

The Yellin' Rebel

● Little good is accomplished without controversy, and no civil evil is ever defeated without publicity ●

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Mission closes Homeless evicted

by mary whalen

staff writer

Children wander about the place with wide staring eyes and smudged faces. Some are playing in the alley behind the building; others have noticed our photographer's camera and curiously follow us about.

The adults are less inquisitive. In the large day room, they are sleeping huddled on the floor, on their luggage, or on each other. Some sit and nod, or mumble. Others get up and come over to shake hands offering their name and a smile. Even in their misery they have a sense of humanity and pride.

Such is a day at the Christian Learning and Family Crisis Center, the ministry of Rev. Charles Gordon, a quiet, unassuming man who seems to have a wrinkle in his face for every lost soul to whom he has offered counseling and shelter over the years.

But his eyes are kind and his grip is firm as he welcomes us with a hearty "God loves you" into a tiny, dusty office cluttered with Biblical momentos

and memorabilia.

Books, statues, posters, signs and even bumper stickers all bearing some Biblical passage, fill the walls and overflow onto the furniture. There's an open Bible on the desk, thick with numerous place-markers, and pages yellow with age.

"Charlie," as he prefers to be called, is an almost jovial character in his cowboy boots and Texas accent, until his tone becomes solemn and he speaks with great conviction, emotion and intensity about his work — "God's work" — which will be disrupted.

Gordon is being evicted and plans have been announced to raze the building.

The 1,700 square foot building (the first two-story building on Las Vegas Blvd.) and Strip property which house the ministry were donated to UNLV upon the death of the property's owner, as specified in the owner's will. The building itself will be demolished and the property sold in order to provide funds for university library books.

"I understand; I'm a



LENDIN' A HELPIN' HAND — This tyke figured he'd give UNLV a hand by planting a little sod. The sod party occurred Saturday, Oct. 17.
photo by bruce claver/Rebel photographer

businessman, too," said Gordon who has operated the mission for four years.

"And it must be God's will, but I can't believe that God would want all these people to go hungry and homeless. What will they do? Where will they go? Right now, the county is sending me the ones they don't have room for. If I can't take them, who will?"

Gordon claims that

many of the people he shelters are victims of an "overflow" problem from University Medical Center, County Mental Services, County Rape Crisis Centers and other family crisis centers.

Many of the young children wandering about the facility have been born there and know no other home.

"I have reformed drunks, gamblers,

alcoholics and drug addicts," Charlie said.

"I have one young girl with me now, 25 years old, with the mind of a 6-year-old child. She was kept in a closet in her home for five years until she finally was brought to me.

"I have one man who was brought to me in a wheelchair. He had no limbs—no arms and no legs—and he'd lost all his money gambling. He'd

been denied a hotel room for several days and had defecated all over himself before he was finally brought to me in nothing more than a blanket.

"I have a saying for the gamblers," Gordon said. "When you're done gamblin' and the devil has cleaned you out, come see me."

Gordon offers his "flock" much more than
See Gordon, pg. 7

Regents meet at UNLV, discuss affirmative action

by steven kapellas

news editor

A new degree program for the College of Health Sciences and a discussion of affirmative action at UNLV were among the items the University of Nevada Board of Regents discussed at its meeting here on campus last week.

The regents approved a B.S. degree in Health Care Administration, citing the

need for such a program at UNLV.

Mary Ann Michel, Dean of the College of Health Sciences, said the new degree program will "prepare students in middle management positions in hospitals, nursing homes and any type of health agency."

Michel said, "I am very pleased to respond to the educational needs of Southern Nevada." The

new degree program will begin in Fall 1988 and is the second new degree program for Health Sciences. The regents recently approved a B.S. in Clinical Laboratory Sciences, according to Michel.

UNLV President Robert Maxson called the Health Science program a great achievement for UNLV.

"I think it's a great program," said Maxson, adding, "we have a blue-

ribbon faculty" that will be teaching the new program.

The Regents also reviewed an affirmative action report issued by the Affirmative Action Office that stated UNLV blacks, hispanics and women are underrepresented in full-time professional staff positions.

Maxson said the university is working toward correcting these deficiencies.

"I am totally committed

to affirmative action," he said. "If the university doesn't take a leadership role in this, I don't know who will."

The regents also discussed the problem of overcrowding due to increased enrollment at UNLV.

"We're just growing so rapidly, we have almost a thousand students coming in each year," Maxson said.

Maxson said the univer-

sity will be getting up to 50 new faculty in the coming year and "we need offices to give them."

Maxson said what UNLV really needs is a "general classroom, office building with about a 100,000 square feet."

He added, "This is a wonderful problem to have (overcrowding). We are attracting a record number of students."