



Access for handicapped lacking at UNLV



Poor access - These stairs make it impossible for the handicapped to gain access to the Artemus Ham Concert Hall and the Judy Bayley Theater.

Yell Photo / Tom Daniels

by Tom Daniels
Staff Reporter
Bonar Tucker
Editor

someone to open the door or take the long way around to the rear, where there is a door for handicapped individuals.

Although many students at UNLV may have trouble talking themselves into going to their classes, handicapped students may have even more trouble getting to theirs.

There is an elevator in the Moyer Student Union (MSU) to the second floor, but it is not publicized at entrances. This leads into the auditorium, which may or may not be in use.

Access to classrooms for handicapped individuals is lacking at the university and, according to officials, little has been done to remedy the situation.

Any handicapped student who wishes to get to The Yellin' Rebel newspaper office or the office of KUNV

"We took an awareness walk-through last Spring," said John Amend, director

A handicap access walk-through was taken last spring but, due to design modifications and budget, not much action has been taken to make corrections.

radio is unable to do so, since the only access to the third floor, where these offices are located, is by stairs. Plans were made over two years ago to install another elevator to the third floor, but nothing has been accomplished yet.

of UNLV's physical plant. "But from that, we haven't taken much action."

Amend continued, "The overall repair budget submitted to legislation is \$4.1 million, with \$151,000 earmarked for handicap access. But this is one project in about 19 and we still don't know if we've caught everything."

Anita Stockbauer, director of Student Support Services, said, "A second elevator will be installed to the third floor of MSU during the renovation that will be done as soon as the bookstore moves to its new quarters, thus giving the handicapped greater access to the upper floors."

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, designates that handicapped students be offered the same as other students.

Stockbauer said there is an

"This act," said Amend, "is very comprehensive in providing for the handicapped to fully and equally enjoy any goods, services and accommodations. But trying to implement something like this is almost impossible. The ramifications are difficult because of design modifications."

Access Committee formed to identify areas on campus needing improvements. An access map is being made to identify the easiest access routes to buildings, phones, restrooms and parking. Such a map would be helpful in guiding the handicapped to a lowered phone because approximately 35 percent of the buildings on campus do not have such equipment.

UNLV has encountered several design modifications. The front entrance to Flora Dungan Humanities Building (FDH) has a ramp leading to the front doors, but a wheelchair student cannot open the door because there is no handicap door. The front doors all open outward into the path of the wheelchair, and the ramp is too steep for an unassisted student to go up or down the ramp without danger. Handicapped students must either wait for

The entrance to the Carlson Education Building (CEB) has a sliding door but handicapped individuals must go around the Hendrix Education Auditorium (HEA) to reach the door. This is because steps are in the way, two down and three up, between the main campus walk and the handicap entrance.

The main entrance to HEA is down in this depression, making
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Will Quayle help poor students get college cash?

(CPS)—About 20 students, apparently willing to try anything, have taken Vice President Dan Quayle up on a spontaneous promise to personally help any collegians who are having trouble paying their tuition bills and might be forced to drop out.

The vice president, in turn, has handed the pleas over to the "appropriate office," reports Craig Whitney, Quayle's assistant press secretary.

Quayle made the surprising offer in response to a student's questions at the national convention of the Society of Professional Journalists in Louisville, Ky., Oct. 12.

Just after Quayle's speech, University of Florida student West Davies rose during a question-and-answer period to tell Quayle more than 100 needy students were turned away from UF this fall because of a reduction in college loans and grants.

"That's a mistake," Davies told Quayle. "We are spending money on sophisticated weapons and not on our future with our students."



Quayle responded by saying the present level of higher education funding is sufficient.

When Davies pressed him for a better answer, Quayle came up with the clincher: "If anyone is being denied the opportunity for a higher education, then you tell them to write a letter to me and I will help them out."

Davies, who works 20 hours a week while taking 14 hours, decided to organize a letter-writing campaign.

The Independent Alligator,

UF's student paper, wrote an editorial calling on students to write to Quayle.

The 20 letters received so far contain "a wide array of cases ranging from people in financial straits to people who have been told their families make too much money to get financial aid," Whitney said.

Besides bumping the pleas to the "appropriate office," Whitney said Quayle's staff is trying to make sure students "are getting fair treatment and that the system was working properly."

Davies isn't surprised. "I did not believe for a minute that Vice President Quayle was going to help these students who wrote to him. I don't think he really cares about how people get through college."

But it's important, he added, to send letters just to remind the Bush administration of student concerns.

Letters can be sent to Vice President Dan Quayle, Washington, D.C. 20510.

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UNLV receives gift

by Richard Crow
Editor

On Monday, Nov. 19, UNLV President Robert C. Maxson announced the gift of \$1.5 million to the university from the Newmont Gold Company of Elko, Nev., for the construction of a building to house the university's academic advising center.

"This gift from one of Nevada's finest corporate citizens will benefit all of UNLV's 18,216 students," Maxson said.

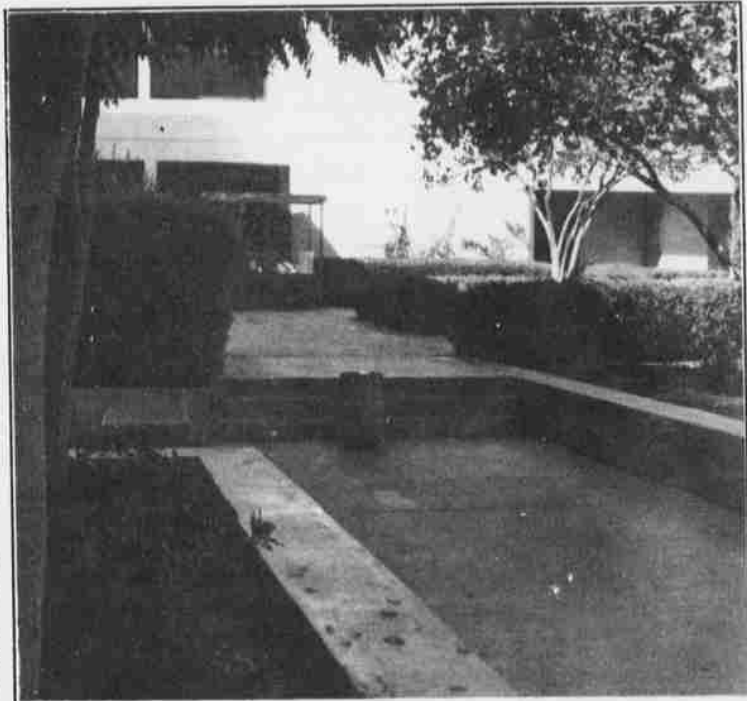
"I can't help but believe that our recent ranking by U.S. News and World Report as the top 'up-and-coming university in the

West' contributed to Newmont Gold's confidence in our programs and desire to help us become even better," he said.

Gordon R. Parker, chairman and chief executive officer of Newmont Gold, said, "Newmont Gold is an integral part of the Nevada economy and community, and will be so for many years.

"We are firmly committed, as a corporate citizen, to the support of higher education in the state. We are pleased to join the regents and the administration of UNLV in accelerating excellence of education at UNLV.

"The new center that our gift
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Yell Photo / Tom Daniels

A problem - for the handicapped traveling to the Education building are these stairs leading to the building's entrance.