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THE REBEL YELL

The Student Newspaper of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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CSUN president withdraws from election

John Pida says he never planned to run for re-election

BY APRIL PARTRIDGE
STAFF NEWS WRITER

John Pida, student government president, is not seeking re-election in the CSUN Executive Board Election today. "I've been there, done that," Pida said. "I need to graduate and get on with new things." Pida said Wednesday he

never planned to campaign for re-election because "it (holding office) consumes so much time."



According to Pida, he "never printed a single flier" for the election. He said he must instead focus on meeting the requisite grade point average

for the master's program in physics and that it would be much too time-consuming to hold office while doing so.

Pida denies his decision to withdraw from the election was related to recent publicity in *The Rebel Yell* concerning the use of student funds for student government meals.

An article in Tuesday's *Rebel Yell* explained that six student government officials, including Pida, and two of Senate President Pat Smith's fraternity brothers dined at Cafe Michele, an upscale local restaurant. The \$227.72 check

was paid with student funds, \$24.50 of which was for Pida's rack of lamb.

Although he filed Feb. 14 to run for re-election, Pida said he decided at the start of the Spring semester not to accept the office if elected. Pida attributed this reasoning to what he calls "the X factor."

According to Pida, the "X factor" is a physics term describing the factor which could upset a balance. He said he was trying to avoid influencing the other candidates who might or might not run in the elections based on his deci-

sion to seek re-election.

Pida said he submitted his withdrawal in writing Feb. 24 to Stephanie Araiza, CSUN election board director. Araiza confirmed, saying Pida withdrew from the race shortly after filing.

Allen Chastain, representative of Collegiate Elections Services, the service conducting the election, confirmed Pida submitted an unofficial withdrawal to him "a couple of weeks ago." A paperwork difficulty was responsible for the

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PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN

Sociology major, senior Bradd Mellion, votes for student government president and vice president in Wednesday's election.

Modern-day missionaries

Peace Corps looks to come to UNLV once a semester

BY CHRISTOPHER F. REITMAIER
STAFF NEWS WRITER

The Peace Corps will double their recruiting efforts at UNLV due to a strong student interest in the organization, Heidi Thoren, Peace Corp recruiting coordinator, said Monday.

The Peace Corps will now come to UNLV once a semester as opposed to once a year, Thoren said.

"I was very pleased that we received such positive support

from the students and faculty," Thoren said. "We would definitely like to come to UNLV every semester."

Thoren said a steady stream of students stopped by the booth in the Moyer Student Union to inquire about the Peace Corps during the two-day recruiting visit to UNLV Feb. 28-29. According to Thoren, she interviewed "a hand-full of applicants" in that time.

Those students she interviewed had already decided to volunteer and were prepared to commit to the Peace Corps, Thoren said.

"A Peace Corps interview is unlike any other interview you will ever have," said Thoren,

who volunteered in Kenya from 1991-93.

Thoren said the most important question applicants are asked is how they handle stress and loneliness. "I want to make sure their expectations are realistic," Thoren said.

Doug Harper, a UNLV junior majoring in English, said he would consider becoming a Peace Corp volunteer after graduation. "I think it would be an outstanding opportunity," Harper said.

Steve Snell, a senior at UNLV majoring in economics, said he was glad the Peace Corps' recruiting efforts in-

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Student government implements non-discrimination policy

Policy's author disapproves

BY ERIN NIEMEYER
NEWS EDITOR

The student senate approved Monday a non-discrimination policy for student government, the first of its kind. According to the original author, however, the document's intent was changed during the senate's revision process.

The senate voted unanimously to implement the non-discrimination policy. "It puts on paper what we try to do anyway," Pat Smith, senate president, said Wednesday.

According to Smith, the policy is now in effect and will likely appear in the Senate Handbook. Smith said the policy is a senate resolution and not a CSUN constitutional amendment. Smith speculated the policy will not likely appear in the CSUN Constitution.

"I think it's (the senate's implementation of the policy) great," Smith said.

"My feeling toward that (the policy) is, the more people we hire with diverse backgrounds, the chance of alienating specific groups is lessened," Smith said.

Leia Fleischman, senator for the College of Fine and Performing Arts, said of the policy, "It's about time."

"We require all student government organizations to have a non-discrimination policy, yet we didn't even have one until now," Fleischman said

Tuesday.

Discrepancies concerning the policy's wording have upset the author of the original policy.

David Turner, former CSUN Nevada Student Affairs director, who authored the original document at the beginning of the Fall semester, claims the meaning of his submission was changed during the revision.

According to Turner, the revised version of the policy is ambiguous and leaves too much room for interpretation.

The revised non-discrimination policy states: "CSUN is committed to continuing equality in employment practices and in the offering of student services to its members. CSUN services encompass both educational and entertainment events."

Turner said Wednesday his policy included the phrase "equality in employment, services and programming." The word "programming" was omitted in the revised copy, Turner said.

"There's a big difference between the words 'service' and 'programming,'" Turner said. "Combining the two leaves ambiguity."

"I spelled it out separately for a reason, to avoid ambiguity," Turner said.

According to Turner, the revised policy contains nothing more than what CSUN is required by law to include. "My version of the policy included every possible thing people could be discriminated

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