



# The Yellin' Rebel

March 14, 1991

- UNLV'S CAMPUS NEWSPAPER -

Volume 12, No. 15

## Dorm phones: nothing but trouble

Many dormitory students are outraged by the poor service they're paying for

by Peter Howe and Michelle Daniels

Imagine the frustration involved in not being able to communicate with the outside world. In today's society, the telephone plays a major role; without telephones communication is nearly at a standstill.

Thirty-eight complaints have been filed from UNLV dorm students concerning their telephone lines. Crossover conversations, continual static, dead phone lines and disconnecting calls are common among the list.

However, according to Terry Piper, director of residential life, no recent complaints have been made about the residential hall phone system.

"In early spring, eight trunks

of cable shifted underground, causing damage to the phone lines. Four of the trunks were repaired and the remaining are to be repaired by the UNLV Telephone Communication Department," Piper said. Piper did not give a date the repairs are to be made.

Dorm resident Rhonda Gatch said she doubts all the problems with the phones have been fixed.

"On Jan. 16, we paid for 3-way calling, call waiting and long distance access—or personal access code—and we still haven't received our service," she said.

Other problems dorm residents have are crossover conversations or open-line conversations.

"At the start of the semester we paid a \$200 deposit for our room—including the phone—and we still haven't received anything

but trouble," Gatch said.

Warner Hall, located on Gym Road, has a problem with a high water content that caused the soil to shift. The apparent phone problem is caused when water gets into the lines, then dries and causes the phone wires to stick together; this causes disconnections and static.

To solve the problem, Piper asked the physical plant to repair the trunks, requiring stabilizing the trunks and burying them eight to 10 feet deep. The work was requested the week of Feb. 25, and has not been completed as of this date.

Another major complaint is continual static on the lines. Lauren Dean, director of management services, acquired a private contractor, Technical Advisory

Service (TAS), to eliminate the static in the lines.

"There are 900 cable splices running from one trunk that is causing the static," said Joe Fisher, a service technician with TAS. As of March 5, Fisher was attempting to resolve the static problem.

Most of the complaints occur from 4 to 10 p.m., according to Piper in a study done by the Office of Residential Life earlier this semester. More than 2800 calls go out in a 24-hour period. Of 2800 calls, one in 100 had some trouble.

Jennifer Beasley, of Dorm C, disagrees with Piper's figures, estimating that "Only one of five phone calls gets through successfully."

Piper responded, "All complaints are logged with the Office of Residential life detailing the

resident's complaint. Once the complaint is made, it is noted."

During the winter break, four notices were sent to all dorm residents explaining that by Spring Semester the phone lines would be fixed.

In addition to the lack of phone service quality, students are charged 35 cents for each call requiring operator assistance, including time and temperature, information, and toll-free numbers.

While students continue to miss phone calls and listen to other's conversations, Piper stressed, "The process is complex and requires continual upgrading."

But Gatch insisted, "It seems that it's always the students who end up with the run-around."

### ON THEIR WAY TO # 1



photo by Richard Munson

**INSTANT OFFENSE** - Eric Gray eyes the rim in UNLV's 98-71 victory over UC Santa Barbara. The Rebels are scheduled to play the Montana Grizzlies this Friday at 7:40 (see story page 15).

## Book trashing called 'outrage'

Local bookstore owner said "there's no excuse" for trashing books

by Eileen Brady

The recent "book trashing" at UNLV's Bookstore in which \$11,000 of books were literally thrown into trash dumpsters brought comments of disgust from those in the book business.

"I've been in the book business a long time and to throw out books is crazy," said Rich Field, president of Rebelbooks. Field is the previous manager of the University Bookstore and had worked for Barnes & Noble for 15 years.

Field said he could understand a company's policy to discard one book or a couple of titles that no one would take as a donation.

"The thing that shocked me most about the article (Feb. 26) and the information in it, is (throwing away) that many books at any one time is outrageous. It's a total disregard for what's involved in a book," he said. "No pile of books should get thrown out as wantonly as this. There is no excuse."

The book pictured in the photograph that went along with the article, Quantity and Food Purchasing, is worth \$18 wholesale, according to Field.

Field said the reasons given—short period of time and lack of storage space—is an "outrage." He said the Univer-

sity Bookstore has books right now sitting in the previous storage space waiting to be returned to the publishers. He said when he worked there, they would call United Cerebral Palsy who would come by the next day or even the same day.

"The 'short period of time' excuse is crazy. I don't understand why Student Government or the faculty on campus couldn't be contacted," Field said. He added that in the University News and Publications Update, professors request book donations.

Field said he didn't believe it was "a corporate decision" on the part of Barnes & Noble.

"If people found these books in the dumpster and she (Nadine Purdon, University Bookstore manager) was confronted with it, it probably would have been the best thing for her to say, 'I made a mistake and we shouldn't have thrown them away' instead of saying they didn't have the time," he said.

Field said he wondered if the books were books the University Bookstore "just didn't want to be bothered with."

"That would justify the attempt to cover it up. Maybe they didn't want to return them to the publishers, or maybe they didn't have the invoice numbers, or they lost documents," he said. "Instead, they just throw them out and take

an \$11,000 markdown—that's a hell of a lot of money for Barnes & Noble to swallow."

Purdon was unavailable for further comment.

Field suggested the books could have been used as a marketing tool to create goodwill on campus. He suggested a sale in front of the Moyer Student Union, which is what he said "a college bookstore is all about."

"I can't see any reason why you can't have an 'Old Editions Sale,'" he said. "For a lot of people, if they pick up \$3 or \$5 books in their major, it can add to their library. So what if they've been revised?"

He said Rebelbooks isn't in the stage where they are buying from every small publisher, there aren't many books in extra stock. But he said they would sell the books at a reduced rate if they did have extras.

He disagreed with Purdon's argument that students would be cheated if they have an old edition.

He said if he could buy an old edition for \$5, he would.

"Then if Dr. Jones says you have to buy the book, at least you took a shot at it," Field said. "Books are so expensive I think students should do whatever they can."

### INSIDE...

#### NEWS

PAGE 2

Cancer prevention competition

#### Op/Ed

PAGE 6

Police brutality

#### SPORTS

PAGE 15

Women's NCAA Tournament

## UNLV may require foreign languages

by Tricia Ciaravino

Foreign language may become a campus-wide requirement. The faculty senate has voted to establish a committee to investigate the feasibility of this program.

The idea was presented to the senate by the general education committee.

The committee, however, did not recommend the requirement.

"We already have a very high number of general education requirements," said Dr. Isabelle

Emerson, faculty senate chair. "They didn't want to add to it." The foreign language requirement would add eight more credits to the 46-48 already required.

Ann Mayo, assistant dean for the undergraduate program of the College of Business and Economics, said this is the reason her college hasn't established a foreign language requirement. The programs are structured in such a way that the requirement would have to take the place of something else.

"The international market-

place in business is so important that we're looking into a language or culture requirement," Mayo said. "But we would hate to take away free electives."

Emerson, speaking for herself and not the senate, said she thinks the idea is "absolutely wonderful."

"You're not going to speak a language in one year," she said. "But one year will give you a feeling of the culture and structure. It's one of the most valuable parts of a university education."

Both Dr. Ernest Peck, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, and Dr. Rosemary Witt, associate professor of nursing, agree with Emerson.

"If we're going to produce students who can compete in the international market, we should certainly encourage taking foreign language," Peck said.

Witt said that she would like to see the requirement begin in primary education, but college is a "good substitute."