



The Rebel Yell

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PHOTO BY WRAY HALTERMAN

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Cindy Purbance catches 40 winks on the lawn.

GAYS IN THE MILITARY

Lifting of ban spurs controversy

A six-month delay to lift the ban on gays in the military may hurt the group, homosexuals say.

BY CYNTHIA SALINAS
STAFF WRITER

The question of whether homosexuals belong in the military has become everyone's business.

While many in the homosexual community feel they know how most members of Congress will vote, Nevada Sens. Harry Reid and Richard Bryan are two the gay community is unsure of. Allen, who asked that his last

name not be revealed, was a staff sergeant in the Air Force for eight years. He said Reid's and Bryan's votes could be up for grabs.

"Reid and Bryan? We don't know how they're going to vote," Allen said. "They're kind of iffy."

Allen said because of senators like Reid and Bryan some gays are happy that President Bill Clinton delayed voting on lifting the ban for six months. The delay will give them time to talk to Congress.

"The six-month delay gives homosexuals time to lobby Congress to get them to do the right thing," Allen said.

However not all gays are happy with the delay.

Jessie, his identity will not be revealed to protect his position in the military, has been an E-5 staff sergeant in the Air Force for almost seven years and said the ban hurts gays.

"President Clinton is not defending gays by delaying lifting the ban," Jessie said. "It's giving in to the homophobics in the military."

Even after the six months are up, the issue is still bound to inflame emotions.

Paul Rasmuson is a student at UNLV and has been in the National Guard for almost six years. He thinks that lifting the

ban could pose medical problems.

"My only problem is that six-month window of detection for the HIV virus," Rasmuson said. "If I'm on a battle field and I need a blood transfusion I feel by openly having gays in the military that will increase the chances of spreading AIDS."

Rasmuson said one of the more serious objections people have against gays in the military, an objection that even some gays understand.

Sean Griffith was a senior at the Naval Academy when he revealed his sexual orientation.

Griffith has suffered for his honesty—he was one of 380 people chosen from 6,000 applicants to be accepted into the Naval

Academy. "I could no longer hide the way I felt so I left the Naval Academy about a month before graduation," he said.

Despite his ordeal, Griffith recognized Rasmuson's concern.

"He has a valid point about the six-month window," Griffith

"Even if the ban is lifted I don't think all the gays in the military will go crazy and run around calling attention to their sexual orientation. I met men I was attracted to and I did not act on it."

Sean Griffith

said. "However people must recognize AIDS is not a gay disease. We have already seen that AIDS affects everybody."

According to Jessie, even if the ban was lifted there is a law that needs to be changed in order to accommodate the gay lifestyle. The law could be a *de facto* ban on gays. The Unified Code of Military Justice, item 127, makes sodomy an illegal act.

"If the ban is lifted I can openly be with my partner but I cannot make love to him because of the UCMJ," Jessie said. "In other words, I won't be kicked out of the military for being gay, I will be kicked out for committing sodomy, unless the law is changed."

The ban has been a drain on military resources. Last year the General Accounting Office spent an estimated that \$27 million on training and then discharging gays from the military.

According to Allen, the money was, at times matched by the

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Regents meet today; budget a major concern

BY THOMAS MOORE
NEWS EDITOR

Many of the rules that shape the way UNLV is run will be determined when the University of Nevada Board of Regents meets in the Tam Alumni building today and Friday.

A report on the Legislative hearings in Carson City will be presented at the regents meeting and should draw interest because of the impact Gov. Bob Miller's budget could have on the University System. Regent Shelley Berkley, fresh from speaking before the Legislature, should have some idea of how the debate is progressing.

The subject of faculty workloads could also be controversial because of the budget.

State Sen. Bob Coffin, D-Las Vegas, said recently the faculty worked harder when he was a student. Student Body President Joel Kostman complained that some faculty spend too much time doing research and not enough time teaching.

The report will be the summary results of a system-wide survey of workloads for the 1992 semester.

One item on the agenda, that has been the subject of a recent editorial in a local daily newspaper, will discuss that students with poor academic qualities can transfer from community colleges.

The regents will discuss a

Judge rules signatures insufficient; recall fails

BY THOMAS MOORE
NEWS EDITOR

The events surrounding former head basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian's resignation may come to a close now that the booster's latest attempt to recall Regents Carolyn Sparks and Joseph Foley have failed.

Judge William Beko ruled the recall petitions did not have the required amount of signatures and the groups conducting the petition did not comply with Nevada state law governing recall attempts.

Beko said if the petitioners had followed the rules the petitions would have been valid, but there were too many problems.

"The court," said Beko, "must enforce the provisions of our Constitution as written."

The Constitution demands the amount of signatures needed to recall someone should be based on the most recently held election. The boosters had based their numbers on the 1990, not the 1992 election which lowered the amount of signatures needed.

Beko said the form the election department provides to describe the requirements is clear enough and regardless who they asked about the petition they still had to follow the rules.

The petitioners said that both Douglas Lovitt, assistant



Regent Recall

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number of admission standards issues including developing transfer support centers to assist "at-risk" students transferring from community college, and

designing a program that uses student contracts to guarantee them placement after complet-

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