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UNLV budget may be stretched even further

In the face of extensive, growing needs, UNLV is not ready to accept budget reductions

by Melissa Swoboday

Even after President Maxson made diligent efforts to convince them of UNLV's budget needs, the state legislature's Assembly Ways and Means Committee has requested that the university, along with other state agencies, acquiesce to a 10 percent budget cut.

In an emergency meeting, the Board of Regents decided not to comply with the committee's petition.

Senior Vice President John Unrue said that he did not agree with the proposed cuts.

"I can't imagine any justification for budget cuts at UNLV," he said. "That's a terrible hardship to inflict on the residents of the state of Nevada."

Unrue did agree, however, with the Board of Regents' decision to work with the legislature without confrontation.

"I think the legislators are sympathetic to our needs at UNLV," he said. "The legislators

of the state of Nevada are friends of UNLV."

Friends or not, the state legislators realize that they must answer to their constituents first, and raising taxes for any reason is usually not an answer constituents like.

That is why the legislature is trying to streamline budgets knowing they must either cut costs or raise revenues. In the interest of the taxpayers, they prefer to cut costs.

But in the face of extensive, growing needs, UNLV and the rest of the University of Nevada System is not ready to accept budget reductions.

According to Unrue, UNLV is in desperate need of funding for equipment, academic support positions and classroom space. He noted that the construction of one new classroom building alone will cost \$22 million.

The state legislature should not be surprised by these budgetary blues, though. It has been an

established fact that UNLV is one of the fastest-growing universities in the nation for some time.

According to *The Chronicle of Higher Education Almanac* (1989), the student population of the University of Nevada System grew by more than 50 percent between 1977 and 1987. This figure compares to a national student popu-

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- John Unrue

lation growth of only 13.1 percent.

Also, enrollment in the University of Nevada System is currently peaking at more than 60,000 students.

Within the next ten years, *The Chronicle of Higher Education Almanac* (1990) predicts, Nevada will rank second in the nation in increasing numbers of high school graduates.

Of those graduates, according to a survey done by the Office of the Chancellor, University of Nevada System, 83 percent expect to enroll in institutions of higher education. Of these, 65 percent of them say they will do so in Nevada.

Warren H. Fox and Kimberly Harris, authors of *Nevada's National Rank in Higher Education: State Revenue and Tax Capacity*, wrote, "For our campuses to make significant improvements in the quality of their academic programs, to have a higher impact in occupational training and research, allocations will need to surpass levels that only keep pace with growth."

With so many people pointing to the university's growth in the recent past, the legislature has probably seen this dilemma approaching. Now, the time for a decision has arrived.

Still, university administrators maintain that cuts should not be made in their budgets.

President Maxson recently spoke before the legislature about UNLV's growing needs. Unrue accompanied him for support.

Speaking of President Maxson's statements to the legislature, Unrue said, "He essentially made the case for UNLV. He's done that very successfully. I'm convinced that UNLV could make no greater case.

"The only answer is to raise taxes, and it is not a task that legislators ever want to do," Unrue added.

Despite their impasse with the legislators, the university administrators and Board of Regents say they will cooperate with them to achieve a budget that works in the best interest of the university.

"I'm optimistic about the future," Unrue said. "In all the times I have attended, I've never found a more cooperative legislature."



Vince Izzolo, Joel Jaralillo, Tracy Barkhuff, Brian Cecil, and Gregg Schultz spin the "Wheel of Fortune."

Students win 'Wheely' big on TV game show

by Tina Crinite

Wheel of Fortune is the name, and money is the game—big money that is, for the students representing UNLV during Wheel of

Fortune's College Week.

Five anxious students traveled to Los Angeles to rub elbows with Pat Sajak and Vanna White.

Vince Izzolo, Tracy Barkhuff, Brian Cecil, Gregg Schultz, and alternate Joel Jaralillo took the wheel by storm and wound up winners.

Barkhuff won \$900, Schultz won \$8,300, but the big winner of the day was Izzolo, who won a whopping \$32,900.

Cecil and Jaralillo did not get to play but will return in August to try their hand at the wheel.

"It was one of the most pressure-packed situations I've ever been in," Izzolo said.

Izzolo said he was really scared as he tried to decipher the puzzle because it was so much different than playing in the living room.

"Once you're up on the podium it's a different ball game," Izzolo said. "You worry how you look, spinning the wheel, and what letter to choose."

Izzolo was up to \$12,900 on one puzzle and was clueless to the last part of the puzzle. With a tenth of a second left, he spun and solved the puzzle—"BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY."

They taped five shows at once, and the final day the top three schools (UNLV, University of Kentucky and New York University) competed for money to give the school.

A representative was chosen from each school and Izzolo was the lucky one from UNLV. He won \$7,000, topping the three schools, and was eligible for the bonus round. Izzolo, Barkhuff and Schultz were all able to guess the puzzle and ended up with \$50,000, making UNLV's total winnings \$57,000.

"It was an experience I'll never forget," Izzolo said. "It was wild, absolutely wild."

College Week will air May 13-17 every night at 7 p.m. on Channel 3.

Student plaza dedicated

by Peter Howe

The Valerie Pida Student Plaza at UNLV was dedicated on Friday, carrying the name of a former UNLV cheerleader who has received national attention for her courageous battle against cancer.

Among those in attendance for the dedication were University President Robert Maxson, Regent Carolyn Sparks and Regent Shelley Berkley. Valerie Pida and her entire family were also at the event.

"Valerie has been an inspiration to all of us," Maxson said. "Her high spirit, cheerful personality, and dedication to her school have endeared Valerie to everyone who knows her, and to the thousands who watched her cheer for Rebel basketball and football teams."

Pida, 23, was a Rebel song

leader during the 1983-84 and 1984-85 seasons. She was a cheerleader during the 1985-86 season, and again during the 1986-87 season, when the Runnin' Rebels made it to the Final Four in the NCAA tournament.

After leaving the cheerleading squad, Pida has continued to coach UNLV's cheerleaders and song leaders and to take classes as a marketing major.

The plaza, which was renamed in Pida's honor by the University of Nevada Board of Regents in February, was completely remodeled earlier this year. The old concrete has been removed and replaced with in-laid bricks.

New planters have been installed and landscaped, and see PLAZA page 2



Valerie Pida at dedication of plaza named in her honor.

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