

Merits of Washington trip debated by CSUN

BY ERIN NIEMEYER
STAFF WRITER

An upcoming CSUN-sponsored trip to Washington, D.C. to oppose proposed cutbacks in federal student funding has stirred debate in the student government.

Sens. Jason Williams, liberal arts, and Scott Schwartz, hotel administration, think the trip, which will be led by Nevada Student Affairs Director David Turner, is a waste of the student government's money.

"Why should CSUN spend \$4,500 to send students, one of whom is not even a member of student government, to Washington on a trip that fails to represent both sides of the story?" Schwartz asked.

"Turner is using scare tactics to gain support of his position, such as, 'Sign this petition because the cutbacks will affect all of you!'" he said.

"He's even using CSUN's money to finance the duplication of his petitions.

"If he's going to use the student government's funds, he should fairly and accurately represent both views because there are plenty of students at this University who realize the need for these minor cutbacks."

Turner will lead a UNLV delegation fight against the proposal by Congressional Republicans to cut \$36 billion from the federal budget in an effort to reduce the national deficit at the expense of higher education. The delegation also includes CSUN President John Pida and student Todd Story.

According to Turner, funding for the trip was approved by the Student Senate this summer and "has the blessing of the Regents."

Williams contends, however, that Turner is "using the Board of Regents as a tool to promote his position because the board is against cutbacks,

also." Both Williams and Schwartz said that the Regents don't represent the opinions of the Senate.

"As an American citizen and a student who will be affected by the deficit in the future, I think the cuts are the best thing for the country."

"The deficit is everybody's problem. It won't just go away," Williams said.

When asked if he thought the trip to Washington D.C. would make a difference, Turner responded,

"We're interrupting meetings to be heard. UNLV is a strong institution. We will be heard."

Regardless of the opposition he has faced, Turner has an agenda and is determined to be heard in Washington when he meets with Congressional officials.

Petitions against the proposed cutbacks have been generated by Turner and have included signatures of support by students from UNLV, UNR and Nevada's community colleges.

The petitions state that 300,000 students would be cut off from Pell Grants, loan fees would increase for undergraduates and undergraduates and

Work Study would decline by 39 percent in constant dollars..

"Cuts such as these will negatively affect the approximate five million students receiving some form of federal assistance," the petition states.

Turner has sent out copies of the petition to higher education institutions throughout Nevada and has solicited participation from California State and University schools, as well.

"The more petitions we get back, the better off we'll be," said Turner.

Meetings with the United States Student Association have been arranged and are scheduled to take place prior to the time the UNLV delegation will present its argument against cutbacks to Nevada Congressional Representatives.

Turner plans to meet with the USSA to better prepare himself for the challenges he'll face when confronting the legislators with UNLV's concerns

regarding the proposed educational cuts.

Among those whom the UNLV delegation will address

is Nevada Congressman John Ensign, R-Las Vegas.

Ensign's office denies harming students

with the cutbacks and instead contends that Pell Grants are at an all-time high, \$2,440 being the maximum amount awarded.

"It irks me. All they've done is increase the amount of Pell Grants in terms of individual dollars being awarded and have cut 275,000 people from receiving them," Turner responded. Turner will meet with the rest of the Nevada congressional delegation to discuss Nevada's concerns for higher education.

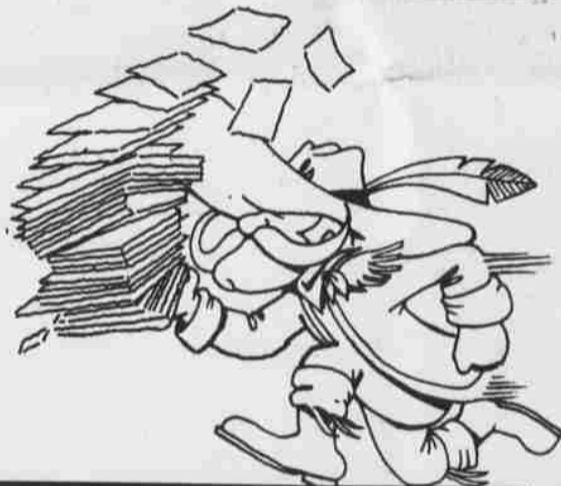
"What happens to a less educated America?" Turner asked. "Quality decreases when there's less people with college degrees."

"What happens in a less educated America? Quality decreases when there's a less when there's less people with college degrees."
—NSA Director David Turner

"Why should CSUN spend \$4,500 to send students...to Washington on a trip that fails to represent both sides of the story."

—Sen. Scott Schwartz

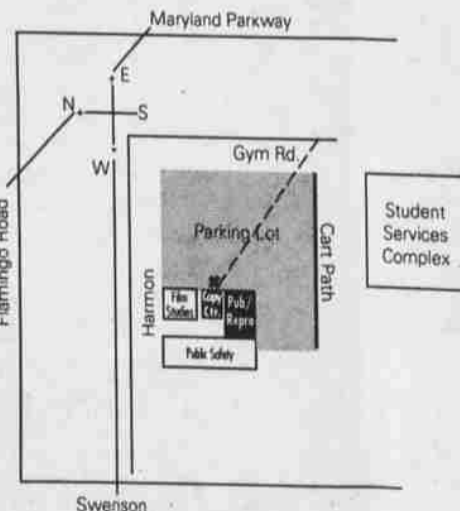
Serving the university community with all of its copying needs.



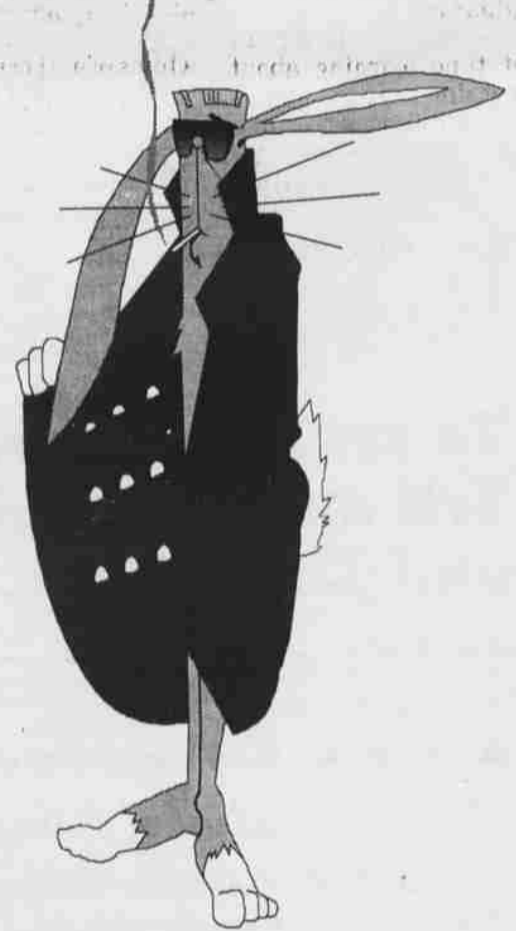
UNLV COPY CENTER

HOURS: Monday-Thursday 7:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. (Hours are subject to change.)

- ✓ Black & White Copies
- ✓ Color Copies
- ✓ Resume Packages
- ✓ Lamination
- ✓ Thesis Program
- ✓ FAX Services
- ✓ Self-Serve Copy Machines
- ✓ Poster/Banner Maker
- ✓ Binding Services
- ✓ Notary Service
- ✓ Check Us Out!



Psssst...
Wanna buy an ad?



Place an ad
in the
Rebel Yell.