

ALUMNI

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sitive to their resins."

When asked to explain the apparent contradiction in oleander policy, Swartzell said, "My position has not changed. I am certain there are some people who are more sensitive to certain plants (like the oleander). But I don't have a problem with it."

"The landscaping around the Alumni Center was all planned by a landscape architecture class on campus," said Swartzell. "There were no oleanders in the plan, but the nursery that provided the plants elected to make substitutions without checking. Normally we don't use them because they are poisonous. One day, we will not have any more on campus. Ms. Collins has been misled (about oleanders). If she were talking

about mulberries or olive trees, I would agree with her."

Linn Mills, a noted local plant specialist, said, "Yes, they are poisonous, but they are only 414th on the list of poisonings across the United States, behind aspirin and other poisons. The plant is so bitter that you'd never eat enough to kill you unless it was deliberate ingestion. The chances are almost nil of being accidentally harmed by this plant."

"As to the pollen—yes, they are branded as pollen-causing plants," Mills added. "In general, though, the more significant the flower (like a rose), the less apt it is to be a pollen problem. Mulberries and olives have insignificant flowers, so their pollen level is high. The oleander, however, has

a very significant flower.

"Next month is oleander blossom time. Some towns in the East even have 'oleander festivals.' They are a popular plant. They are drought-resistant. It's hard to kill an oleander. They survive well in our climate and they have pretty flowers."

Another complaint about the Alumni Center landscaping involves the bark land cover placed around the building without a border. "It's a mess. Bark is all over the sidewalk," said Collins.

"With donations, you sometimes don't get what you want," said Swartzell. "It was an ill-conceived afterthought. We'll eventually do something."

UNLV honors exceptional students at convocation

by Tricia Ciaravino

more watchers than does at the ceremony.

"This is an emotional day," said President Robert C. Maxson at the at the Honors Convocation last Thursday. "It's a time for reaffirmation to remind ourselves that there is nothing that happens in this university that is as important as what goes on in the classroom."

Maxson gave this speech to welcome and recognize students who, through their academic excellence, received awards at the Convocation.

A few colleges and departments had only one or two students to honor, while others had none. Some colleges, such as the College of Business and Economics, seemed to honor half of the

Several faculty members were honored for their teaching, research and service. The Honor Societies were also recognized.

Convocation speaker Ronald Milne, associate professor of accounting, stressed that "life is a process, not a sequence of outcomes." He encouraged the students to look for opportunities and to be great rather than have great things. He also revealed his secret to being rich: "To be rich is to want less than you have; to always want more is to be poor."

The President's reception for awardees and guests was held in the Ham Hall lobby after the program.



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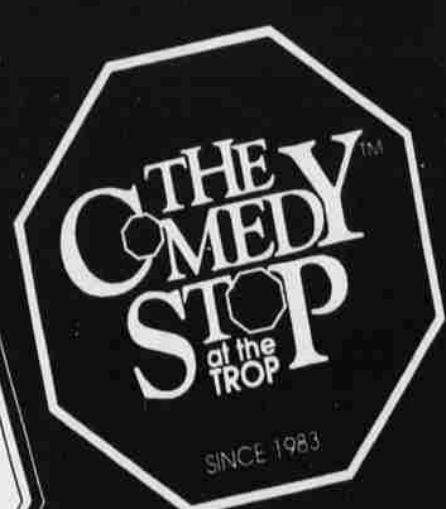
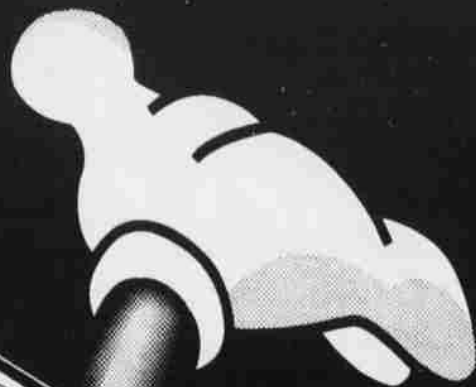
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