

# UNLV assistant crowned Ms Wheelchair America

by lisa harris

staff writer

Being disabled hasn't stopped Continuing Education assistant Joanna McGoldrick from living life.

In June, McGoldrick was crowned Ms. Wheelchair Nevada in the 14th annual state pageant. The pageant rates contestants on their professional accomplishments, poise, personality, and their ability to adjust to a handicapped environment.

"I've always wanted to be Ms. Somebody," McGoldrick said, "But mostly I wanted to inform the public about people with

disabilities." McGoldrick said she does not like the term disabled but prefers to consider herself "physically challenged."

Last week, McGoldrick returned from the national competition in Alabama as Ms. Wheelchair America.

"I was just proud to be there," she said.

McGoldrick was made an honorary citizen of the state and was given a key to the city.

McGoldrick was diagnosed in 1978 with the Multiple Sclerosis which has left her with a severe weakness of both her left arm and leg. "I went through all the

usual stages; denial, grief, and anger, and then finally acceptance," McGoldrick said. "I went to the library and read every book and article I could find on M.S."

"I also tried different cures, even going to Florida for hyperbaric oxygen," she continued. "After this, I decided to continue living a normal life."

McGoldrick is one of about 120 people who are on St. Rose de Lima Hospital's Life Line System.

"When I'm home, I wear a pendant that when pressed will alert the hospital that something is wrong," she explained. "The hospital will

then call me and if I don't answer they will then alert one of my neighbors."

"I feel confident with the pendant and I wouldn't live alone without it," she said.

Every day, McGoldrick drives to UNLV and works for 6 hours. She is an assistant in the credit and special interest programs unit of Continuing Education. She monitors registration procedures for both large conferences and small classes, and is in charge of on-site registration.

Though her time has been filled lately, McGoldrick usually takes classes after work.

"My ambition is to keep active and continue working at the university and also continue taking classes to complete a degree in history," McGoldrick said.

Along with her work and classes, McGoldrick is a board member for the Nevada Association for the Handicapped Individual Living Project and belongs to the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

McGoldrick has two grown children whom she has raised by herself since 1980.

"I keep in constant touch with them by telephone and

even though I miss them, I'm grateful that I can be independent so they can be free to lead their own lives," McGoldrick said.

Her daughter, 22, is now employed as an actuary in Southern California. Her son, 20, travels throughout the United States with the musical group Love All People.

"I believe that disabled people are capable of achieving whatever they desire," McGoldrick said. "They must accept their physical and mental challenges and go on with their lives."

## Student guide to budgeting

Before you bite into that steaming slice of pizza, make sure that you're not eating your way into a financial corner. Over the course of one year, those late-night pizza breaks can add up to several hundred dollars, an amount a college student's annual budget may not be able to cover.

As you will quickly discover, the costs of a college education go far beyond tuition, room, and board. The Nevada Society of CPAs advises you to develop a budget for those miscellaneous expenses that can rapidly empty your wallet.

The easy part is calculating the amount of money you have available to spend. Most students generally have four possible sources of funds: a part-time job, a savings account, a monthly allowance supplied by parents, and scholarship or loan funds (or what's left after paying for tuition, room, and board).

Now comes the hard part: planning for expenses. Some colleges will provide you with an estimate of how much you may need for personal expenses, but these figures can be way off the mark. After all, the college's calculations probably miss important personal expenses, such as those marathon phone calls to your best friend on the other side of the country.

To simplify the budgeting process, break down your expenses into categories such as books, supplies, and lab fees; meals; transportation; toiletries; utilities; and

entertainment.

Let's start with books and supplies. You may hate to spend \$45 on that computer textbook, but if your heart is set on a career as a systems analyst, you better be ready to foot the bill. Go into the local bookstore and scan the prices of books you may have to purchase over the next

year. Some courses will unfortunately land you in texts costing top dollar. Find out now, when you can anticipate the expenses, rather than next term, when you can anticipate the expenses, rather than next term, when you may have already exhausted your budget. Don't forget to include lab fees, and the cost of such supplies as notebooks, typewriter ribbons, or computer disks.

Even if you are on a meal plan, reserve some budget dollars for those midnight snacks. If you can't resist breezing through McDonald's golden arches for an Egg McMuffin each morning, make sure you include the cost in your budget.

Whether you are commuting or living in a dorm, you will have to contend with transportation expenses. Calculate how much a visit home costs, and how many visits you plan to make. Talk to your parents and find out if they are willing, or able, to pay for any trips home. If you own a car, estimate how much gas you may use each week. Is it likely the car will need repairs, or even a tune-up, sometime during the year?

If you are living away from home, remember that you will now have to pay for such

basic necessities as toothpaste, shampoo, and laundry. Although these items seem insignificant, they can add up to a sizeable sum by year's end.

Other expenses to consider are utility bills. If these are not included in your room and board fees, ask other students to give you a basic estimate of how much you can expect to spend. And, of course, no budget is complete until it includes entertainment expenses. If you are a movie buff, don't forget to reserve a few dollars for an occasional night out at the local cinema.

Try to estimate expenses realistically and, as a safeguard against unexpected costs, increase your total by 10 percent. In any case, you won't be sure that your estimate is on target until you've tested it a few months. So try your budget out and see how it fits. During the first month or two, jot down every dime you spend so you know where your money is going and whether your budget figures are accurate. If the same patterns continue the following month, adjust your budget accordingly.

Now for the big exam question. What if you find that you simply can't make ends meet? The answer is elementary--you have to increase your income or decrease your expenses.

Chances are, you've already exhausted all the normal options for producing income. If so, maybe it's time for you to try a more creative approach. Some schools offer venture-capital funds to see Money, page 5

## Space

teach the increasing number of lower division introductory courses which fulfill the general education requirement," Unrue said. "This will allow us to accommodate more students by offering more classes which, in turn, will increase the need for additional classroom space.

"At the same time, UNLV will be offering more afternoon and evening classes," Unrue continued. "We need to be sensitive to the needs of our student population."

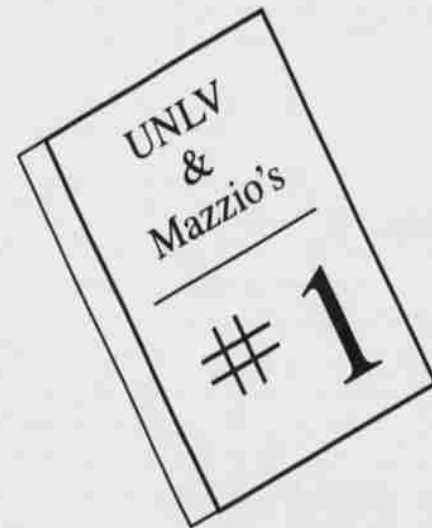
"I realize that many students work during the evenings. We need to offer more classes during the peak times when students can accommodate their own work schedules."

When asked to comment on Dr. Maxson's warning of limiting student enrollment, Unrue said, "Yes, if we do not get additional classroom space and we don't get a corresponding number of new faculty, we would have no choice."

Unrue also noted that both UNR and UNLV are discussing raising entrance requirements. However, he said that this idea would not permanently solve the problem.

cont'd from page 1

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