

NICA is breaking away from the university

by William Holt

A sub-department of the UNLV Art Department, Nevada Institute for Contemporary Art (NICA), will be moving off campus as a result of business "growth pains."

Business Manager Laurie Kalnin said that the institute needs to become independent because of the confusion involved in operating as a community organization as if it were a part of the university.

She said that NICA's donors have to make checks out to the Board of Regents. Then the money has to come through the

university controller's office back to the institute which uses its own off-campus bank account.

"From a business standpoint, it is very confusing and tedious. Even though we are physically on campus, we are a separate entity. UNLV was set up for departments, classes and students. It was not set up to run an art institute."

She said NICA's audience gets confused when attending its exhibitions because it is hard to separate the work by international artists sponsored by NICA and the work created by UNLV students.

NICA does, however, get involved in such projects as

providing time for English students to observe the exhibits and write about them.

NICA was founded six years ago by avid art collectors Steven Molasky, owner of Pacific Properties, President of Atlantic Design Roger Thomas and UNLV President Robert Maxson, who saw a need to have a place in Nevada where contemporary art could be exhibited.

The institute originally became a sub-function of UNLV's art department so that student artists could have a medium through which to exhibit their art by sharing facilities with NICA.

In the past six years, Kalnin said that both UNLV's Art

Department and NICA's exhibition budgets have expanded so NICA can afford to become independent from the UNLV system, and the art department can afford to utilize the space that NICA will leave behind.

Kalnin expects that NICA will be contained in the Donna Beam Gallery until the end of this season. She said that the transition will be tough.

"The separation will help our image. The move will help clarify our position in the community and the university," Kalnin said.

WEAVER

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sible inadequacies with some of the weight rooms.

He said that he would not use a committee to select a new head basketball coach. He said he would "hire a coach that can continue the tradition."

Adding a sport is not among Weaver's priorities at this time.

"It is more advantageous to perpetuate the programs we have than to start new ones," he said.

Prior to his nine-year stint at Florida, Weaver had been an assistant football coach and associate professor at Clarion (Pa.) State College. He has held similar positions at Penn State (where he graduated in 1966), Iowa State and Villanova—where he was head coach for eight games during the 1974 team.

Weaver's wife, Ernestine, has been the head coach of Florida's women's gymnastics program for the last 12 years. She coached the 1980 Olympic team and was herself a member of the Canadian Olympic team.

"A team decision" was how Weaver characterized the decision he and his wife made in accepting this decision. He said that she will finish out this season at Florida.

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New members named to UNLV Foundation

Richard Etter and Christina Hixson, two prominent Las Vegas, have been named to the Board of Trustees for the UNLV Foundation, the official fund-raising organization for the university's academic programs.

Etter is president of Valley Capital Corp. and chairman of the board of Valley Bank of Nevada. He joined the company in 1966 and has held several key positions, including senior vice president and chief operations officer. He was promoted to his current assignments in 1982.

Active in the community, Etter currently serves as president of Las Vegas Events, board member of the Boulder Dam Area Council Boy Scouts of America, chairman of the Las Vegas Founders Golf Foundation and vice president of the Boy Scouts' Area IV Western Region.

As trustee of the Lied Foundation, Hixson has helped charitable organizations in Southern Nevada

and across the country. Through the Lied Foundation, Hixson has been a major contributor to such worthwhile projects as the Boys and Girls Clubs of Las Vegas, the House Ear Institute in Los Angeles and the New Horizons Academy and the Economic Opportunity Board.

Donations from the Lied Foundations have established the Lied Institute for Real Estate Studies at UNLV and the Ernest F. Lied Golf Scholarship Program at UNLV as well as other community programs.

Hixson has received many honors, including the Las Vegas Distinguished Citizen Award, the Glenn Smith Humanitarian Award, the Chancellor's Award from the University of Kansas, and a Doctor of Humane Letters honorary degree from the University of Nebraska. Hixson is a lifetime board member of the Omaha Zoological Society and is a member of the HEI National Council.

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