

Theater program alive at UNLV

by Tina Crinite
Staff Reporter

The newest addition to the University of Nevada Las Vegas' theater department is the Senior Theater Program.

"These people are a great resource for the department and a refreshing new element," said Ann Del Vecchio McDonough, head of the program.

Many of the students agreed that this class has stirred the imagination, increased creativity and expression and given them a chance to share openly their feelings with the other members of

the class.

"I was born a ham," student Sylvia Frank said. "I have always been able to think quickly, and this class is my opportunity to act out my fantasies and pick up on things I've never done before".

The first classes this semester were on aging. There were many varied answers concerning whether or not they appreciated, or minded being called "senior citizens".

"Throughout your life, you are called baby, toddler, child, teen, adult, and senior citizen is just another part of your life," Adele

Scott, a student, said.

Many preferred the title "maturing adult" and others were not offended by the senior citizen title.

Most agreed that aging should not automatically be associated with the words senior citizen. They stressed the fact that the stigmas of incompetence and deterioration were highly outdated. The students said that they were no less of a person and that being a senior citizen should be looked upon as an achievement.

"Seniors need to get involved in something and become motivated about life or they will lose their self-worth," student Agnes Capps said.

A large consensus of the group interviewed had been involved in some aspect of the theater during the earlier part of their lives, but there were some men and women who just decided to do something with themselves and their extra time by finding new experiences such as this theater class.

McDonough praised every student and said that she enjoyed working with people in their age group. "They are fun, interesting, motivated, and excited about life."

McDonough's students responded with nothing but admiration for their teacher. One student said she (McDonough) was the perfect person. She makes us



Yell Photo / Maureen Miller



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all feel like we are learning together and she coaxes out of us what is inside, the singer, the dancer, and the actor.

McDonough said she was excited for their first production which will take place on October 25.

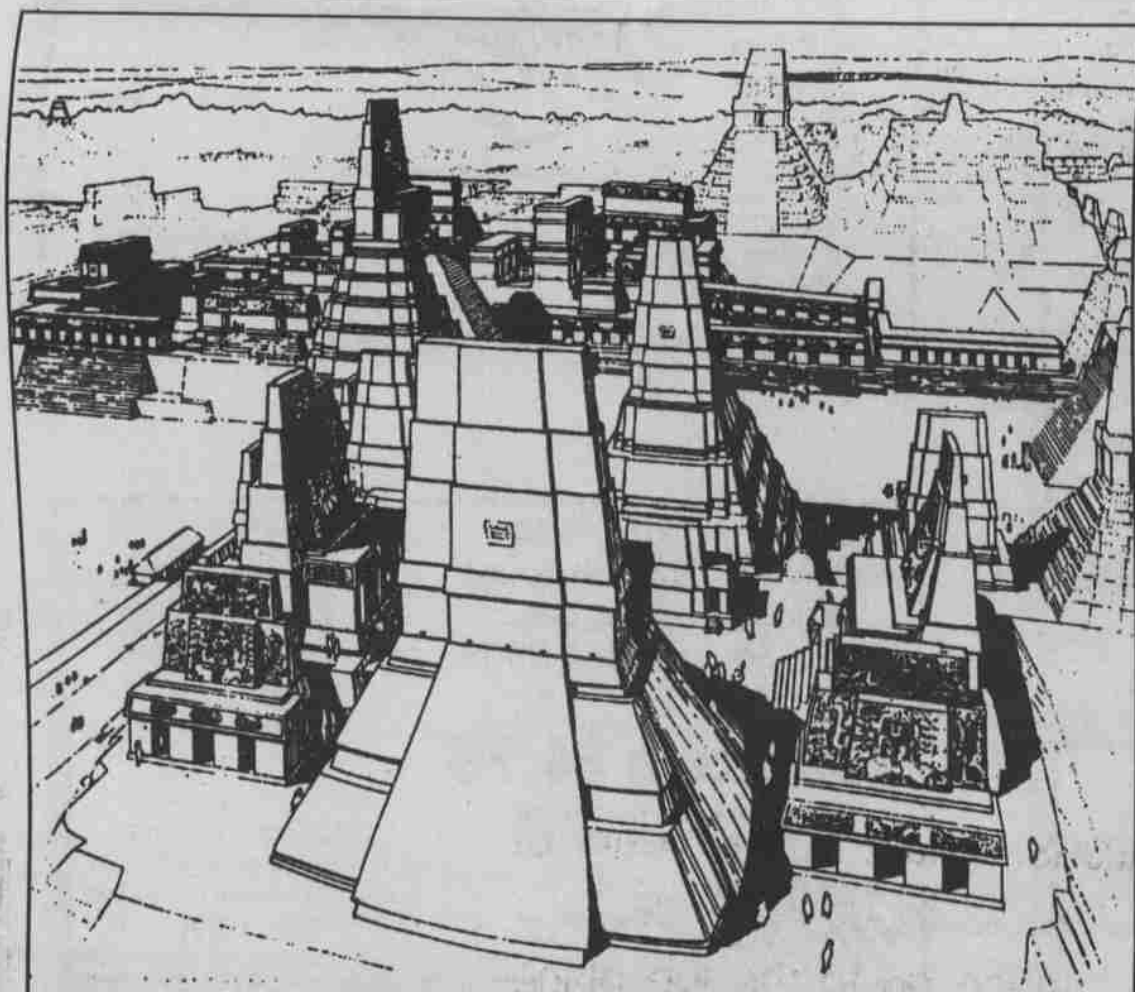
"It's a light-hearted musical review with 48 cast members call Senior Follies; The Best of Burlesque."

In the classes' group discussion, it was said that life was like a minute, an illusion that passes before one's eyes. It's hard to believe that it goes so quickly no matter how hard it is tried to savor every moment, she said.

The Senior Theater group is alive and ready to learn as much as they can. They say they have much to offer each other while they learn from younger students.



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