



The Yellin' Rebel

April 23, 1991

- UNLV'S CAMPUS NEWSPAPER -

Volume 12, No. 23

State Legislature attempts to cut university budget

by Sean Higgins

The Nevada State Legislature adjourns in June of this year and has yet to solve the dilemma created by their earlier proposal for budget cuts for the University of Nevada system.

According to University Regent Shelley Berkley, the Board of Regents stood firm and refused to cut 10 percent. Berkley was ada-

mant in her stand on this matter, saying the Board of Regents unanimously voted not to make the cut themselves, and admonished the legislature not to make any cuts.

"To cut 10 percent would mean a cut in the quality of education at UNLV and no one on the Board of Regents wants this to happen," Berkley said. "The needs of the

university system, and particularly southern Nevada, can't

"The Board of Regents is not part of this travesty."
- Shelley Berkley

handle a 10 percent cut or enrollment freeze. The Board of Re-

gents is not part of this travesty."

"The Legislature should hold its head in shame if this bill is passed," Berkley said. "The sad part is there is a good chance citizens of Nevada will have to go out of state to receive an education."

If there is a freeze on enrollment, it will be by numbers: numbers to 18,000 would get enrolled, number 18,001 and up would not,

resident or non-resident.

When asked why there was a tuition increase so soon after the last one, Berkley said, "Tuition increases aren't decided by the Board of Regents. A group of Western schools are keyed to a formula that operates on an average of many Western states. This decides things like tuition increases."



Ignacio Aviles, Wilber Schaefer and Robin Boudwin for Disability Awareness. photo by Morgan Fisher

Disability Awareness Day at UNLV Exposing, exploring and educating

By Tina Crinite

A mother and a small child are walking and the youngster sees a woman wearing a hearing aid. The child says to the woman, "How did you hurt your ears?" The woman replies that her hearing aids were so she could hear little girls like her when they spoke. The mother, seeing all this taking place, walks up and apologizes for her child and tries to hurry her away from the woman.

This was exactly the situation with Sara Jacobs, onlooker at UNLV's Disability Awareness Day April 17 in the MSU Ballroom. The day's activities were sponsored by Student Support Services and funded by Student Government.

"I wish more people would allow themselves to become more open with disabilities; and really,

the mother was at fault for not letting her child learn about my hearing problem," Jacobs said.

Currently Jacobs is attending National University in Las Vegas which is teaching her how to teach hearing impaired students. "No matter what the problem, I want to be a role model for children and teach them that they can accomplish anything," Jacobs said.

Exposing, exploring, and educating people about disabilities was the overall message that was gained by the participants and

Some do, but it is not appropriate or fair to use that title because we are just the same as everyone else. Our future may be different in the way we adapt to doing things, but I'm capable of doing anything."

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH) had a booth set up to display the various aids for those people who are losing their hearing, or have lost it completely.

Teresa Gregory, representative of SHHH, expressed her concern over a caption decoder for television that was not set up for use in the television in the Moyer Student Union. The recent delay in not setting up this help for the hearing impaired is due to the remodeling in the Student Union and the risk of someone stealing the decoder.

"It seems as if people are not comfortable with disabilities and they are afraid it could one day happen to them," Gregory said. "If it does, they will try and hide it. Life isn't like TV and we all can't be skinny and smell good."

Gregory also related an experience she had while temporarily confined to a wheelchair. No one acknowledged her and no one made eye contact. Everyone seemed to be conditioned just to look away and avoid confrontation with the disabled person for fear of making them feel out of place or less normal. This indifferent attitude actually made her feel alone and separated into a category when human contact and help were needed.

"People are just not interested in disabilities, but they must realize that inside we are all alike," Gregory said.

"Our future may be different in the way we adapt to doing things, but I'm capable of doing anything."

- Robin Boudwin

those who ran the booths of Disability Awareness Day.

Twenty-four booths ranging in topics from hearing loss to multiple sclerosis were in attendance.

Robin Boudwin, a freshman at UNLV, greeted people as they walked in and handed them information about the booths and what the presentations had to offer. Boudwin was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at birth and uses a wheelchair, but has had a series of operations which have resulted in her ability to walk, although not for long periods of time.

"Some of the facilities offered at UNLV are pretty good, but some changes could be made for the disabled people who attend," Boudwin said. "I don't become offended when people call me disabled.

Suit against scholarship may signal growing conservatism

Seven white students claim discrimination; hoping to shed light on Affirmative Action

by B.J. Hoeptner

(CPS) - Seven white college students' "reverse discrimination" lawsuit against the federal government's minority scholarship policy might reflect a growing trend toward conservatism, some observers say.

Keeping "minority-only scholarships (is) not going to be a significant cause for a majority of the population," predicts Dennis Black, dean of students at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo and editor of Perspective, a newsletter that covers campus-based lawsuits.

If the white students succeed, an estimated 69 percent of campus scholarships reserved for minority students would either be scrapped or redistributed to students on the basis of grades or family income.

Abolishing race-based scholarships "will have a negative impact in terms of the message it would send" to minority students, said David Merkwitz of the American Council on Education.

Yet, "It will have a marginal impact on the ability to recruit" minority students, he added.

Calling some campuses' effort to recruit minority students by offering special scholarships discriminatory, the white students sued the U.S. Dept. of Education March 22, asking it to withhold federal funds from schools that have race-based scholarships.

The Education Department, which oversees most federal college programs, has flip-flopped several times on the issue since December.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of the seven students, recruited from Macalester and Mercy colleges, the universities of Virginia, Texas, Iowa, California at Los Angeles and Southern California by the Washington Legal Foundation.

"I think the notion that one can be denied scholarships or financial aid based upon his race is pernicious," explained Joseph Cazenavette, a second year law student at Virginia and one of the plaintiffs.

The notion that setting aside benefits for minorities necessarily cheats whites out of those benefits has long been a favorite of conservative groups.

The conservative Washington Legal Foundation, a non-

profit group funded primarily by individual donors, first joined the controversy last April when it filed a complaint with the Education Department about a race-based scholarship at Florida Atlantic University, foundation lawyer John Scully said.

The foundation was still waiting for a response from the department in December when Michael Williams, head of the department's Office of Civil Rights, announced that race-based scholarships violated the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which bars awarding financial aid "based solely on the race of the recipients."

Schools that continued to offer scholarships on the basis of race alone would lose federal funding, Williams warned.

"That's what we believed to be the correct policy," Scully noted.

However, after a barrage of criticism from college administrators and civil rights advocates, the department announced two weeks later that colleges could give grants to people based on the color of their skin if the money came from private donations, not public funds.

Then, on March 21, newly inaugurated Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander announced that schools could go back to what they had been doing before Williams' December announcement.

"I was kind of surprised when Michael Williams made his declaration," said John Tichy, a senior at Macalester College in Minnesota and a plaintiff in the suit.

"I was not so surprised when (the Department of Education) backtracked" on the decision, he continued.

Tichy and the other students became involved in the case when they called the foundation to complain about minority scholarships or other matters concerning them at their schools, Scully said.

Both Tichy and Cazenavette confirmed they had called the foundation to complain about minority-only scholarships and had then been told about the lawsuit.

"I think just the fact it's out will shed some light on" affirmative action and related issues, Tichy said.

Regardless of whether the students win their lawsuit, the result will change the 1964 Civil

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