

NOW leader calls for freedom of choice

By Richard Gibson
YELLIN' REBEL

National Organization for Women President Molly Yard called on pro-choice supporters to work "to keep the right of every woman to choose when to have children."

She spoke to a standing room only crowd in the Oasis Ballroom of the Donald C. Moyer Student Union on April 14.

Yard came to UNLV as part of the NOW "Freedom Caravan for women's lives." The event was sponsored by Students for Choice and Pro-Choice Advocacy.

The event launched the campaign to ratify the law that would retain Nevada's current abortion

laws. The referendum for the law will be on the November ballot.

A banner hanging at the front of the room proclaimed, "Keep abortion and birth control legal."

"I would say to those who do not understand our position that to stop the right to abortion will never stop abortion...If we overturn Roe vs Wade and lose the right to abortion women will die," Yard said.

Yard's speech worked to inspire and enlighten the campaigners to be more convincing when approaching voters.

The film "Abortion for Survival" shown before Yard's speech provided similar information designed to dispel what they believe are pro-life myths.

The film contained several tes-

timonials from family members of women who have died as a result of illegal abortions and showed leaders of pro-life organizations stating that they were against birth control.

The film showed that because abortions are illegal in other countries. A woman dies every three minutes as a result of an illegal abortion.

"The issue," Yard said, "is really about being able to live one's own life as one sees fit, and to be free to do so."

While NOW is working for women's rights in many areas Yard feels that this the most important issue facing women at this time "because if they don't win the battle for reproductive rights, women will die."

"The thing that is exciting is that as much as I wish we didn't have this fight, it has people so angry that they are working very hard," she said. "Lots of women are running and we expect to elect a lot of them."

The feminization of power has been a slogan of NOW for several years, Yard said.

"When we do that we're going to see all of our issues move; child care, pay equity, family medical leave and eventually I think we'll get the ERA," she added. "[But] unless we get women in office a lot of these things are never going to happen."

Yard said she feels that so few women had been involved in electoral politics because they had been

enjoying the gains that the women's movement had made earlier by going to school and establishing professional careers.

"Most people are not activists ever, a lot of people only join an organization when they feel threatened, and that is why our membership is way up," Yard said.

Yard was elected to a three year term as president of NOW in July 1987 and is the first grandmother to head the group.

She adamantly refuses to divulge her age because of her unyielding conviction that "what matters is who you are and what you are capable of doing."

Summer "Dead Day" June 8

The office of summer term has scheduled Friday, June 8 as an administrative dead day for conducting student business. No student transactions will be permitted including: registrations, class approvals, class changes, and collection of fees.

This policy is new. There has never been a dead day for summer registration before, according to officials.

"Summer Session classes for every department on campus are administered by a very limited

staff," said Virginia Cluff, extended education coordinator for Summer Sessions. "We have reserved June 8 as the day to make changes based on student requests during the registration period which begins April 30."

Cluff noted that in past years it has been difficult to get the word out on class cancellations due to low enrollment, class splitting due to high enrollment and schedule adjustments based on student requests.

"By planning the dead day we

can have the right answers on changes for students and faculty on the first day of the session and cut down on confusion," Cluff said.

According to Extended Education Officials, no exceptions will be made to the policy. Registration begins April 30 and students are encouraged to register early.

Those with registration or schedule questions call 739-3396 or come by Maude Frazier Hall, Room 109 before June 8.

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