

# FRIEND

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went a bone marrow transplant at California's City of Hope Hospital. The operation was a long-shot and experts only gave her a small chance of beating her cancer. But luck was on her side and a couple of months later Pida returned to her studies and continued cheerleading at UNLV.

It seemed as if Pida had fought off the cancer and in celebration "Valerie Pida Day," Jan. 24, 1988, was declared by then-Mayor Ron Lurie. She was honored as an unsung hero by *Newsweek* magazine in July.

Two years passed without a recurrence, but in 1989 two lumps were discovered in her armpits. Chemotherapy treatments began again which kept her cancer away for a short time.

Pida's leg bones had been deteriorating from numerous radiation treatments and walking had become difficult. Despite the pain, Pida kept cheerleading until she absolutely could not participate. Even then, she stayed involved by teaching the Starlets, a UNLV dance group for young girls.

The day after Christmas of

1991 two lumps were discovered. Five more were found in February 1992. Her last round of treatment began in August 1992 when she went to Stanford medical facility. Although she temporarily seemed to get better, eventually she lost the struggle.

She entered the hospital for the last time on Nov. 2 to receive treatment with an experimental drug.

Many people at UNLV knew Pida and all of them had the same admiration and respect for what they described as Pida's indomitable spirit.

Sorority sisters Shana Hyatt and Kim Kershaw remember her bravery. "She was just very courageous," said Hyatt. "She would probably shoot us all if she knew we were crying and mourning right now."

"She had more courage and strength than anyone I know," said Kershaw.

Sandy Roberts, a former fellow cheerleader of Pida's and the current song-leading coach, echoed Kershaw's sentiments. "I just remember her always smiling. She was the one to perk everyone up when they were

down," said Roberts.

In May 1991, the University dedicated the space in front of the Moyer Student Union as Valerie Pida Plaza in her honor. UNLV President Robert Maxson said the university wanted to honor Pida while she and her family could still participate.

"She was the spirit of UNLV," said Maxson. "I talked to her family (the night before Tuesday), they told me how grim the situation was. Today (Tuesday) is a sad day on this campus. We've lost a wonderful person."

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## PARKING

Hollenbeck said a lot of the frustrations students have when parking would be alleviated if the students would go straight to the T&M. They could save a lot of time by not waiting for someone else to leave.

"We call it the hope-springs-

eternal syndrome," Hollenbeck said.

Hollenbeck said if UNLV had the same parking fees as the University of Nevada, Reno, the shuttle could be run all the time instead of just at night. UNR charges \$40 per year for

students, \$60 for faculty, \$300 for reserved parking and \$10 per day for a one-day parking pass.

Students seem to have mixed opinions about the lots that will be closed.

"I had to struggle to get a spot today, but it seems like there are enough spaces for everybody," said Robert Williams, an

English major. "I don't have to pay, so I'm not complaining."

"Fortunately, I live close enough to walk, but if I had to drive I would be real upset," said Dan Haight, an accounting major.

Hollenbeck gave students some free advice.

"Come early, be patient, don't get aggravated."

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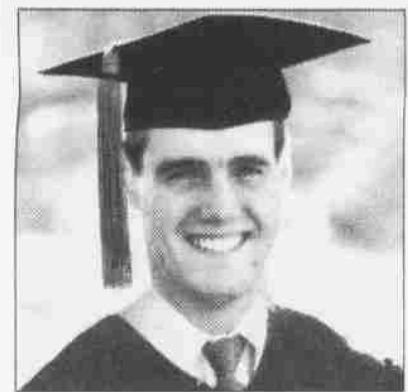
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