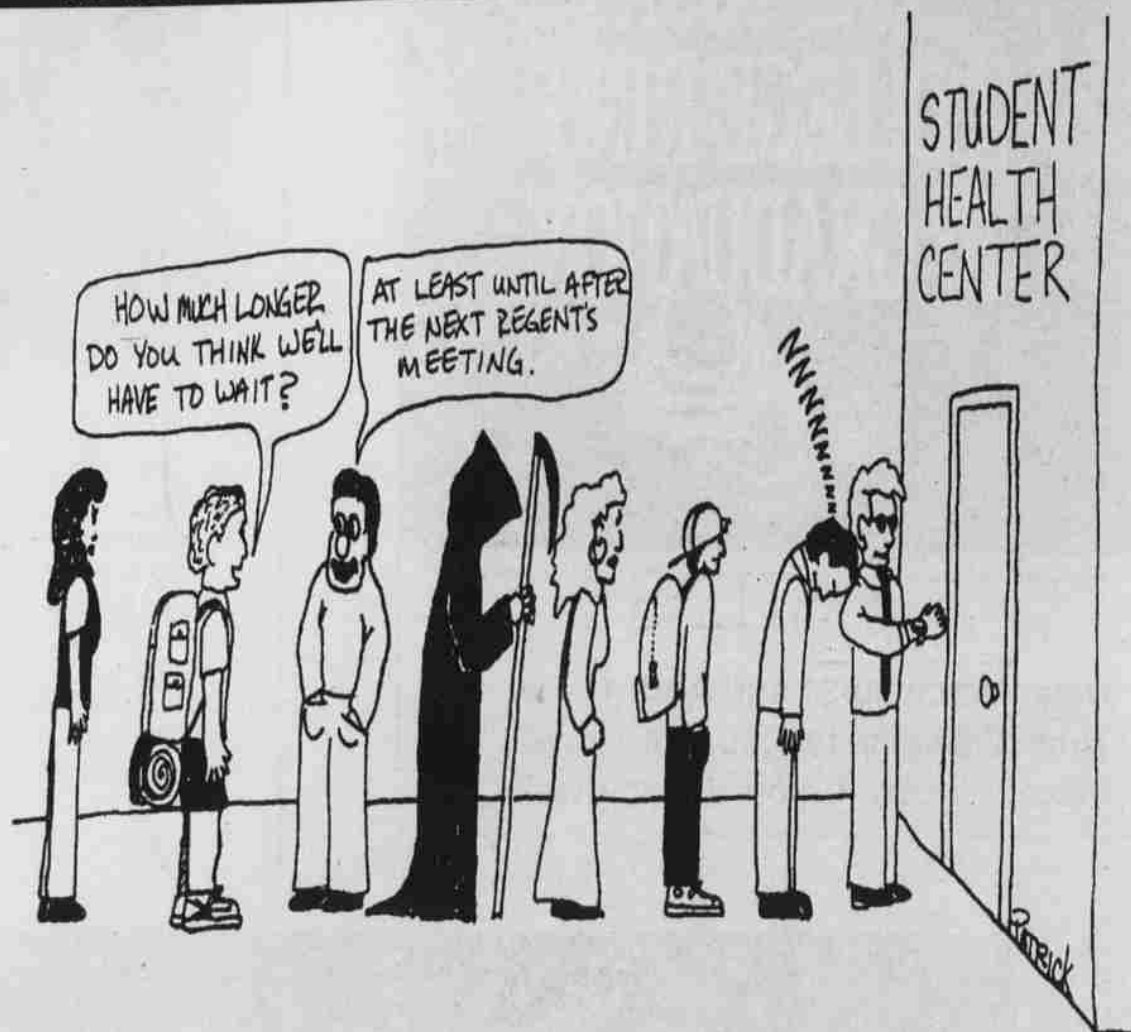
When asked if she knew anything about the proposal being put before the board, Regent June Whitley couldn't remember anything about it. "I'm sorry. I don't remember whether it was recommended or not," she said.

It really doesn't matter. The important thing is that it should be put before the board at the next possible opportunity. The need at the health center is critical.

"I think with the budget crisis and the many things that have been happening they haven't been able to get to it," Lori Winchell said. "It is unfortunate. It is really unfortunate, but it still means a lot to us."

It means a lot to students too. This bill was passed overwhelmingly by student vote more than four months ago. Distractions or not, it is time to move on with this. This health proposal should be put before the Board of Regents at the next possible opportunity. It should not be forgotten.

The above is the opinion of The Rebel Yell. All other articles on the opinion pages reflect the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of The Rebel Yell.



We are partners in health

The Student Health Center - parasitic diseases contracted

by Lori Winchell

The UNLV Student Health Center Staff is involved with students at some of the most delicate and intimate points of their lives. It is during these "windows of opportunity" (American College Health Association, 1991) that the Student Health Center Staff can empower the student with recovering health and assist in providing the knowledge necessary to help students participate in their own care. This holistic approach is demonstrated by the health education that occurs between the student and Health Care Providers, student self-care kits and outreach programs by our certified Health Educator.

The expansion of campus housing and growth of the student population has significantly impacted our service. We see an average of 40-60 students daily. Since January 1991, we have added 2,000 new patient files and this does not reflect return visits. Limited Practitioner hours and four exam rooms create long waits for students and/or costly off-campus referrals. A recent telephone survey by students at the Student Health Center, demonstrated costs of off-campus initial office visits to range from \$32-\$75 and return visits from \$22-\$50. The Student Health Center does not charge for office visits. Students are charged for injections, medications at wholesale cost, and lab tests only. Lab charges are billed directly to the Student Health Center by an outside lab.

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ter is not untouched by our nation's health care dilemma. Approximately 18 percent of the students we service are considered "medically indigent." These students have either no insurance or are underinsured. This means they are not able to pay for their health care. We are finding more and more students utilizing our service as their primary health source.

Demographic changes, reflected by the types of students attending colleges and universities, has also impacted our service. This semester the youngest patient seen was 17 years old and the oldest 59. A significant number of students evaluated and treated by the Student Health Center are not young adults being treated for colds or contraception.

The Student Health Center's statistical data reveals a positive chlamydia rate of 8-10 percent, positive herpes tests of 6.5 percent and abnormal cervical pap smears at approximately 14 percent. To prevent cervical cancer, the follow-up for abnormal pap smears frequently requires colposcopy biopsy and additional treatments not available at the Student Health Center. This semester alone we have evaluated and/or treated students with diabetes, kidney stones, positive HIV infection, high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, asthma,

outside the United States, bulimia, thyroid disease, depression, suicide attempts, date rape, assault, drug/alcohol abuse (including students in the county methadone program), pregnancy, miscarriages, sprains, fractures, pneumonia, severe anemia, heart arrhythmias, heart attack, minor surgery, and more.

Yet with a less than ideal setting, (considering staff/space limitations) the Student Health Center Staff has continued to provide a safe and quality service to the students evaluated. The commitment of the UNLV students to their community's health and welfare was demonstrated by the vote to support a student health fee of \$20 per semester. After approval by the Regents, this fee, in addition to the current budget, will enable us to expand the Student Health Center Services to include: 10-12 exam rooms, a licensed pharmacy with a full-time pharmacist, a 20-hour-per-week registered dietician and a full-time physician.

The yes vote for the \$20/semester health fee provides an example of a caring community. It enables us to team up with students to provide cost effective health care that connects students with the Student Health Center as "Partners in Health."