

# Funds for substance abuse program sought by center

by gary mantz

staff writer

The UNLV Counseling Center has submitted a grant proposal to the federal Department of Education seeking start-up funding for the university's first extensive alcohol and drug abuse prevention program, according to Center Director James Kitchen and staff psychologist Laura Hammond.

Under terms of the grant, sought from the government's Fund for Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE), the school would receive a two-year total of \$10,000 toward implementation of the project.

Currently, there are 97 such programs supported by FIPSE on campuses nationwide. But money is not easily obtained from

the agency, as a ceiling of 125 recipients is well below the number of applicants. Those now in operation were selected out of more than 500 seekers. Even whether the agency will fund a full 125 has not been determined. Drs. Kitchen and Hammond have proceeded with the knowledge that resources are available.

A key feature of their proposal is the creation of a task force to study the problem on campus and articulate a policy for dealing with the situation as defined. The group would oversee the prevention program itself, serving as, in Hammond's words, "a governing force," to which she as project supervisor would report. Among members would be an expert in the field of substance abuse.

Kitchen and Hammond acknowledge that the

Counseling Center is now operating at the "pamphlet" stage of programming, that is, on a superficial basis that leaves the staff unequipped to mount an effective preventive campaign or even to determine the scope of substance abuse at UNLV.

"No one knows that there is an alcohol and drug abuse problem, but we have to assume that there is," Hammond said, inferring from statistics showing Nevada to be the number one state for wine consumption and number two in per capita consumption of beer and distilled spirits. Tourism accounts for much of it, she said, but also creates an accepting climate for abuse among some.

Hammond noted particularly the number of incidents at Tonopah Hall, revealing what she heard

in conversation with Residence Hall Director William Pell.

"They get 10 to 15 incidents per month where someone has been abusing either drugs or alcohol," she said.

"There is probably double that amount which go unnoticed," Kitchen added. They agree the coming new dorms make the need for an expanded program even more urgent.

"We can't sit around and wait for another tragedy to happen," Kitchen said, referring to the well-publicized death of basketball star Len Bias from cocaine use at the University of Maryland.

The two emphasized that the program would not provide therapeutic help per se, as resources would not be nearly great enough for that. The intended purview is prevention and evaluation, plus

referral to appropriate outside agencies as needed. Nonetheless, they said, the Center does expect to counsel with students who have recently begun abusing alcohol and drugs. Receiving the grant would facilitate hiring a full-time counselor certified in the field.

If approved, the \$10,000 will, according to Hammond, be "start-up money," assisting with additional facets like the purchase of pamphlets and advertising while helping to fund surveys generating more accurate information about the abuse problem.

In its proposal, the Center was required to show FIPSE how the grant would be budgeted and how the university would, over the two-year term of the grant, assume the balance of the program's financial burden. At the end of two years, UNLV

would be expected to take over funding completely.

Should FIPSE turn down the Center's proposal, their aim of providing the university with leadership in substance abuse prevention will not be abandoned.

"We can still put together a task force," Hammond said. "We can still study the problem."

She and Kitchen agree that resources on campus and in the larger community could be fruitfully solicited for voluntary participation to help fill the void in preventive aspects as well.

"We're not a sit-still, do-nothing unit," Kitchen said. "We can't afford to be."

A response from Washington is expected sometime this summer.

## FLETCHER JONES TOYOTA CLASS OF '88

# GRADS & SENIORS, BUY OR LEASE A NEW TOYOTA, NO MONEY DOWN!

### COME IN NOW!

You may qualify to buy or lease a Toyota car or truck, with no down payment at all!\* Toyota's unique college financing program makes it easy. Beginning today, you can enjoy miles and miles of Toyota style, quality and performance.

If you're a senior in a 4-year college or graduate degree program, and will graduate within the next six months, you may qualify for the Toyota car or truck of your choice. And you have one year from receipt of your degree to take advantage of this program. Bring a current driver's license and proof of employment or job offer, and Toyota's special financing program for college grads and seniors could be the easiest course in advanced economics ever offered.

CONTACT:  
KIP HAVERMAN or BUDDY ROGERS

## FLETCHER JONES TOYOTA

3175 E. Sahara Ave  
Near Boulder Highway

457-2000

PRESENT THIS AD AT TIME OF PURCHASE AND RECEIVE A  
**FREE TANK OF GAS**

\*No down payment required, provided the amount financed is not more than the Toyota manufacturer's suggested retail price. Actual value of factory-installed optional equipment and required tax and license fees. Proof of insurability required, and no negative credit history. Employment to begin within 120 days of loan approval date.

## THE STAKE OUT

4800 S. MARYLAND PARKWAY  
LOUNGE OPEN 24 HOURS  
FULL MENU SERVED 11 AM - 5 AM  
798-8383



# iiLet's Party!!

End of the  
year  
celebration

May 20th  
8pm - ?

Drink Specials!!

Drop that load and join us for the  
party of the year.

