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UNLV computer sales upset local dealers

by Bonar Tucker

While UNLV students may be cashing in on the savings offered by purchasing computers with student discounts, local computer dealers say the sales may be costly to their businesses and unethical on the part of the university.

UNLV recently co-sponsored a Macintosh Truckload Sale with Century 23, a promotion which created disagreement partly because of UNLV's involvement.

"A lot of people are upset about this and dealers don't like it," said Sen. Ron Cook, owner of Connecting Point Computer Center. "Students are being allowed to buy a product for less than dealers can and that part may or may not be right. Students are in a situation where they can buy the product and then sell it to make money. Essentially," Cook explained, "UNLV is competing with local busi-

nesses."

However, Bill Robinson, director of Computing and Information Systems with the senior vice president and provost at UNLV, claims the university has contracts with several vendors, trying to be fair to all. Although he agreed the recent truckload sale was "very successful," he said the University is cautious about making themselves look commercial. UNLV, he said, wants only to offer a service to its students.

Ike Jordon, owner of Computerite, 1601 E. Sahara Ave., outlines what he said is a major problem: no one stops a student from buying to resell, which potentially can injure dealer's businesses.

"They say they have a contract with the students against this, but no one enforces it," Jordon said. "I've known students who have done this. Century 23 and UNLV are only concerned about getting boxes out the

door. No one checks who signs anything. Students can have a dozen of their friends sign and end up with a dozen computers."

Robinson confirmed that. "Theoretically, students agree not to resell the equipment," he said. As far as a signature, Robinson said, "There is some paperwork to sign but it is UNLV's."

According to Jordon, UNLV has entered into the retail business by promoting Century 23 sales on campus.

"UNLV will tell you they are promoting an educational tool," Jordon said. "But you won't see a television company selling TVs on campus and they show educational programs. What they are promoting is teaching kids to maneuver and become thieves."

Maurice Mitchell, assistant director of academic computing at UNLV, said the truckload sale was merely one of the ways for Apple to deliver their com-



photo by Rick Nielson

UNLV recently hosted a computer truck load sale for Apple's Century 23.

puters. "Apple took the initiative for the sale," he said. "We are not competing with the private sector because the university was not doing the selling. There are lots of companies that sell on campus. No one has ever approached us to sell TVs but we just might be open to it."

"Don't challenge the university on this. It was set up with Apple and Century 23," said Mitchell.

Sen. Bill O'Donnell, owner of O'Donnell Business Center, commented that he was not sure that having a truckload sale on the campus was right.

"That would seem to me to be using a state facility for personal gain," he said. "If it helps the students get a better deal, then great, but selling below what others can buy for and using the campus to sell your products—well, there's ethical behavior involved there."

No parking problems at UNLV says Traffic and Parking Committee

by La Rae Bringham

The parking lots near Artemus W. Ham Hall and the Flora Dungan Humanities building have the worst

parking problems on the UNLV campus, said Tom Hudak, parking enforcement supervisor. There are fewer parking spaces near these buildings than any

other. He also stated that this year, students can park in the visitor metered section, but the non-metered visitor parking spaces still cannot be used by students.

The students are rated last in the allocation of parking spaces. There are 22 reserved spots on the campus and the Traffic and Parking Committee decides who gets these spots. Sylvia Maxson does not have a reserved parking space for herself, but she does use President Maxson space when he is not at the University. She always calls ahead for approval to use his space.

The faculty has spaces and visitors generally pay for the privilege.

A parking garage is not being considered at this time, but this could change if the students make their wishes known to the Traffic and Parking Committee. This committee feels that students can walk from the

Health fee question invalidated

by Karen Splawn

A ballot question on a student health fee was tossed out of last week's election.

Joel Kostman, director of the Office of Student Information, said the wording on the ballot question was wrong.

The wording stated that part-time and graduate students would have to pay a \$20 fee for the Student Health Center if the question passed. Kostman said full-time undergraduates would be paying the fee.

"We couldn't present the results to the Board of Regents because it's not fair," Kostman said.

Students may again get to vote on the issue soon, Kostman said. "I don't think the health center wants to wait until spring for the next election and I don't blame them," he added.

A private election company handled the printing of the ballots. "When I saw the original wording (done by Student Government), it was correct," Kostman said.



photo by Bonar Tucker

Students park illegally at University Park Apartments.

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