

The Rebel Bell

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Senate Fails to Override Presidential Veto

Vote on pay-cut reversed

BY JAMES EMBREE
EDITOR

The Student Senate failed to override Student Body President Stephanie Boixo's veto Monday of a measure which would have cut her salary by \$150.

With only five (Block, Campbell, Pobst, Schwartz and Smith) of 16 senators vot-

ing for the override, the measure fell short of the two-thirds needed to overcome the veto.

An obviously relieved Boixo said: "We got through a crisis. I think Student Government is going to pull together to get the most accomplished for the students of this university."

Neither Senate President William Romero or Senate President Pro-Tempore John Pida would comment on the vote.

The Senate also voted to spend up to \$20,000 for Homecoming 1994. "Students

can expect an extravaganza," CSUN Entertainment and Programming Director Laura Reeves said. She is very upbeat about this week's events, adding that this homecoming will be the first themed event in many years. "Students can look forward to an extravagant half-time show," Reeves said.

Also stressed was the number and nature of events, as some senators questioned the amount of money being requested. Last year CSUN spent about \$17,000 on homecoming, but it was noted

by Reeves that the events this year will be much more extensive.

Monday's vote for homecoming funds was last-minute because the senate was unable to make quorum at an emergency meeting Friday. It was mistakenly reported last week that Senate President Romero had called the Friday meeting. Romero refused to call the meeting and Student Body President decided to call it.

The meeting failed to make quorum by one vote, however, because Romero failed to show up.

Homecoming Continues

Royal Court to be named at Friday's pep rally

In what hopes to be the best homecoming in years, UNLV students will be treated to myriad of events, all themed in a medieval motif.

Entertainment and Programming Director Laura Reeves said in the past the half-time show was often put on by local high schools. Not so this year.

"This year we've taken the ball and run with it in terms of organizing the events," Reeves said.

She said the Mudsharks and Jumbalassy will be performing Thursday, 12 p.m., at the UNLV Alumni Amphitheater.

Reeves said Friday's festivi-

ties will begin with a parade at 11 a.m. Immediately following will be a pep rally at the Alumni Amphitheater, featuring performances by the UNLV dance team, cheerleaders, pep band, and flag team, as well as the introduction of the Throwin' Rebels football team.

And then, after the suspense is adequately built, the 1994 Homecoming Court will be named (five men and women). The festivities offer free food and beverages to sustain all loyal subjects.

The climax of Homecoming 1994 will be when the King and Queen and their court, complete with a Duke, Duchess, prince's and princesses are introduced during the half-time show at the Saturday football game. It should be an event worth taking the time to attend.



PHOTO BY LESLIE LITCHFIELD

Self-defense tactics for women are demonstrated in the Alumni Amphitheater at the annual "Take Back the Night" march held Tuesday, Oct. 4 on the UNLV campus.

Rally Promotes Anti-Violence Awareness

BY TERRISA MEEKS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The third annual "Take Back the Night" rally and march against violence was held Monday at Valerie Pida Plaza.

The rally started at 4 p.m. and included a self-defense demonstration by Impact Personal Safety and speeches from Rachel Carey-Harper and Thomas "Sparky" Reardon. A march through UNLV campus followed the rally.

During the self-defense demonstration, instructors from Impact showed the audience how to deliver knock-out blows to an attacker. The instructors also demonstrated how leverage enables a woman to throw off a heavier male attacker.

Rachel Carey-Harper, creator of the Clothesline Project, was the first speaker at the event. In the project, survivors of violence hang shirts of different colors on a giant clothesline to represent the crime they suffered. Carey-Harper said she felt the Clothesline Project had visual impact comparable to the AIDS Quilt or the Vietnam Wall.

Carey-Harper described violence as a spiritual disease, and she stressed the importance of a violence-free society. She asked the audience to consider the impact of violence on their lives.

The second speaker, Thomas "Sparky" Reardon, associate dean of students at the University of Mississippi, spoke on rape prevention. Reardon said he became involved in rape prevention in 1987 after he was called to a hospital to help a freshman



Rachel Carey-Harper

rape victim. He had to call the student's parents and tell them what had happened to their daughter. He said at that point, he decided he

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Find Help and a Cure for Depression Today

BY TIERRA GRIFFITHS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Deanna DiMergio is a 20-year-old junior at UNLV. Like many young Americans, Deanna left her hometown at the age of 18 to go away to school.

Like many entering freshman, faced the pressures of college life, Deanna felt her class load and work schedule was overwhelming. She was under a lot of stress to get homework in on time, study for all her tests and juggle it all into her work schedule. And more than anything, she missed her family.

Feelings of discouragement are not unexpected from college stu-

dents who are under the pressures of deciding what they want to become for the rest of their lives.

But, for Deanna, these feelings didn't go away. She began to feel as though nothing in her life mattered. No amount of sleep could remedy her tiredness. And, food rarely sounded appetizing.

Although she didn't know it at the time, Deanna is one of more than 17 million Americans who suffer each year from depression, an illness that, according to the American Psychiatric Association, underlies the third leading cause of death among people

Please see Help—6

Graduate Student's Death Investigation Concluded

U.S. Attorney determines death was accidental

BY JEFF DUGAN
STAFF WRITER

United States Attorney Kathryn E. Landreth announced Tuesday that accidental causes resulted in last year's death of UNLV graduate student Srinivas Chirukuri.

Present at the announcement were UNLV Police Chief David Hollenbeck and representatives from the Clark County Fire Department, the Coroner's Office, the FBI, the Department of Justice Hate Crimes Unit, and Las Vegas' Indian community.

During the early hours of July

22, 1993, Chirukuri suffered third-degree burns over 60 percent of his body while conducting an experiment in the Engineering heat transfer lab.

Shortly after the incident, night custodians found Chirukuri in shock outside the lab, and moments after that he collapsed unconscious. He died four days later on July 26 at the University Medical Center.

Chirukuri said he was working alone in the lab when he answered a knock on the door. He said two men pushed him inside, telling him they didn't like foreign students. He alleged that they doused him with a flammable liquid and set him on fire with a lighter.

"It was because of Mr. Chirukuri's statement, that two men had thrown a liquid on him and then ignited him with a lighter, that the case was investigated as a

homicide," said Hollenbeck.

The case attracted considerable attention, and was considered sensitive enough to have United States Attorney General Janet Reno review the findings before their release.

The subsequent FBI investigation supported the conclusions of University Police and local agencies. Investigators identified several factors which they say point to an accidental cause of Chirukuri's death.

Open cans of denatured alcohol and acetone, belonging to a professor, were found in the lab. Apparently Chirukuri was not authorized to use the solvents. The alcohol was spilled on the floor, contributing to a buildup of a volatile vapor.

The precise ignition source has not been identified, but several possibilities include an active laser, an active computer, a

burned match and a book of matches.

"There is some speculation that the experiment Mr. Chirukuri was doing was using a laser, and he may have wanted it dark in the lab," Hollenbeck said.

"The fire scene was 55 feet inside the door and the light switch was at the door," Hollenbeck said. "One of the cans, for whatever reason, spilled, and that produced some vapors. In his attempt to get back to the door to turn the light on, he may have struck a match."

Hollenbeck added that the burn patterns on Chirukuri's clothing were not consistent with a theory of liquid being poured on him and ignited, but were consistent with a flash fire.

Chemical analysis of Chirukuri's clothing found concentrations 1,000 times less than would be

expected if one of the volatiles was poured on him.

"The fumes had infused into the polyester shirt that Mr. Chirukuri was wearing, causing the shirt to catch fire and doing the main damage," Hollenbeck said.

The damage to the lab itself was around \$100, less than would be expected from a sustained fire, but also consistent with a flash fire.

Hollenbeck said that although individuals in the Indian community may not be completely happy with the results of the investigation, their representative was satisfied. "They got what they wanted: an investigation that was done thoroughly and completely," Hollenbeck said.

The U.S. Attorney's Office is expected to issue a press release within the next few days.