

Berkley committed to push for equal funding

by Marilyn Potters

Shelley Berkley said recently that she is committed to improve the quality of programs at UNLV despite a lack of funds. Berkley, who has been re-elected to a 6-year term on the Board of Regents, said she will push to equalize funding for southern Nevada campuses. "We have been under-funded for a long time. UNLV needs to get its base budget back not only to cover what it lost during recent cuts, but to allow for increases in enrollment and inflation," Berkley said. "The amount of money continues to diminish rather than

increase," she said. "We've been forced to educate more and more students for less and less money." Berkley's prescription for the problem is a stable property tax base, so that adequate funding can be ensured for the programs necessary to a decent quality of education. "Fifty-two percent of the state budget goes to education, but that isn't enough," Berkley said. Berkley predicted that by the year 2000, student enrollment will have doubled. She said that by then jobs will be mostly information and communication based, and UNLV should be

gearing its programs toward that future. "We need to be at the forefront of these programs," Berkley said. She is not in favor of enrollment caps and tuition increases, but would consider tuition increases for out-of-state students. She would only favor across-the-board tuition increases if program cuts were proposed. "We do attract federal dollars which go a long way to paying for necessary equipment, heating and cooling," Berkley said. Federal support is based largely on UNLV's research emphasis. But she said it was a

Catch-22. "How can we emphasize research without proper staffing and funding?" she said. Although Berkley is opposed to the nuclear dump project in Nevada she said we should vacuum up every available federal research dollar. "Without on-campus, state-of-the-art research capability, we should be the experts of nuclear waste," she said. The super-computer put UNLV on the map, claimed Berkley and she thinks we should take that project further. When planning for UNLV's future, she emphasizes developing the finest computer science

facility in the United States. Berkley said she would also like to see the Desert Research Institute dissolved as a separate entity and folded into both UNR and UNLV. She claimed that this would enhance the reputation of the state's university system as well as create a separate institution for perhaps a solar research center. Berkley is optimistic despite UNLV's current financial and image problems. "UNLV is a young institution. We have no tradition behind it as yet. Just like any teenager, we are having growing pains. That will self-correct in time," she said.

Recycling on campus


by Donna Bates

Any student with a term paper due knows a university generates a lot of waste paper. When that paper is added to the large amount of other types of garbage an organization of UNLV's size produces, the need for recycling becomes obvious. Silver State Disposal Company has coordinated its efforts with UNLV to establish a university wide recycling program. The program consists of the 74 red recycling bins that are located in prominent positions all over campus, 14 drop bins for aluminum and 2,500 desktop cardboard paper savers that were distributed to all faculty and staff. The idea is for UNLV faculty and staff to save their white paper in the cardboard boxes until the end of the week when they would empty them into the red bins. Silver State empties the bins each Wednesday night. Steve Kalish, the Silver State employee in charge of recycling on campus, said that the program is relatively successful so far because they are receiving two to three tons of paper each week. Kalish said that the program was started through mutual interest and he is hopeful that it will be even more successful. The university was receptive to the idea of recycling because there seems to be more awareness of these types of issues on campus. According to Kalish, much more can be done. "We are just scratching the surface," Kalish said. "There is more paper out there. Our biggest push is to decrease the amount of waste that is going into the landfills." So far, there has been no cost to the university because the sales

of the paper pays for the program. "You always want to make dollars no matter what you do, but too many times people stress economics," Kalish said when asked if Silver State was making a profit from the recycling program. "They get caught up in the dollars and cents and forget about the benefits." Grounds Supervisor Dennis Swartzell said that a waste reduction and planning committee has been trying to implement this program for a long time. "We (the committee) set up the parameters of the program," Swartzell said. "The highest marketable items are, white bond paper, computer paper and aluminum cans." Swartzell said that a profit is being made by Silver State on the program, but not a large one. "They are definitely getting a monetary return on this program but they aren't getting rich overnight," Swartzell said. Students seem to have mixed opinions about the recycling bins. "I think that it is a good idea," said Nicole Mills an education major. "My roommate and I use them all of the time, but I think that they should get plastic bins for water bottles." Pam Ball, also majoring in education, did not share the same enthusiasm. "I think it is a waste of time because people separate the garbage at the dump. That's what they get paid for," she said.


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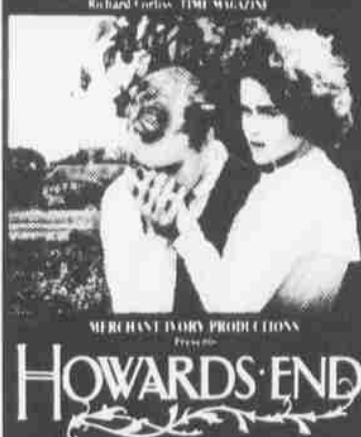
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