

Students governed by 'the code'

by Tonya Lomeo
For The Yell

At UNLV all students should live by "the code." Not the code of the West but the official UNLV Student Conduct Code—a code that governs student behavior not only on campus, but on all university-governed properties including the Thomas & Mack Center and, during UNLV events, the Silver Bowl.

Violations of the code are varied and include problems such as cheating, fighting on campus or sexual harassment.

"The worst case I can remember," said Liz Baldizan, special assistant to the vice president of student services and special assistant for judicial affairs, "was the problem with the student in the dorm with the Molotov cocktails. That was brought to our attention through the public safety department. He was permanently expelled."

Baldizan is the enforcement power behind the code and said that in determining action against a violator, she checks out the student's previous record, the safety of the other students and the interference with the educational process at the university.

While being expelled is an effective punishment, it is not the only one. "The main approach I take is to make it (the punishment) educational," said Baldizan. Some punishments have involved community service or writing letters of apology.

According to Baldizan 50 to 80 conduct code violations are filed yearly with the number of complaints increasing steadily as students become aware of the right to place grievances.

Grievances can be brought by anyone related to the university, including the public safety department. However, it is the decision of the student making the complaint to bring the violation, if

it is serious enough or applicable, to any other university or outside source.

To place a grievance, the student is required to address the complaint to Baldizan in writing. She will meet with the student, the alleged violator, as well as the person placing the complaint and any others involved in the incident in her office in the student services department on the third floor of the Flora Dungan Humanities Building.

In this initial investigation Baldizan attempts to make an informal solution by creating a behavioral contract. If an informal solution cannot be attained, a formal hearing is held in which either an individual or committee appointed by the vice president for student services presides over the event.

Copies of the UNLV Student Conduct Code can be obtained in the vice president for student services' office, Humanities Building, Room 330.

HEALTH FEE

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small price to pay in comparison to other campuses throughout the nation. According to Lori Winchell, director of the Student Health Center, many other universities charge their students hundreds of dollars for health services. UNLV ranks low in comparison to other universities, said Rodriguez. For example, UCLA charges \$74 for health services.

Although many new services are being offered, existing services will not increase in price, said Winchell.

"Most of the new services are going to be phased in during the 1992-93 school year," said Winchell, "but we won't actually have the health fee monies available until mid-September or early October."

Winchell said the services offered will be effected by the state budget crisis. Because of the state hiring freeze the addition of any staff will require special permission.


Beginning this semester, the health center will expand its hours until 8 p.m. and have a full-time registered nurse on duty Monday through Thursday.

Winchell said the center will increase dietician services this fall from 4 to 20 hours per week. This extra time would help provide a two-credit peer nutrition program and a weight control program. A full-time nurse practitioner will be added to the staff so prescriptions can be filled more efficiently. In the spring, full-time physician services will be phased in along with hiring medical specialists such as an allergist, gynecologist and dermatologist.

"Students need to understand the Student Health Service's mission," said Winchell. "The mission is threefold; first we administer care to patients, second we try to educate students and third we serve the UNLV community in safety and health issues."

The last mission includes being involved in campus committees facing issues about sexual assault, AIDS, hazardous materials, and emergency health care issues such as immunization clinics.

Student Government is not planning to take any action to repeal the health services fee according to Kostman. However, he said if a majority of the student body wrote letters or signed a petition against the fee, Student Government would hold a new election or take the issue to the Board of Regents.



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