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Valerie Pida remembered

At left: Valerie Pida was a member of the UNLV cheer-leading squad that went to the 1987 Final Four in New Orleans. Below: Flowers decorate the Valerie Pida Memorial Plaque.

UNLV loses a friend

by Thomas Moore and Stephanie Penner

An icy wind blew across Valerie Pida Plaza Tuesday as Las Vegas residents and the campus community mourned the death of the former UNLV cheerleader.

Although the sun was shining all day, the air was cold and the sky was spotted with dark clouds. Flowers left beside the plaque in honor of Pida were taped to the ground so they wouldn't be swept away.

In her day, the sun always shined and Pida held on to life with the same tenacity of the carefully placed flowers. But at 4:20 a.m. Tuesday morning, at the Stanford University Medical Center, 25-year-old Pida lost her 12-year battle against cancer and was swept away.

Despite the fact her family and friends felt the cold reality of the outcome, Pida never gave

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up fighting.

Pida was a UNLV student from the fall of 1985 until the spring of 1991 when she could no longer attend because of her illness.

She was a song-leader, a cheerleader, a member of the Delta Zeta sorority, and a marketing major with what the registrar's office called "a well-above-average academic record."

Pida caught the attention of the nation when her story was told in a television broadcast during the 1987 NCAA Final Four men's basketball tournament in New Orleans.

But Pida's fight against Hodgkin's disease, a rare form of cancer that attacks the lymph system, began long before that

telecast and long before she became a student at UNLV.

Pida had been battling cancer since she was 13.

Longtime friend and cheer-leading coach Laurie Sims has known Pida since middle school and remembers when she was first diagnosed as having cancer. She remembers that Pida never let her illness conquer her hope.

"She was one of the most optimistic persons I've ever known," said Sims. "She never quit. She never gave up. She was a determined person."

Pida's determination helped her in her battle against the disease during which the doctors tried a variety of treatments, most of which were painful and nauseating. Repeatedly, she fought off the disease and repeatedly it returned.

In April 1987 Pida under-

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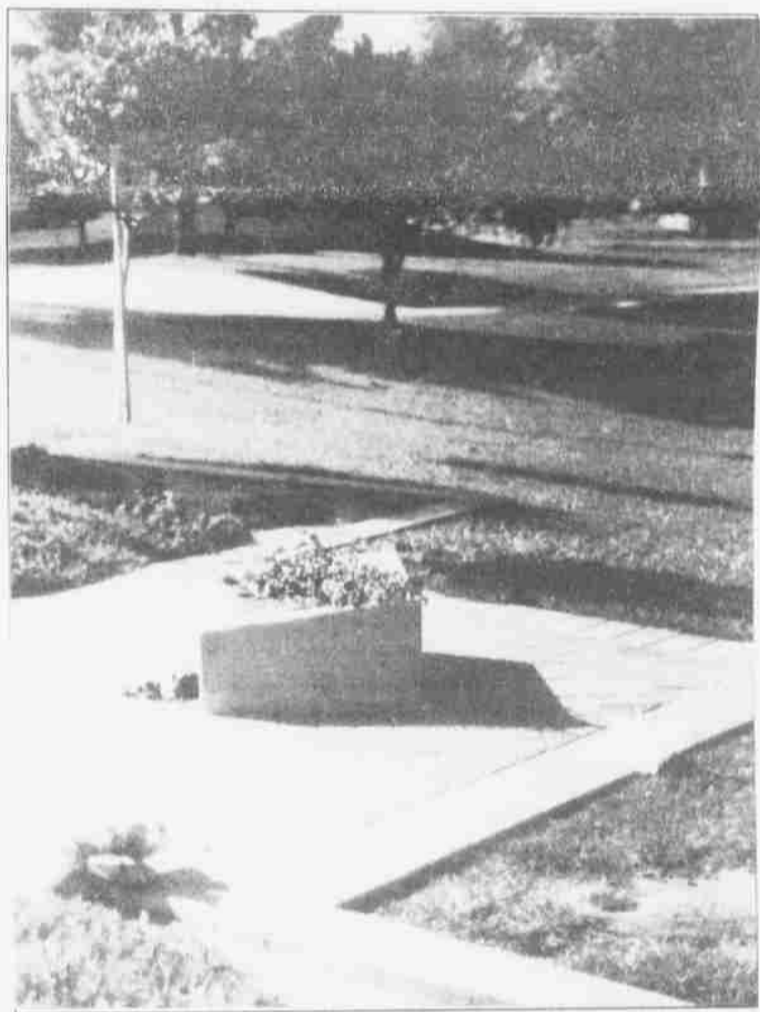


photo by Wray Hallerman

Hollenbeck: 1,200 parking spaces will be lost next semester

by Donna Bates and Teresa Bradley

Parking



If you think parking is an inconvenience now, just wait until next semester.

According to David Hollenbeck, University Police chief, construction for several new buildings will begin in the spring resulting in the loss of five parking lots equalling 1,200 spaces.

Right now, UNLV has 10,700 parking spaces—6,500 of which are located at the Thomas & Mack. Currently, spaces are designated as follows: 1,200 for faculty and staff, 9,150 for students and 350 miscellaneous.

Of the 1,200 spaces, most

will be taken from the T&M. In January, lots H and Q, located off Harmon Avenue and University Road, will be closed. Lot N, located on the same corner, will be designated as staff parking only and a section of general parking, located near lot Q, will be closed for a period of two years while construction is under way.

Hollenbeck said not a single state dollar is spent on parking

and current funding comes from parking citations and registered vehicles on campus.

"It's hard to function in a vacuum," Hollenbeck said. "We need funds and the 70,000 tickets and 23,000 registered parking stickers just isn't enough money."

"I'm not a magician, I can't pull money out of my hat. It's different in Las Vegas, I could run a very efficient system if they would let me put up slots."

A university parking committee met Tuesday to discuss dealing with the loss of spaces.

"We're going to be talking about how to soften the blow of the loss of permanent and tem-

porary parking next semester," said Vincent Eade, the committee chair. "The committee has historically felt that the idea of a fee is one viable solution. It would be a way to maintain parking lots."

Hollenbeck said for the last five years, the parking committee has recommended a parking fee and President Robert Maxson has always turned the recommendation down.

"If we would have initiated a parking fee five years ago, there would already be a parking garage," Hollenbeck said.

"We need satellite parking with shuttles and a parking garage but that is expensive. A

1,000-car garage costs around \$6 million. If we had a parking fee, we could start working on these projects. However, without one, there will be a real problem," Hollenbeck said.

Maxson said he's against a parking fee because he thinks it is impractical.

"You would be paying a fee for a lot for a student to use eight years down the line," Maxson said. "If we keep adding fees to our students, we might be putting education out of reach."

"I hate to charge them a single dollar that isn't necessary."

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