

# United Nations program comes to UNLV

by Jason Bermingham



Illustration by Jason Bermingham

In the midst of the international political developments that are shaping our contemporary world, UNLV is creating a model United Nations program on campus.

This program will encourage participation in the international realm of politics and provide students with the necessary resources to broaden their understanding of world issues.

The program will be co-directed by Susan Thompson, director of International Programs and Mehran Tamadonfar, assistant professor of political science.

"We are interested in building a program in which UNLV students can simulate United Nations procedure," Thompson said. "The group will be more like a club than a class. We feel any student would benefit greatly by participating in it."

The UNLV chapter

will represent one country and research both the historical and contemporary issues that affect that region. The United Nations officially decides which country will be assigned to the UNLV group, but interested students do have a say in the selection.

Since the model United Nations here on campus will

act similarly to an authentic U.N. delegation, students from all disciplines are needed. Biology majors may deal with environmental issues in the country, for example, while finance majors sit in on the World Bank Council.

Later in the year, there will be a regional conference for the model U.N. delega-

tions in Southern California.

Students interested in participating in the model United Nations are encouraged to attend the organizational meeting that will be held 3 p.m. Tuesday, in the Flora Dungan Humanities building, Room 218.



# Mandatory purchasing through Central Stores may waste money

by Robyn Ginney

As the budget at UNLV continues to tighten, more and more attention is being focused on unnecessary spending.

For instance, the supplies bought by various departments are ordered through Central Stores as mandated by state legislature. According to Joe Cathcart, director of Purchasing and Contract Management, chapter 333 of Nevada Revised Statute mandates that Central Stores of the University of Nevada System must buy from the state warehouse and pay them an increase of 4.5 percent. Purchasers of supplies for UNLV, especially office supplies, must in turn buy from Central Stores.

"I don't feel that we should be mandated to buy from the state without any quality assurance," Cathcart said. One would assume that the University would try to save as much money as they possibly could by ordering the least expensive materials. This is not necessarily the case.

Being a state regulated division of UNLV and Clark County Community College, Central Stores must deal

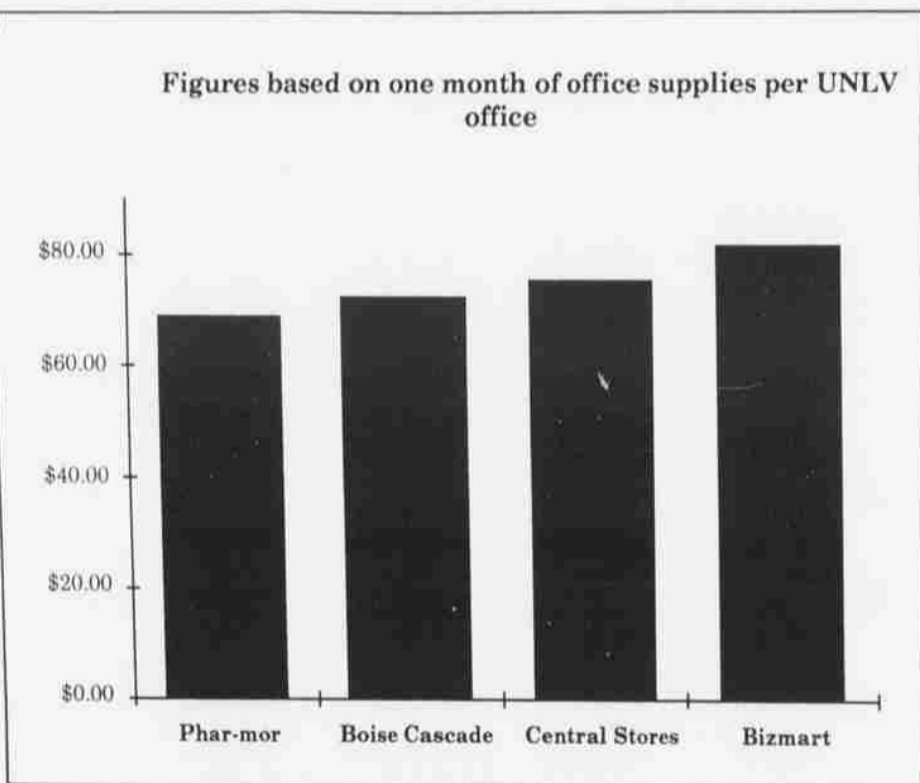
with all the bureaucratic red tape and customary paperwork.

"The order gets mailed to Carson City, they take it, enter it into their computer, get their results and send it back to Las Vegas to their local warehouse to get issued," said George Mildren, senior storekeeper for Purchasing.

Does the university actually save money by buying from Central Stores? According to a recent price comparison between Bizmart, Phar-mor, Central Stores and Boise Cascade (a California based mail order company), the answer is no. When prices were compared, the stores ranked: (from least expensive to most) Phar-mor, Boise Cascade, Central Stores and Bizmart.

The comparisons were based on normal, commonly ordered office supplies such as envelopes, staples, computer paper, Dcell batteries, index cards, memo pads, white out, scissors, rulers, files and copy paper.

When all these items were totalled, Phar-mor ranked least expensive, at \$69.10, with Boise Cascade coming in second at \$72.32, followed by Central Stores at \$75.32 and Bizmart at



\$81.51. This price difference is for a one month period.

These figures become substantial when multiplied by 10 for the months spent in school, and 49 for the number of offices at UNLV purchasing from Central Stores.

With these figures in mind, the university could save more than \$3600 during a school year by shopping at Phar-mor.

"We can't go to Phar-mor because Phar-mor doesn't

deliver... anything we can get from the state we are not supposed to buy from other vendors, even if they are cheaper," said Kathy Cooper, assistant to Mildren.

Lack of delivery eliminates Phar-mor, but Boise Cascade delivers in two to three days, compared to the two weeks it takes for an order to come in from Central Stores. So what's wrong with Boise Cascade?

"The state law says that

we must go through the state first. Only if the state doesn't have it, can we go downtown (or to Boise Cascade) to buy it," Cooper said.

This may seem like much ado about nothing, but it is clear that the system is not saving money nor is there any quality control. The total sum (\$3,600) is not much considering the total operating cost of the university, but it could be put to better use.

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