



# The Rebel Yell

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## Budget future tied to economic recovery

by Thomas Moore

After several semesters of tight budgets, tuition increases, hiring freezes and general slow-downs in service at UNLV some people have been hoping for a post-election change.

Although change was the buzzword during the election, several political pundits and insiders said that anyone hoping for change in Nevada's state education budget had better not hold their breath.

Unlike the federal election, which was won with a promise

of a re-investment in the economy, the Nevadan state races were run with promises of fiscal responsibility and restraint in regards to new spending.

The insiders say that unless the economy recovers at a phenomenal rate students can expect little more than a restoration of the services and positions cut during the budget crunch.

Jon Ralston, a political columnist for the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* who followed the state Assembly and Senate races, said there are two main realities, political and economic,

facing UNLV in the upcoming legislative session.

Ralston said there is a reluctance on the part of anyone in the state government to spend money for any reason and there is no love lost between the government and UNLV.

"One, there is no money period," said Ralston. "No one going up there (Carson City) is going to want to spend money. It's going to be a status quo budget."

"Two, (Gov. Bob) Miller won't have any great fondness for the university. Once, when

the university was asked to make cuts, it said 'no.' The university lost its greatest asset when Nick Horn died and it's going to be a no frills budget."

UNLV President Robert Maxson was more optimistic although he was careful not to paint too rosy a picture.

"In the first place we're still in a recession," said Maxson. "These are tough economic times."

Maxson made no mention of any animosity on his or the state government's part.

"The legislature has always

been fair to us," Maxson said. "Frankly, I expect this legislature will be fair. The question is, 'how much money?' The answer is, 'I don't know.'"

Maxson said that he has three goals for the next budget, and thinks they will be met, but beyond that he is only cautiously hopeful.

"Number one," Maxson said, "we must have a raise for our faculty and staff." During the last round of budget cuts the Faculty Senate voted to post-

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## Maxson speaks to faculty

by Donna Bates

On Thursday, President Robert Maxson spoke to a faculty forum gathered in the Howard Hughes Engineering Building about his monetary goals for the university for next year. He said the university is still suffering from the economic condition of the state.

Maxson said he would fight for three main budgetary items to be pushed through the legislature in January. He said that to expect any more than that would be unrealistic.

Raises for faculty and staff, restoration of lost positions and \$3 million to plan the new library, are the three things Maxson intends to push for. "Anything beyond that would be almost a bonus," he said.

"Two years without raises for faculty and staff would hurt us badly," Maxson said. "It effects retention of faculty members and it hurts recruitment."

In reference to the 80 faculty positions

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photo by Kimberley McGee

## 'Zoo TV' fans

Nearly 30,000 fans turned out to see U2's 'Zoo TV Outside Broadcast' tour Thursday at the Silver Bowl.

Get the scoop, Thursday in 'Tempest'

## Laser donated to physics professor

by Sabrina Spinali

With a potential environmental Armageddon on the horizon for mother earth due to smog, aerosols, acid rain and earth-damaging chemicals, our very existence is up in the air. An answer to a cleaner environment might be found by physics specialist John Farley through laser technology.

Farley, a physics professor here since 1987, recently re-

ceived a laser donated by Exxon Research and Engineering Co. The laser will be used to study negative molecular ions and cluster ions. The massive machinery is estimated to be worth between \$20,000 and \$30,000.

"The laser was at Exxon Research and Engineering center in New Jersey," Farley said. "They didn't need it anymore. I knew the researcher over there and she (Dr. Lisa Yeh) had decided to give it to me. She want-

ed her work to continue."

Yeh, a University of California graduate, was the first to research molecular ions in depth. Farley met Yeh at a conference on molecular spectroscopy last summer. Yeh knew Farley was interested in cluster ions and arranged for the laser to be given to him.

"There's a reason why no one has researched this," Farley said. "It's hard to study."

His plan is to produce water

cluster ions in the UNLV chemistry lab. Like those that occur naturally in the earth's upper atmosphere, the clusters are composed of a proton surrounded by water molecules. Farley will use the laser to bombard the clusters with photons, breaking them into fragments and revealing information about how they fit together.

"Most molecules are neutral," Farley said. "Some have an imbalance and those are

called molecular ions. They might play an important part of the formation of smog."

"Other types of clusters are used as catalysts, which are frequently used in industry," Farley said. "As we learn more about one type of clusters—in this case water clusters—we will learn something about others. They might help clean up the environment if they (other researchers) can find better catalysts (for the ions)."