

A citizen's request disturbs the pillars of city council

by William Holt

Lisa Caveretta, a nutritionist at the Student Health Center, and her husband Gary have petitioned 2,200 signatures from residents in the Rainbow Boulevard and Oakey area to have the name of an upcoming city park changed back to its original title.

In early 1990, persons living in the neighborhood where the Ron Lurie Family Park is being constructed were invited to attend meetings regarding decisions made having to do with the park's amenities. These same families have been required to pay a \$1,000 per household public park tax in support of this new park.

They had agreed to naming the park Rainbow Family Park. Caveretta said that it is a neutral name that also depicts the location of the park, which is near the major thoroughfare Rainbow Boulevard.

According to Caveretta, about a year and one half later, the sign in front of the construction site had been changed to Ron Lurie Family Park, after Las Vegas' former mayor. Upon calling City Hall, an assistant to Mayor Janet Laverty-Jones said that her office had nothing to do with the matter, as the event had taken place prior to Jones' inauguration.

Caveretta then went to City Councilman Arnie Adamsen, who explained that he wanted to honor Ron Lurie as compensation for Lurie's unsought reelection.

Whether Lurie merited the honor or not, Caveretta said that she and her neighbors felt left out of the decision process and asked Adamsen if the name could be changed back to Rainbow Family Park. He said it was a done deal.

Caveretta said her opposition to the new name is because she believed that the name of a public park should be a positive and neutral one that reflects the surrounding area. She said that a park named after a living politician is inappropriate because it can be used as personal gain when and if Lurie re-enters the political arena.

Caveretta and her husband were allowed to appear before the City Council which includes the four district representatives and Jones. When the Caveret-



They'll find it a little hard to break the concrete covered ground with shovels.

tas asked the council to reconsider the name, they offered a petition of 2,200 signatures in support of the request. They received what a recent *Las Vegas Review Journal* cartoon suggests as "The Royal Treatment."

During the meeting, Councilman Scott Higginson, who frequently paced behind his chair, said, "Your disrespect for Ron Lurie's 18 years of public service is insensitive." Higginson criticized the 2,200 signatures by saying that they were probably phony and asked the Caverettas why they hadn't organized a committee.

Adamsen said that Rainbow Family Park was not the official name, but rather a temporary one used until they had found the name Ron Lurie Family Park. He invited the Caverettas to meet with him later if they needed an explanation as to how parks were named.

Jones told the Caverettas that the council cannot respond to a citizen complaint every time a park is named. She said she didn't believe anyone on the council had the "appetite" to reconsider a name.

The *Las Vegas Review Journal* disclosed that a recording of Jones' conversation with her peers before the proceedings began, revealed her saying that she was "...sick of them," and that a note passed during the same conversation

used the name "bitch."

Jones denied that these exchanges were in any way directed toward the Caverettas.

The Caverettas resumed their battle with the city council on Wednesday.

Jones attempted to take the wind out of their sails by rescinding the council's actions since Lurie had withdrawn his name that morning. The matter will be handled by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The Caverettas, who still want to be involved in the naming, attempted to discuss how parks are named with the council.

When Council Attorney Roy Woofter protested the crowd became enraged, screaming, "Let her speak!" Councilman Bob Nolen refused to stay in the room with "unruly" people and left.

Jones consented to let the Caverettas speak but not about the controversial park name.

Later Caveretta said she was surprised that she was denied the chance to speak on the subject.

Mason admits to using state property inappropriately

by Tricia Ciaravino

Larry Mason, director of admissions, confessed to using university envelopes and postage to announce a private function for Las Vegas Mayor Jan Laverty Jones.

Mason said the mayor's Committee for a Better Government has paid the university for the \$107 in postage and envelopes used.

In an interview with Las Vegas reporter Ed Vogel, Ma-

son said he "inadvertently" mailed 314 fliers in university envelopes. He called it an "oversight" on his part.

Mason did apologize to the university's administration.

"Larry made a mistake and he paid for it," said Robert Ackerman, vice president for Student Services.

Using state equipment for personal use is a violation of the law and can cost offenders as much as \$5,000.

Winter fashion leads to untimely death

by Tricia Ciaravino

Police have identified a 28-year-old Las Vegas man who was shot to death over a Dallas Cowboys jacket Jan. 9, as Raymond Reyes.

Police said Reyes was shot in the head.

He was killed around 11:20 p.m. in front of the Macayo Vegas restaurant at Paradise Road and Tropicana Avenue,

which is often frequented by UNLV students.

A cabdriver witnessed the argument. The gunman, who has been identified as Benjamin Tolentino Ragonton, 35, was last seen fleeing the area in what appeared to be a van without windows.

An arrest warrant was issued Friday, charging Ragonton with murder with a weapon and robbery with a weapon.

HARRY REID

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In addition to the \$3 million grant from the EPA, the university has provided funding for furnishings, and the museum will raise other funds for the project.

The museum staff is excited about the project, Baepler

said, noting that when the construction and remodeling are complete, the center's research programs will be able to expand. Also, the research center's staff of 60 will be back under one roof.

DRUG TESTS

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The State and University of Nevada have established Employee Assistance Programs to help first-offense employees.

However, Brust said, "I don't suspect that there will be a high positive test rate."

The idea of drug testing does not appeal to President

Robert Maxson.

"My feeling is that unless it is mandatory the university won't be doing any drug testing," he said.

Brust, when asked specifically about UNLV, said, "They are subject (to the program) like any other department."

The Rebel Yell

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