

Students protest ROTC's gay-lesbian ban

USSA delivers protest to Bush headquarters

Washington (CPS) — The United States Student Association (USSA) delivered to President Bush's campaign headquarters ballots from college students in 48 states protesting the ROTC's ban on gay and lesbian cadets.

Mock ballots were distributed to more than 100 campuses nationwide and students were asked to return them to the USSA office.

Glenn Magpantay, co-chair of USSA's Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual student Caucus, said several boxes full of protest ballots were delivered March 9 to

Bush's campaign office. The exact count was uncertain but Magpantay said there were thousands of ballots.

"Today the president will hear from the nation's students," Magpantay said. "The ball is in his court. He can change the policy or face the wrath of students."

The department of Defense bars lesbians, gays and bisexuals from military service and the ROTC programs on college campuses must abide by that policy. Yet, many universities have policies forbidding discrimination on the basis of race, gender, ethnic background or sexual orientation.

The conflicting principles have prompted some universities to kick ROTC programs off campus. Many colleges have urged the Department of Defense to change the policy.

Drinking hospitalizes Indiana pledge

Bloomington, Ind. (CPS) — Indiana University and the national chapter of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity are investigating an alleged hazing incident that left a pledge hospitalized with a .40 blood alcohol content.

As a result of the Jan. 28 drinking binge, the fraternity and 26 members have been

Around the Country



charged with hazing, endangering the life of a student, giving false information to university officials and violating the school's alcohol possession and consumption policies.

University officials would

not release the name of the man who was sent to the hospital after the incident. According to the school, the man had said he was drinking before he went to the fraternity house for a big-brother-little-brother function.

New program targets first-year students

by William Holt

To assist incoming freshmen with the new experience of a campus environment, the department of Residential Life will introduce the First Year Student Program beginning next fall based in the remodelled Tonopah building.

Terry Piper, director of Residential Life, and assistant director Karen Strong, who will run the new program, have worked together to conceptualize, design and finalize the project.

Strong describes the program as "a highly structured program that has three target areas." Those areas are: the interaction into the university, academic support and personal development.

"This is basically a retention program and one aimed at increasing academic success and providing leadership skills," Strong said. "By hitting these areas, we hope to address the needs of first-year students and make their first year a positive one."

The program will invite guest speakers who will attempt to help students find out who they are and discover what careers they might be interested in. During each semester, a series of events and activities will be planned targeting specific

interest areas.

"This will help the student to make the transition from high school to college," Strong said. "(It will let them know) how to relate to other students in a relationship, how to meet people that were once total strangers."

Various lounge areas in Tonopah have been identified as rooms for study, tutoring, group study, programming, seminars, events and a computer room.

Strong said any first-year student living in any dorm building can participate in the First Year Student Program but can't use the specialized rooms in Tonopah. These rooms are reserved for Tonopah residents who indicated they agree to participate in the program by choosing to live in this building.

She said the estimated 210 residents of Tonopah will experience a "very intentional, comprehensive and systematic" First Year Student Program as opposed to non-Tonopah residents. There will be no cost difference for the enrollment as a Tonopah resident.

Strong also said next year she plans to have a dorm geared toward junior and senior students to help them in the later stages as a student.

CRIME

many of Las Vegas's more newsworthy crimes.

- The armed robbery at Pioneer Citizens Bank recently.

- The incident across from UNLV last year at Brewsters, then called Tarkanian's, where a young man died after a shootout with Las Vegas Metropolitan Police.

- The Charles Bush case, which happened on Paradise Road behind UNLV. Bush died in a struggle with the police.

- The murder of two young women earlier this year in their apartment on Cambridge St., just

east of Flamingo Road between Swenson Street and Maryland Parkway.

A list of these crimes and the words of Llanos, Dennis and his wife, and Tsagrinis paint the picture of an area in decline.

But not everyone feels the same way.

University President Robert Maxson described the area as "reasonably safe." Maxson touted the university as centrally located for students.

Although many of the people interviewed—including

University Police Chief David Hollenbeck—cited the decline in appearance of apartments as a problem, Maxson implied it is to be expected. "The apartments have to be the ones students can afford," he said.

Maxson mentioned future expansion plans for the university and said as the university grows security will be increased. Maxson feels that there is a "pleasant area surrounding campus."

This is Part 1 in a two-part series. The second part will run April 9.

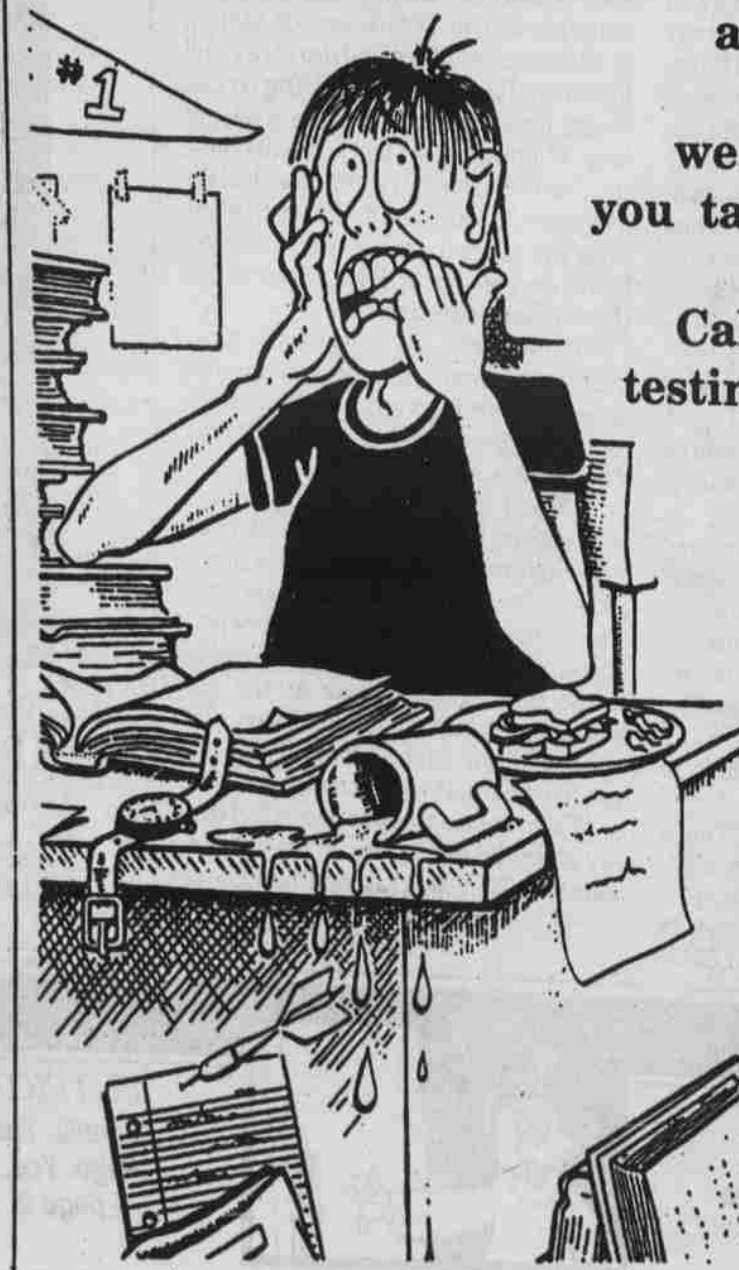
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