

# Half of students on financial aid

by david opan

staff writer

For many students, filling out a financial aid form can be an experience laden with confusion, anger and even a sense of dread. For some, though, it is their only means of obtaining a college education.

During the 1986/87 school year, financial aid programs enabled 5,412 students to attend UNLV, said Kathy Street, Director of Financial Services.

Students receiving financial aid totaled 55% of the university's enrollment, excluding students classified as Special Students, Street said.

The type of financial aid and the amount of the award differed significantly from student to student.

The average money per student was just below \$1,800 per year, but, Street said, awards ranged from a low of \$20 to a

\$6,000 scholarship.

Scholarships and grants were awarded to the largest number of students, 47%. Scholarships and grants are ideal because they do not require the student to repay the money, Street noted.

Loans were utilized by 33%. They offer the student lower interest rates and delayed or extended repayment plans.

The remaining 20% earned approximately \$1,225 a year by working in either the work-study or student employment programs.

All totaled, more than \$9 million was awarded to UNLV students through the various federal and non-federal financial aid programs.

This may appear to be a large amount of money, but, according to Street,

"there never seems to be enough."

She said many students who need financial aid cannot receive it, because money is not available to them.

Street cites several reasons for this problem. Requirements for federal programs frequently change. When this occurs, some students no longer meet the new requirements.

Also, some programs make their requirements so restrictive, they eliminate most of the students.

Street has held the position of Director of Student Financial Services for the past year and has worked with the department for 13 years.

She has seen the department improve from 10 years ago, when it "lagged behind" other schools in the total dollar

value awarded students.

Today, Street said, UNLV compares favorably to other universities of similar size.

Much of the credit, she said goes to President Robert Maxson. He has pushed to attract the top students to UNLV. Total dollar value for financial aid programs has increased 12% this school year and has doubled since 1981.

Along with the increased money, services for students have improved, Street said. Recently office hours have been increased to help students with questions or problems.

The new hours are 8am-5pm, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and 8am-7pm on Wednesdays. The Wednesday hours are the first time evening hours have been offered. Street said she hopes students will make use of them.

# Demos host Gore

The Young Democrats are sponsoring a reception for Senator Albert Gore Sr. The reception will be held in the Fireside Lounge, MSU second floor, Saturday, Oct. 24, at 5pm.

Gore is a Democratic Senator from Tennessee and has been involved in national politics since 1939.

His son, Albert Gore Jr., is a Democratic presidential hopeful. Many local officials will be in attendance. Everyone is welcome.

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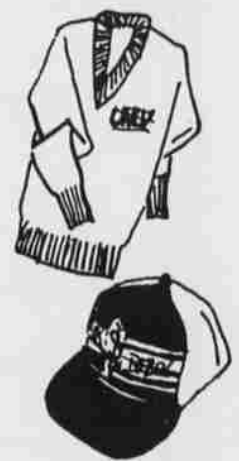
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