

Senate critical of Berkley's behavior

by Paul Stuhff

Senate President Bud Benneman was among those criticizing Regent Shelly Berkley at the CSUN Senate meeting Wednesday for what he described as rude behavior.

Benneman told of an alleged incident where Berkley berated members of Student Government for the thumbs-down recommendation she received from a panel organized by Student Government.

Benneman commented he had never seen such behavior from a regent.

Senator Caprice Houston, political science, was also critical of pressure she claimed she received as a member of the board reviewing regent candidates.

"I'm not going to apologize for the board," said Houston. "I don't appreciate people saying these things. You can not say that we should have voted for Berkley. It was disrespectful of Berkley to speak to us like that."

Benneman was also critical of *The Rebel Yell* and said the newspaper had blamed Student Government of violating the open meeting law when it held the review of the regent candidates.

"Accusing the president of a misdemeanor; I think that's going for blood," said Benneman. He was speaking about an article which ran in the Oct. 8 issue

of *The Rebel Yell*.

The article was about the regents review committee and stated "the sessions were billed as closed to the public despite the Nevada open meeting law."

Senator Andy Sabatini, hotel administration, agreed with Benneman's feelings about the article.

"The panel was unjustly written up in the paper," Sabatini said.

In other business the Senate discussed and approved \$6,955 for a debate on gay rights. The debate is scheduled for Nov. 17.

The proposed debate, which will be between former television personality Morton Downey, Jr. and former umpire and author of *My Double Life in Baseball*, Dave Pallone, was questioned by Sen. James Yohe, business and economics.

"I've heard Morton Downey before and he's into pure sensationalism," Yohe said.

"I agree. Morton Downey is pure sensationalism," said Lisa Zentner, Entertainment & Programming director. "Yes, there is 10 percent theatrics in this kind of debate, but there is 90 percent issues."

Zentner explained she checked with two schools which had already hosted the debate in order to avoid a situation like that of the recent censorship debate between Professor Griff and Jack Thompson.

Yohe continued by questioning the credentials of the debaters. "It doesn't seem like they're experts on this subject. What qualifications do these guys have to speak on this?" Yohe said.

"When it comes to a subject so timely and provocative, you need the extra names and personalities there to get people to come," Zentner said. "Morton Downey, maybe he's not a 100 percent expert on this, should be present just given his livelihood."

Pallone has been "recognized by many gay organizations," Zentner said.

Senator Jami Nalder, hotel administration, cautioned the Senate, "I don't want this to turn out like the so-called censorship debate."

Nalder supported free ticket distribution to students and charging the general public.

The debate was approved with only Yohe opposed.

The Senate also considered a motion to approve \$1,759 in funding for 300 Homecoming T-shirts. Yohe questioned the need for the appropriation when the shirts were already produced, and some were present in the Senate chambers.

Benneman said it was a "point well taken," but circumstances required that the shirts be purchased before approval could be obtained in time for Homecoming.

Low grades linked to heavy drinkers

WASHINGTON (CPS)—College students with low grades consume an average of 11 alcoholic drinks a week, three times the amount that honor roll students do, say researchers from two universities.

The study, based on a survey of 56,000 students on 78 campuses during the 1989-90 school year, also found students at smaller schools are drinking more than at larger schools, and male students are more likely than women to go on drinking binges.

Students who were getting D's and F's were averaging 10.8 drinks a week, while students with A's were consuming 3.4 drinks. Researchers from Southern Illinois University and the College of William and Mary in Virginia analyzed the survey results and created the report, which is intended to assist school officials in designing substance abuse prevention programs.

Researchers found alcohol, as expected, is the drug of choice: 86 percent of respondents said they used it in the last year, and 45 percent said they drink on a weekly or more frequent basis.

Twenty-seven percent of students said they smoked pot in the past year, and 6.1 percent

Beer giveaway goes down the drain

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (CPS)—A University of Florida Student Government plan to pass out cards for free beer was nixed by university officials.

The plan offered students a card for one free beer a night at local bars after signing a pledge card promising that he or she would not drink and drive. Pledge cards were to have been distributed to about 9,000 students of legal drinking age.

"At first we thought it was done as a spoof," said Art Sandeen, the university's Student Affairs vice president. "We thought it was a terrible idea."

said they used cocaine. Other drugs reported on campus included steroids, opiates, hallucinogens, amphetamines, sedatives and inhalants.

The most significant result is the link between alcohol and grades, said officials.

Discrimination against gays results in student boycott

MADISON, Wis. (CPS)—Gay, lesbian and other student activists at the University of Wisconsin are boycotting a bookstore after a lesbian employee was fired in May.

Lois Corcoran, who worked as an administrative assistant at the University Book Store, filed a complaint with Madison's Equal Opportunity Commission, saying she was fired because she is a lesbian. John Epple, president of the store, did not return telephone calls to comment on the case. The bookstore is not officially affiliated with the school, but is the closest bookstore to campus, said


Sara Oppenheimer, the campus news editor with the *Daily Cardinal*, a campus newspaper.

Charles Squires, co-president of the Ten Percent Society, the school's gay, lesbian and bisexual student organization, said the boycott so far has been "fairly successful." School began Sept. 2, and activists picketed the store during registration and the first week of classes, Squires said. "Our campus has 4,000 to 5,000 gay and lesbian students, and it is atrocious that the place discriminates so blatantly," he said. "It's really demeaning."

The boycott has the support of the Wisconsin Student Asso-

ciation, said Amy Friedman, speaker of the Senate. The association represents the school's 43,000 students. "We supported the boycott due to a strong show of support of the student population," Friedman said. "When we have civil rights violations we should support our students."

Most students should be able to purchase textbooks at other book stores, Friedman and Squires said. The student government is not directly involved in the boycott, but is giving information to students and organizations who want to participate. "I hope it's short, and comes to a compromise," she said.



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