



The Rebel Yell

November 19, 1992

THURSDAY EDITION

Volume 15, No. 25

OPINION
Students speak
out on gay rights
— page 3

TEMPEST
U2's 'Zoo TV'
— section 2



Gay rights debate turns into discussion

by Tricla Ciaravino

Former talk show host Morton Downey, Jr. and former major league umpire Dave Pallone surprised students when they attempted to educate them rather than battle it out over gay rights issues Tuesday night.

Downey's opening remarks, which advocated rights for all citizens, were an attempt to diffuse some anger before it started.

"We live in a disfunctional nation that is incapable of dealing with its own citizens on an equal basis," he said. "I'm not a proponent of gay rights. I don't think they should have any more rights than I do. But they should have every right I have; every responsibility I have."

Downey discouraged students from "looking for a reason to be on the muscle...you should look for a reason for understanding someone."

Pallone's opening remarks were from a letter he received a few years ago from a 22-year-old college student living in a small town who felt he couldn't "come out." Pallone said the reason he makes these appearances is for the half million teenagers who attempt suicide every year because of their sexual orientation.

"The religious right and society have taught hate. They have taught them (homosexual teenagers) they're not allowed in our society," he said.

"None of us should ever disagree upon a young person taking his life because they can't be who they are," he added.

Pallone said President-elect Bill Clinton's mandate for change will mean equality for homosexuals.

"We finally have a president who accepts all Americans not just a select few. Those teenagers who might now have a chance to never take their lives can join the military, umpire and be openly gay or lesbian politicians and they will," he said.



by Rob Weidenfeld

"We live in a disfunctional nation"
—Morton Downey, Jr.



by Rob Weidenfeld

"We're not sexual beings, we're human beings"
— Dave Pallone

"I too believe in a place called hope and it's not in Arkansas," Downey said.

According to Downey, Clinton can't sign an executive order that will make the military employ homosexuals because of a military code that prohibits sodomy—it's punishable by up to 20 years. Although federal laws are supreme military codes they are usually enforced to maintain order.

One student questioned the military's compliance on this issue while not obeying other laws such as adultery with the navy attitude "a girl in every port." She said the code was an old and irrelevant law and used a Nevada law which prohibits members of the opposite sex from

living together as another example.

"And I've never known a female capable of sodomy," she added.

Another student said the definition of sodomy includes oral and anal sex so the military, as well as several civilians, are already breaking the law. Thirty seven states currently allow sodomy.

Many students expressed concern that homosexuals in the military would "stare at" or "harass" heterosexuals.

"That's one myth heterosexual males have—that they're so good looking gays want to look at them," Pallone said.

He emphasized that homosexuals follow the same code of

ethics as heterosexuals and that they're very careful in their conduct.

"We're not sexual beings we're human beings," he said.

As for heterosexual conduct in the military he cited "tail-hook."

One student, who identified himself as Guy and a United States Marine, said he didn't think homosexuals should be allowed in the military because it will undermine the soldiers' confidence in combat.

"America has the most elite force in the world and that's why it doesn't have them (homosexuals)," he said.

He said soldiers share a common interest—and it isn't other men. He said he didn't feel

they could be part of the team as a result.

Another student questioned the rules. The military provides separate barracks and showers for women. Males have to sleep, in their underwear, at least a foot and a half away from females. He wondered why homosexuals would be allowed to shower with heterosexuals when heterosexual males and females couldn't shower together.

"If a man or woman, straight or gay, can't control their sexual desires they have no right to be in the military," Pallone said.

Downey and Pallone also debated over anti-gay laws passed in Colorado and Oregon.

see DEBATE page 2

'Yell' independence paves way for KUNV

by Tonya Lomeo

If everything goes as planned, KUNV 91.5 FM will be independent of Student Government by the beginning of next semester, said Rob Rosenthal, the station's general manager.

KUNV began its journey toward independence about a year ago.

"We really haven't encountered any problems with CSUN," Rosenthal said. "The Yell's independence has made it easier for us."

Rosenthal gave three reasons for

KUNV's initiative to go independent. First, *The Rebel Yell* is separate. Second, a government agency should not run a media outlet as closely as KUNV has been run by Student Government. Third, CSUN's bureaucracy is too cumbersome to fund normal operations.

"Four signatures are needed from student government if we want to purchase something, even something simple like paper clips," Rosenthal said. "Then it has to go to the purchasing department."

If the radio station needs funds over

\$500, it would have to submit a proposal to the Senate which would need 24 signatures for approval.

Rosenthal said the problem with the procedure is the Senate only meets once a month, and if they don't have quorum, no business can be approved.

A report was submitted to the Student Senate by Senate President Pro Tempore Bud Benneman, who was instrumental in *The Yell's* quest for independence. The report examined the economic and political aspects of the radio station's independence and compared it

to those of the newspaper.

However, according to that report, KUNV's independence will be harder to achieve because "there are statutory changes that must be implemented in order to separate KUNV from Student Government."

Rosenthal stipulated that because KUNV is mentioned in CSUN's constitution, it had to be put before the student body for approval. A ballot question was asked during the Homecoming election,

see KUNV page 2