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THE REBEL YELL

The Student Newspaper of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas

SPORTS

UNLV softball will see their first action of the season this weekend

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A & E

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UNLV football player plea bargains

Turner pleads guilty to false imprisonment

BY ERIN NIEMEYER
NEWS EDITOR

A UNLV football player accused of the Dec. 3 sexual assault of a UNLV dorm resident pled guilty Tuesday to a reduced charge.

Arthur Turner Jr., 20, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and agreed to a plea bargain. Appearing before Justice of the Peace Nancy Oesterle, Turner plead

guilty to false imprisonment, a gross misdemeanor that carries a maximum penalty of a one-year jail sentence and a \$2,000 fine.

Turner was originally charged with sexual assault, which carries a maximum penalty of life in prison.

According to authorities, the victim said she attended a party in a Tonopah Hall dorm room the night of the assault. Alcohol consumption was involved.

The victim said she had consensual sex with one man prior to Turner's entrance into the room, at which time Turner forced her to have sex with him.

According to John Lukens,

chief deputy district attorney, the victim and Turner did not know each other before the Dec. 3 incident.

Turner was arrested Jan. 15 following an extensive police investigation. He was released from the Clark County Detention Center four days later after posting \$3,000 bail.

Lukens believes he could prove the case at trial but said neither he, nor the victim, think the situation warranted a life imprisonment for Turner.

According to Lukens, the 18-year-old victim stands by her story and was satisfied with the resolution. He indicated the victim may have agreed to support the plea bargain out

of fear because Turner "seemed a little remorseful."

Turner will enter his plea Feb. 14.

Turner, a wide receiver from Vivian, La., was not eligible to play last season because he did not meet NCAA scholastic requirements. The athletic department will decide on his eligibility to play next season.

UNLV head football coach, Jeff Horton was not available for comment.

Although Turner's criminal case is being resolved, he faces university disciplinary action which could result in suspension or expulsion from UNLV.

A panel comprised of faculty and students will determine

if Turner violated the student conduct code. The hearing is scheduled to occur February 6.

"Our main goal is to make sure everyone's rights are protected," said Robert Ackerman, vice president of student services. "We're trying to follow all of the procedures."

"He (Turner) will be given the opportunity to go through the judicial process at the university," Ackerman said Wednesday. "The range of action available to the hearing panel is to find him innocent or to expell him from school."

"The findings here may be different (than what he pled guilty to in the criminal case)," Ackerman added.

UNLV dorm students angered by inspections

BY ERIN NIEMEYER
NEWS EDITOR
AND
TREVOR HAYES
STAFF NEWS WRITER

Students were evacuated from their dorm rooms following a false fire alarm Sunday evening, resulting in a two-hour room-by-room inspection.

The alarm sounded at 7:15 p.m. on the third floor of Claudine Williams Residence Hall. Students were not allowed to return to their rooms until after 9 p.m.

According to Kelly Stuehling, university student security advisor, the Clark County Fire Department searched rooms located on the first three floors of Williams Hall to locate "a smoldering fire" while identifying potential fire hazards. They were unable to locate a fire and only one fire code violation was reported.

While firefighters did not cite students for fire code violations, numerous violations of dorm rules, including narcotic paraphernalia, minors in possession of alcohol and dogs residing unlawfully in a dorm room, were discovered during the search.

According to Stuehling, the search was not initiated by campus police. "We (university police) were notified when the alarm sounded," Stuehling said. "We notified the fire department and then arrived at the scene to keep things calm and orderly."

Karen Strong, associate director of residential life, said the decision to evacuate students from their rooms and to search rooms in Williams Hall was that of a CCFD official.

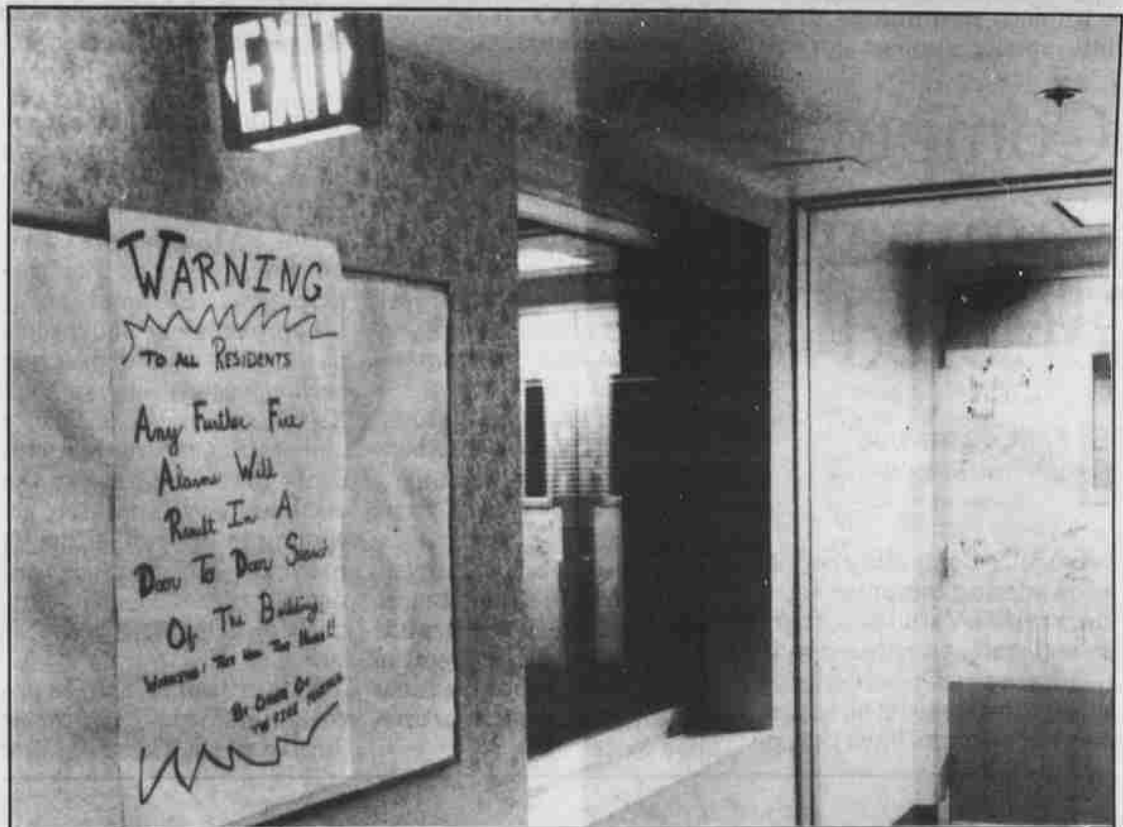


PHOTO BY VASNA WILLSON

Dorm rooms were searched Sunday after a false fire alarm went off in Williams Hall.

According to one angry dorm resident, a sign was recently posted between Rodman and Boyd Halls warning students of consequences if fire alarms continue to sound. The sign reads, "Warning: To all residents, any further fire alarms will result in a door to door search of the building. Warning: this will take hours!! by order of the Fire Marshall."

Both Stuehling and Strong said the posting of the sign may have been a scare tactic to avert further false fire alarms. Neither knew who was directly responsible for making or placing the sign.

"We (Residential Life employees) let them (firefighters) in the rooms because that's

their domain," Strong said Wednesday.

Strong explained that members of the CCFD have the right to conduct fire inspections at any time. Strong maintains that firefighters responding to the incident Sunday were looking for violations of the fire code.

Clark County Fire Inspector Donna Spark was unavailable for comment at press time.

Many students fearing reprisals by the university refused to comment on the situation. Others were angered by the search and were eager to speak their minds.

"I didn't have anything to hide but those are my things,"

said freshman Terri Grinner, elementary education. "I would have never agreed to letting them search my room, but there was nothing I could do about it."

Other students questioned the reasoning behind the decision to only search the first three of the five floors of Williams Hall. "It doesn't make any sense," said David Hilditch, freshman, music performance. "Something's not being told to us."

Two residents who had two dogs living in their dorm room were cited for cruelty to animals. The dogs were removed from the dorm and were taken

See "Dorm", pg. 2



Brian Saliba

Senate approves Saliba raise

BY ERIN NIEMEYER
NEWS EDITOR

The student Senate voted unanimously Monday to increase Entertainment and Programming Director Brian Saliba's monthly stipend from \$400 per month to \$500 per month, while increasing his yearly credit waiver from 24 credits per semester to 27.

"I wasn't sure if it (the stipend increase) was going to pass but I wasn't losing any sleep over it," Saliba said Tuesday.

"It's justifiable," said Business and Economics Senator Joe Laxague. "Brian has worked very, very hard and has done more than other directors."

See "Raise", pg. 2