

# Student Senate Lacks Accountability, Direction

Elvis is in the building. "The King" made a rare appearance at a Student Senate meeting last week.

Actually, homecoming king wanna-be, Student Senator Rehan Anwar is in the building, calling himself Elvis on his homecoming posters.

Elvis would have been more prepared for the October 3rd senate meeting than Anwar. After explaining his multiple absences to his fellow senators, Anwar didn't even have a meeting agenda to follow along. He shared one with Senator Mike Volkert. Together, they were more interested in the chips served at the meeting and too engrossed in their own conversation to pay attention to the meeting going on around them.

At one point, Senate President William Romero had to interrupt their conversation to recount a vote.

The majority of Anwar's senate colleagues were equally ill-prepared for the meeting. You would think that since the senate is dishing out huge amounts of money, they would know what they were voting on.



On Target  
CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL

The senate approved the homecoming budget at a whopping \$27,500. CSUN Business Manager Lori Callison estimated that the actual price tag for homecoming would be around \$20,000.

The \$7,500 budget for the homecoming bands had already been approved when CSUN Entertainment and Programming Director Laura Reeves presented an additional \$20,000 homecoming budget to the senate. Reeves didn't know how many buses she was getting for \$400. She didn't know how many T-shirts she was getting for \$2,800. She had an extra \$5,000 built into the budget for miscellaneous expenses.

For what? "Just in case we run out of money," Reeves said.

Believe it or not, and I don't, the senate approved it. Senator Helene Pobst was the only senator to even question the budget. She asked questions about the bus, the T-shirts and the extra \$5,000. Reeves couldn't answer most of her questions.

Luckily for Reeves, Callison had the answers to some of the

questions, or there might not have been a homecoming. Nonetheless, without knowing what they were paying for, the Student Senate unanimously passed the homecoming budget, with a \$5,000 cushion—just in case.

"Homecoming is a traditional event and we owe it to the students to spend this kind of money," Anwar said. "She is just asking for padding. We all know emergency funding is a real pain."

Anwar didn't want to be bothered with additional requests for money so let's just throw in an extra five-grand in case she needs it. If she spends it, oh well, at least the senate didn't have to meet again to approve any additional funds.

"There is a lot of apathy in the senate," said Pobst, who has been a senator for two years but did not seek re-election this year. "The senators aren't really held accountable for their actions."

The senators are in office to serve student interests, not their own. You might want to remind your senator of that.

Senator Jodi McMillin forgot that. The Engineering College is losing a senate seat to reapportionment. Guess who? McMillin. She began her argument to keep her seat by saying that the Engineering College should have more than one representative in the senate. Pobst pointed out that the College of Health Sciences has more students than the Engineering College but will also have only one representative. Then McMillin turned to the real

reason she was upset. She started whining about how much she had wanted to serve on the senate until she graduated and how unfair it was. It wasn't about what was best for the Engineering College. It wasn't about what was best for the university. McMillin, on the verge of tears, thought it was about her.

When they aren't whining, some of the senators talk just to hear themselves talk. How else can you explain the vote to decrease Student Body President Stephanie Boixo's salary?

At the senate meeting on Sept. 19 the senate voted to reduce

Boixo's pay. After Boixo vetoed the action, the senate could not override her veto because half of the senators that voted for it changed their minds and voted against it the second time.

It's nice to see the senators standing firm by their beliefs. If they didn't feel strongly about it, they shouldn't have voted for it in the first place.

Maybe the senators should do their homework before they vote.

Pobst appeared to be the only senator that came prepared to do her job. She had a binder full of documents that every senator received, but seemingly no other senator had read. She fired away questions while the others sat dumbfounded.

Pobst was the only senator actively participating. The others just continued to vote yes. And just about every time they vote yes, they are spending more money.

With Pobst leaving the senate, there might not be another question asked at a senate meeting this year.

If I were you, I would question my senator.

—Christopher Mitchell  
is an opinion columnist  
at The Rebel Yell.

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## Statistics May not Provide Clear Picture of Campus Crime

To Connie and Howard Clery, campus safety is more than a topic of the moment, it's the focus of their lives.

In 1986, Jeanne Clery, their daughter, was murdered in her dorm room at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania.

Ironically, "Jeanne would never have gone to Lehigh," explains Connie. "She had already been accepted to Tulane, where her two brothers had graduated. But we were on the board (of trustees) at Tulane, and we heard of the terrible, terrible murder of one of the students there."

The Clery's story, along with several others, led to the passing of the 1990 Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act, which forces schools to disclose the number and type of crimes that occur on campus.

The key point here is that schools count the crimes that occur on campus, not as crimes against students, and there is no provision concerning information about the neighborhoods surrounding the schools.

For example, if a UNLV student was murdered across the street, the murder would be investigated by and included in the annual statistics of Metropolitan Police.

The reason is, on-campus crimes are in the jurisdiction of campus police, while off-campus crimes are not.

UNLV Public Safety Director Dave Hollenbeck explains, "It doesn't matter if they're a student. What matters is where the crime occurs. There are times when we might refer (a crime against a student) to Metro, if the crime didn't occur in our jurisdiction."

Campus police don't really know how many crimes are committed against students each year, and consequently neither do we. "I can't report the number of students being arrested each year," Hollenbeck said. "I don't think the police would even bother to ask (about student status)."

Jurisdiction is the first of several concepts that bears consideration when discussing campus safety. Reporting of crimes is another.

For example, a student is raped in the dorms. The student might tell a Residential Assistant (RA), but the student doesn't want to file a report with the police. What would happen next?

Residential Life, "may report it to cam-



Voices  
NICHOLE DAVIS

pus police, but we wouldn't disclose the name," clarifies Student Services Assistant Vice-President Terry Piper. "Almost any agency on campus would help the student without the crime being reported."

While maintaining the privacy of the victim is a laudable effort, for other students these policies could mean danger. Victim privacy can also be a convenient cover for not reporting crimes to students.

UNLV administrators understand what campus safety issues mean to students. Administrators also understand that students are easier targets than other groups in general.

Says Piper, "Students congregate in areas and are less vigilant against attack, (making them) easier targets."

Administrators also know what information students need to have to make them more safety conscious. Campus safety information should tell "what the campus is like, what the neighborhood around the campus is like and (to provide) education to make students more difficult victims," says Piper.

Since administrators understand the problems, the gathering of campus safety information should be the priority of some administrative agency, right?

Wrong. At UNLV, for example, we have no one agency that gathers information from all areas of campus and gives it to students. Different agencies have different functions and different methods and uses for information.

Statistics that reflect the actual number of crimes that involve students should be the starting point for any serious discussion of campus safety, not an afterthought. Administrators are quick to point out that there are several impediments to gathering more reflective data.

These types of problems result in what Piper calls "snapshots or mixed reporting." Without a reorganization of the statistics gathering processes used around campus, information gathered is incompatible.

Using adorm student as an example, Residential Life may report the incident to campus police without a name. Campus police will make an official report if the victim comes in. The police would then send the student to the SHC (Student Health Center), who would make a

Please see Crime—6

## It's Still a Man's World—Unfortunately

We live in a man's world. I hate to admit it, but it's true. Women are gradually coming into focus, but they are still oppressed to a certain extent.

In a marriage, I feel that women actually have at least two jobs: their profession and their house. Who usually has to clean house? Who has to keep the household in control? And when the subject of having a family comes up, who must consider carrying the child, giving birth to the child, helping to raise the child, clean house, and go to work? The man simply goes to work and helps to raise the child.

My feelings on this issue can also be applied to dating. If I am assertive and ask a guy I just met for his phone number, he'll probably think less of me. But you see, my friend, guys can do this. I've tried being a little aggressive, but it has not worked for me. It may work for other girls, but not for me. And so I simply must wait for that wonderful someone to come along, instead of approaching him.

In addressing the dating issue, I feel I should include an opposing opinion on this matter. Ryan Braner, a freshman at Stanford University, once told me, "I think it's easier to be a girl," he said. "Guys constantly have to worry that the girl's going to accuse him of rape or sexual harassment or something."

Another concern that many guys have can be directly linked to their wallets. They are usually expected to pay for themselves, as well as their dates. So guess whose wallets tend to dry out faster?

On a lighter note, I would also like to mention the dating preparation issue. Under normal circumstances, who puts more effort into appearance? Who must often hear, "Why don't you wear tight clothes or skirts?" "Why don't you act more feminine?" "Why don't you grow your hair out?"

Let me do what I want. I want to grow my hair out, but forget the tight clothes. Hey men, wear a Speedo for a day, and then we'll talk tight clothes. The battle isn't confined to relation-



Life Speak  
KUWANNA DYER

ships. Women in athletics also face a good amount of adversity. They face greater challenges in athletics. I could write a book about what I put up with when I decided to pole vault last spring.

When I first told my high school coach that I wanted to vault, he didn't refuse, yet it was evident he wasn't too thrilled. Chris, a male pole vaulter, laughed, "Women can't pole vault!" Even a co-

worker of my dad's said, "Isn't that too dangerous for women?" When the 1994 track season started, the male and female vaulters were separated and trained differently. One of the male athletes was already competing, and the women were still learning to lift and lower the pole. How impressive! We could actually hold a pole!

Eventually our coach sent all of the females to compete in other events. Reading between the lines, I knew that the coach was telling us that the season was over for us. We were welcomed to train, but we could forget competition.

I still hurt over this ordeal. The women involved were never encouraged to participate. In addition, there was so much pressure to be the best, that the competition between us began to grow. We gradually grew apart. We began to bicker with the male vaulters. Even our coach become too much to handle sometimes.

I am trying to come to terms with the fact that my gender prevented me from succeeding. I was completely helpless, and that hurt.

I can also forget competing at UNLV. The track coach, Karen Dennis, did not want to give me a chance, either.

I chose not to mention women's rights in history, since that is usually the point of discussion. But think about what I did say. And to all female athletes: never let anyone tell you that you can't. You Can. You simply must want to. Just believe.

—Kuwanna Dyer is  
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