

In memory...

November 10, 1992

Dear Students:

For those of you who knew Valerie Pida, there is not much for me to say. To know Valerie was to love her.

For those of you who did not know her, your loss was greater than ours.

Valerie Pida was a ray of sunshine. Her smile could light up the darkest of nights, and her warmth and sincerity made everyone she came in contact with feel special for having met her.

There were never any words from Valerie that were unkind. And though she suffered inside, she never let her pain be shown. Her bravery exceeded that of any man or woman I have ever had the privilege of knowing.

Bravery is not a word that we should ever use lightly. It is a word that should be used sparingly and appropriately. It is one word that I would use in talking about Valerie Pida. She suffered through over a decade of surgeries and intense chemotherapy as a result of the bone marrow cancer that she was inflicted with. One particular day, I was pouring my heart out to Valerie, telling her how difficult and frustrating my day had been. I went on and on, telling my friend how roughly I had been treated and how unfair I felt it was. When I finished complaining, Valerie and I looked at each other, and we broke out into tears, laughing. Taking a step back to see what she went through every single day for half of her life made me realize just how petty and insignificant my problems really were.

That was the Valerie I will always remember. Not only did she go out of her way to hide her pain and discomfort, she would not let anyone else around her suffer in any way. She was a true friend.

I hope that the department of inter-collegiate athletics here on campus will heed my advice and pay due tribute to Valerie Pida by honoring her with a moment of silence at the UNLV—Montana State football game (Nov. 21, 1992), and also by placing Valerie's initials or name on football helmets and basketball jerseys and some type of arm band to display our deeply-felt mourning as a university. The best way to pay tribute to Valerie is to smile when we speak her name and to let all of the fond memories we have of her live within us and help carry us through our most difficult times.

My way to pay tribute is to say, "Valerie, I'll miss you and I'll always love you."

Joel S. Kostman

In Loving Memory of



Valerie Pida



We'll all miss the sunshine
of your smile... With love, from UNLV's
Student Government