

Bike club drafts onto campus scene

By Naima Hana-Kunciw
and Lori Gallinger
YELLIN' REBEL

The newly formed Bike Club has been wheeling its way around campus and around City Hall. They currently hold weekly meetings and occasionally man a table outside the Student Union encouraging club membership and support for a petition seeking the development of bike routes throughout Las Vegas. The next scheduled date for this table is Tuesday, March 13.

But this group does more than just intra-city rides; in the works is a spring-break barbeque and trip through the scenic route at Red Rock Canyon, and an organized "distance ride" in California at the end of the semester. The Bike Club has also scheduled fund raisers including t-shirt sales and car washes.

David Carnivalli, founder of the Bike Club, commented that he first thought of the idea when he observed that many of the students owned the two-wheeled vehicles. After CSUN approval, the way was



clear to begin the long road to popularity. And that is just what Carnivalli and the supporting members of the Bike Club are doing.

Advertising flyers and informa-

tional tables are but part of this effort; the Bike Club also seeks to improve conditions for UNLV cyclists including additional bike racks and improved lighting.

But the scene is far more reaching, the UNLV Bike Club, in conjunction with the Spring Valley Bike Club is also petitioning the city legislature for increased safety meas-

ures benefitting cyclists. According to Carnivalli, this petition is to be presented to the Las Vegas subcommittee on March 28 with the objective of bringing the city cyclists' needs to the awareness of the local community. One of the measures sought is the creation of bike lanes which could possibly be funded by a gas sales tax of approximately 1/2 percent. An increase in the sales tax incorporated into the price of new bicycles is also being explored. "My philosophy is that if you get taxed on automobiles, registration fees and everything else, the bicyclist is doing the community a favor by bringing down the pollution level." and, continued Carnivalli, "not contributing to the traffic congestion."

He went on to say that several years ago only one voice was heard in favor of this issue. With the increased popularity of bicycles for transportation and recreation however, this measure may see more support.

For information on UNLV Bike Club, contact Dave Carnivalli at

UNLVision a reality

By Stephanie Vieth
YELLIN' REBEL

UNLV, in conjunction with Prime Cable, has formed a new cable channel due to begin airing on April 15. The station, which will consist of local government coverage, is presently funded solely by Prime Cable and will be operated by UNLV students.

Prime Cable had been interested in forming some sort of government access channel and upon negotiations with the cities of Las Vegas, Henderson and North Las Vegas, it was decided that UNLV could best fit the needs of the new station.

UNLV was then contacted and after further negotiations with the Communication Studies department, the final decision was that UNLV should operate a Governmental/Educational channel in cooperation with the existing network C-Span II. The UNLV station would cut into the programming of the existing station throughout the 24 hour period that the station airs. Local programming will consist of gavel to gavel coverage of both City Council and

County Commission meetings with no interruptions and little or no editing. Many details are still pending as to where the station will be run, future programming opportunities, and the arrival date of the production equipment, but the station for the most part is ready to operate and begin airing on April 15.

The station will be staffed almost entirely of UNLV students, rather than bringing in many outside sources. "We see this as a learning opportunity for our students to get involved with actual production so all of our production crew, with the exception of the Production Manager, will consist of students," says Laurie Fruth, a Communication Studies instructor and General Manager of the newly established cable channel.

Fruth also states that the audience drawn in will initially consist of people already viewing C-Span II but hopes to quickly build the audience base once the new station gains more publicity and public support. She also added that with their prime focus on local government, the new channel will be providing a service that no one else is

currently providing. "We hope that we can begin to expand our programming base over the summer, but (that will be) contingent on our funding. We only have enough money to do City Council and County Commission, so as soon as we have additional funds, we can develop additional programming."

Fruth said that the station will probably stay with public affairs and build on that base before getting too diverse in terms of programming. She says the station is asking for local support, since no other channel in town will be covering the council and commission meetings in the same depth as the UNLV station and that greater support and funding will increase the programming base so that the station will be better suited to meet the needs of a broader range of people.

There are still opportunities available to students who wish to become involved with the program and those interested should contact Laurie Fruth in the Communication Studies office at 739-3876.

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