

Weekly Police Blotter



Vandalism

Dec. 1—An unknown suspect damaged a car near the Thomas & Mack Center.

Theft & Burglary

Dec. 1—A burglary took place in a trailer on the north side of the T&M.

Dec. 1—Items were taken out of a vehicle parked near Brussels Road.

Dec. 2—Several National Finals Rodeo jackets and shirts were taken from the T&M.

Dec. 2—A cellular telephone was taken from a van parked near the T&M.

Dec. 7—An unknown person took a remote control from a room located in Frank & Estella Beam Hall.

Miscellaneous

Dec. 1—A resident of Tonopah Hall reported receiving annoying phone calls.

Fire!

Dec. 1—A dryer was on fire in the football equipment room located in the McDermott Physical Education Center.

Dec. 5—A smoke detector was set off in residential life north building E. University Police do not have any suspect information.

Dec. 7—An unknown suspect pulled the fire alarm located on the third floor of residential life north building E.

Residence hall will remain open for holiday break

by Shannon Ceresola

After a hectic week of finals most students will go home for the Christmas break, but what about those students who live in the residence halls?

Most students living in the residence halls will go home for the vacation to visit family and friends, but there are a few individuals that need or want to stay in Las Vegas due to work or other personal reasons.

The residence halls will close Dec. 19 at 12 p.m. and will not reopen until Jan. 15 at 9 a.m., according to Terry Piper, director of residential life. One building—building D—will remain open for those who do need to stay during the break.

"One building will be kept

open and nine students are staying at this time," Piper said.

Normally the student must contract the vacation time when they turn in their original contract for residential life. The fee is established on a reduced price plan and pro-rated to compensate for the four-week period. Don't panic; there is time if your plans have changed and you need on-campus housing.

"We will accept applicants who apply now to stay over the break" Piper said. "It is usually not guaranteed that a student will be given a room, but at this time we still have space available."

Older students part of new campus trend

by Marilyn Potter

The presence of the over-35 student has become a dominant feature on campus; and while college offers a challenge to the older student, the older student also offers a challenge to UNLV.

According to analyst Diane Muntal, 17 percent of all UNLV students—over 3,000—are 35 years of age or older.

Muntal, 41, who recently received her master's degree in public administration, has been studying some of the special needs of the non-traditional students. Those who are older are usually juggling tight schedules and are often employed full time in addition to taking classes, she said.

The older student encounters classmates young enough to be their sons and daughters. They are also taught by professors their own ages or younger.

Steve Ghu, 41, works a graveyard shift at the Sands Hotel in room service and said UNLV has been responsive to his particular needs. Although his schedule is crowded, he has been successful in fitting in his classes and homework with his nighttime work.

He is working on a degree in accounting and taking classes in the hotel college to prepare for a career in hotel administration upon graduation in 1994.

He said he sometimes feels awkward around younger students. "But I'm making inroads," he said. "And I think professors see me on a peer level."

"The students have treated me like one of them," said Carolyn Rose, 44, the mother of two daughters, both of whom are also in college. "A couple of students in Speech 101 even knew one of my daughters. I was eagerly

included in student groups."

Rose said she does not resent the fact that many of her professors are younger than her. "The teachers respect me and seem to take me more seriously," she said.

Rose said she has gleaned more benefit from her education at this time in her life than she did when attending college 20 years ago.

"College enhances my self-esteem, and I feel so much more development," Rose said.

Barbara Brents, assistant professor of sociology, said she purposely tries to teach evening classes where there is more opportunity to teach older students.

"They know what the world is about and are more eager to debate ideas," Brents said. "I want to learn from my students, and the older students have something to offer me."

"My style is discussion. I don't like to dictate down knowledge. The older students' application of knowledge is different. They like problem solving and are more willing to take an active part."

Jeri Yaryan, 49, had never been to college. She came to UNLV after a 20-year career in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. She will graduate in December with her B.A. in communication studies.

"I have felt that the professors expect more from me, and that the grading has been more generous to the younger students," Yaryan said, "but the students have been absolutely wonderful. The only negative comes from the young prom queen type who doesn't want to be seen talking to someone who could be her mother."

Yaryan said she had to learn

all over again how to study when she came back to school. "Now students laugh at how efficiently I take notes. But if anyone needs notes, who do they come to?" she said.

Mildred Hinton, 62, also had to learn how to study all over again. She became a widow four years ago, and two years ago she enrolled at UNLV as an accounting major.

"I have tried to study all different ways, and I'm still working on ways to read and retain," she said. "The professors have been cooperative, and the students have adopted me. I'm having myself a good time."

There are two programs at UNLV to help the older student.

As a part of new orientation for all students, the Encore Program is an information session designed for students interested in returning to school. However, this program is not specially designed for the older student.

"We continue to evaluate, and if a need should arise, we would certainly consider a more specialized program," said Theresa Chiang, director of Student Union Activities.

Members of the Women's Center started the Round Table Support Group in September. It meets once a week for re-entry students and its focus includes changing careers, single parents returning to school, interviewing techniques, self-esteem and goal setting. Though the program has attracted mostly women, men are welcome.

Amy Scarlet of the Women's Center said returning students are typically dealing with conflicting responsibilities, and they can come to the group for the support and friendship.

Evaluations 'just go into boxes'

by Tonya Lomeo

At the end of every semester, students are asked to fill out evaluation forms which critique a professor's proficiency and the class' worthiness.

The evaluations are used to assess the professor and the material for future improvement. According to some people involved with the process of these forms, however, they are worthless and may not be taken seriously.

At least one person involved, who has asked to remain anonymous, said neither the dean, the department chair or professors pay attention to them.

That person explained there is formality in processing the evaluations, but afterward, "they just go into the boxes."

The workers also said it wasn't right that the ones who are looking at the evaluations, the dean and the chair, are also professors being evaluated.

Every department in each college has its own method to process the evaluations. In most

cases though, the evaluations are to be used in decisions about merit pay, tenure and promotions.

However, Hans-Hermann Hoppe, an economics professor in the College of Business and Economics, said only 40 percent of a teacher's performance is weighted on student comments, while 60 percent is determined by the dean and the department chair.

He said if a professor receives lousy student evaluations but are well liked by the dean and the chair, it will appear as if that person is a good teacher.

Phil Lowry, the department chair for public administration in the College of Business and Economics, said the forms are used "primarily to reflect teaching competency in the classroom and self improvement."

Lowry said the most attention is usually paid to those evaluations where the student has taken time to write personal comments on the form. He said, "If they took the time to write something about the professor

or the class, they must have a real insight."

Paul Carron, Jr., the executive student worker in the communication studies department, said an instructor's job could depend upon the type of evaluations given.

"The more the students complain, chances are that instructor will be questioned," he said.

Bill Brogan, department chair for electrical and computer engineering, said, in the College of Engineering, the numerical scoring on the evaluations are used to create an average for the professors, which is then used comparatively against other professors. This method of numerical comparison, which serves in much the same manner as a grade-point-average, is also employed by other departments throughout the university.

When being considered for any type of promotion, university professors are evaluated on the basis of public service, teaching and research.

The Rebel Yell

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The Rebel Yell Offices: (702) 739-3478, 3479 and 3878.

Display Advertising: 739-3889.

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