

Health fee pays for student health advocate

BY KEN TOMORY
SPECIAL FOR THE YELL

Students upset about last semester's implementation of the \$20 health fee may be interested in knowing what they will get for their money. Part of what was paid for was the creation of a new position at UNLV, the student health advocate.

Patty Avila, a recent UNLV graduate, was hired for the job and said the advocate has four main goals she must work toward.

"The most important function is to be an advocate for the students," Avila said. "One who will plead their cause, listen to their

suggestions or complaints and act upon their requests in the best interests of the student body."

Avila said that because the student health fee funds her position, her highest priority is to the students and their needs.

The second objective Avila will address is the need to assist newly admitted students in providing their immunization records to the health center. The state mandates that students now must provide proof that they were immunized against certain diseases within the last 10 years before they can be fully admitted.

Avila's third objective will be

to act as a liaison between Blue Cross Blue Shield, (the health insurance company provided for students through school), UNLV's administration, and the students.

Finally Avila is expected to bring UNLV in line with the Public Health Service's national health objectives for the year 2000. Avila will have to set up programs that ensure the university is in agreement with those objectives.

The service has 21 objectives among which are reducing tobacco use, improving nutrition and reducing environmental hazards.

Health Sciences offers new health-physics major

The implementation of a new health-physics degree will prepare students for a future of nuclear energy.

BY MATHEW STRATTON
FOR THE YELL

People fearing a radiation leak from the proposed Yucca Mountain waste repository can relax a little because UNLV will soon graduate people who can deal with the problem.

The college of Health Sciences has introduced health-physics as a new major this semester at UNLV. Students in the program will learn how to promote a better understanding of radiation phenomena and its impact on society.

"We are very excited about the new program," said John Bell, director of health-physics. "The Health Sciences department will offer not only new radiological technology, but new protection technology against radioactive waste."

According to Bell, the demand for qualified health-physics will continue at an accelerated rate because of increasing nuclear energy research.

All classes in the health-physics program will be held in the \$8.7-million Rod Lee Bigelow Sciences building which opened last semester.

Students desiring a behavior of science degree with a major in health-physics must complete 125-129 credit hours in required and elective courses.

Loan program

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basis of community service.

While in college, students will be able to volunteer their time to community service and receive vouchers to use toward their tuition. Students can then pay back the money according to their income level.

Democratic Sen. Richard Bryan said the concept of the service fund is exciting and there will be options for students to consider.

"I have three children and, although we could afford to put them through college, I have seen many students come out with a very heavy debt load," Bryan said.

Seven years ago the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC), a group of 750 Democrats from all 50 states was formed. Clinton has worked closely with the council which was meant to challenge America's political orthodoxies and redefine the Democratic Party.

According to the DLC, during the late 80's, students' debt rose sharply, loan default rates skyrocketed and Washington spent \$5 billion a year to guarantee \$12 billion worth of student loans.

The council believes Clinton's proposal of national service vouchers would offer significantly more aid, \$10,000 for each year of service, compared to an average annual Pell Grant award of \$2,400.

Nonetheless, there are people

who do not choose college. Clinton's plan would allow these people to use their vouchers for other purposes such as paying for vocational education or job training, or for a down payment on a first home.

There are, however, conservative critics who describe national service as a costly boondoggle that will contribute to the layers of government bureaucracy, adding an additional burden to taxpayers.

But according to Clinton, the value of services delivered by volunteers outweighs the cost of the program by tackling our social dilemmas.

Some liberals and education lobbyists have criticized the link of student aid to service obligations because this discriminates against poor and minority Americans who have no alternative means to pay for college. In effect, the poorer students could not afford to pay back the loans and would have no choice but to serve.

Bryan said this argument overlooks several realities.

"Median incomes have become stagnant since the early 70's, and college tuitions have risen faster than inflation," Bryan said. "Many middle-class families also need financial help," Bryan said.

Clinton's plan is also meant to open avenues that don't exist for youth not headed to college, a group which includes, according to the U.S. Bureau of Census report, 78 percent of blacks and 82 percent of Hispanics ages 18-24.

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and needs regulation," Wilson said.

"The economy is Clinton's most immediate challenge because he wants to assure his own re-election," said John Young, a political science lecturer. "In order to do that he must act in his own self interest and that means taking care of the economy first."

Young also went on to say that in his opinion race is the second most pressing issue Clinton must act upon.

There is one thing that most people do agree upon when it comes to what Clinton must do in the next four years. No one issue is most important. Health care, the economy and foreign policy all must be addressed. The question now becomes where should Clinton roll up his sleeves and begin to dig in?

Bryan said recipients of taxpayers' dollars should earn their money, especially when it is being used to increase the lifetime earnings of its recipients.

CAT attempts to serve student transportation

BY MERILYN POTTERS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

UNLV has been identified as a major destination point of Las Vegas' first publicly owned bus transportation system.

Citizens Area Transit (CAT) began service Dec. 5, and its first routes include stop points close to UNLV as well as connection points to the greater CAT system, said Transit Marketing Manager Stan Wilkerson.

"The campus is surrounded with bus stops," Wilkerson said. Pick-up points are located at Harmon Avenue and Maryland Parkway, Tropicana Avenue and Maryland Parkway, and Flamingo Road and Maryland Parkway. All bus stops are identified by signs.

Wilkerson encourages students to purchase a monthly pass for \$20, which offers unlimited rides to and from campus or any ride throughout the system. One-way tickets cost \$1 and include transfer if necessary.

Wilkerson said CAT is designed to be user-friendly and efficient and described how students can find their way around the system.

"First, call CAT customer service at CAT RIDE (228-7433). Let the representative know when and where you wish to go," Wilkerson said. "Give us your daily route—when you need to be at school, job, errands, or the

gym.

"The representative will look at the CAT schedule and plot out your complete bus route, including stop locations and times."

CAT currently serves 19,800 passengers per day and operates throughout Las Vegas, but the system does not reach The Lakes, Sun City, Summerlin or the Green Valley areas.

In light of the new campus parking changes, the Regional Transportation Commission which oversees CAT is planning meetings with university officials.

"We will explore the idea of making public transportation more convenient and affordable to students," Wilkerson said. "For example, we are considering a park and ride program which would establish parking facilities at points in the community where students could park and get bus service into the university area."

CAT is brand new, and there are still kinks, Wilkerson said. "Timing is crucial, and our goal is a maximum half-hour wait, which we should see happen between 45 and 60 days [from now]."

A monthly pass can be purchased at the CAT Customer Service Center, Downtown Transportation Center, 300 N. Casino Center Blvd. or by mail by writing CAT Passes, 301 E. Clark Ave., Suite 300, Las Vegas, Nev., 89101.

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