

## Weekly Police Blotter

### Theft

Jan. 24 A bicycle was taken from the bike rack near the residence halls. There are no suspects.

Jan. 25 A calculator was taken from the James R. Dickinson Library.

Jan. 27 A victim said a credit card and a personal stereo was taken from the library but had no idea who the suspect was.

Jan. 27 A wallet containing a driver's licence and some money was taken from the library. The wallet was recovered minus the money.

### Sexual offences

Jan. 25 An unknown subject was reported as exposing himself on the third floor of the library.

### Other

Jan. 25 Around 7 a.m. a student was using the showers in the Paul C. McDermott Physical Education Center when a fully dressed male walked in. He said that he thought it was the men's shower but when he was asked to leave he left very slowly.

### Battery

Jan. 24 A fight broke out between some inhabitants of residence halls D and E. One suspect was cut near the eye, another was cited for battery and a third was arrested for being a minor in consumption of alcohol and a false ID.

Jan. 26 A victim used the call box on the north side of the Thomas Beam Engineering building and said someone had kicked him and threatened to shoot him over a dispute about parking.

### Narcotics

Jan. 27 A suspect was found in the area of the trailers beside the William D. Carlson Education building. He had some burglary tools and a controlled substance. He was taken to the Clark County Detention Center.

# Young debate team seeks to build on program's growing reputation

## Forensics department goes after recognition on campus. Possibilities exist for major debate tournaments on campus.

BY CHED WHITNEY  
EDITOR

When people hear of the Forensics department their first thought is invariably of the pathologist in the '70s TV show "Quincy," said Barbara Pickering, UNLV's director of Forensics.

But the second listed definition of forensics in Webster's is: "an argumentative exercise"—debate.

In her second year as director of Forensics, Pickering has a number of goals. Foremost among them is recognition for the debate team.

"A lot of people on campus don't know about the Forensics department," Pickering said.

Pickering says most debate team members come from beginning public speaking classes.

In an effort to spur recruiting, brochures have been sent to high school students, particularly

those who participated in forensics.

Pickering says the debate program is pursuing students in California, New Mexico, Utah and Arizona, as well as Las Vegas. "We're targeting high school students in those areas not hit as hard by budget (constraints)."

In rankings released by the American Forensics Association, UNLV's 1991-92 debate team was ranked as high as 39th nationally. Pickering said schools such as Iowa, Michigan and Wake Forest are perennial powers in debate.

"This year our team is a lot less experienced," Pickering said. "We're not as competitive."

Despite its inexperience, this year's team has seen success:

- Cynthia Salinas, a senior communication studies major, had three first-place finishes during the fall semester. Salinas traveled to Rice University in Houston Saturday for the Super Bowl Swing tournament where she was a finalist in communication analysis.

- At the University of North Texas Tournament, the junior debate team of Uri Clinton and John Palermo advanced to the semifinals.

- Gerri Lynn Hardcastle won two awards at the Arizona Swing Tournament, held at Glendale (Ariz.) Community College and Arizona State University.

UNLV hosts its own debate tournament Feb. 27 - March 1. According to Pickering, Las Vegas is a popular choice as a tournament site.

There have been requests to hold national debate tournaments in Las Vegas, Pickering said. "That's certainly an indication that people are excited about the program here."

Pickering said the debate team is made up of in large part of communication students. She said pre-law students majoring in business and political science are attracted to debate, as well.

"Law schools love to have people with Forensics backgrounds," Pickering said. "It gives people an edge."

David Cherry, a junior communication studies major, says he became interested after taking a debate class.

"The Intro to Debate class piqued my interest," said Cherry, who is in his first semester on the team. "I wanted to pursue it in a practical way. Being part of the team is the way to do it."

## Fast food

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Dilemmas like these weren't the first between university representatives and fast-food outlets. Some students may remember buying Pizza Hut pizzas at MSU a few years ago, before complications prompted the MSU Board to go with ARA's pizza instead.

"Pizza Hut would charge us a commission on every pizza sold," said Chiang, "essentially, jack up the prices for students. Also, they would only sell the little pan pizzas and would not allow pizza to be delivered across cam-

pus."

Despite past trouble in this area, there are plans to sell Burger King products on campus next year. Ackerman said the university is currently negotiating to put a semi-permanent trailer between Artemus Ham Concert Hall and the Carlson Education building to serve students on the other side of campus.

Even if the Burger King project does not happen, the university remains open-minded on this issue. "There has never been any hesitation on our part to begin a dialogue with these providers," said Chiang. "We are always open (to this idea)."

## Budget

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line with its income.

However, Coffin said that because the economy shows signs of improving, those projections could be reworked.

"As spring comes and we see the economy improving then we can do what we should do," Coffin said.

Coffin said the legislative session should come to a close around late June or early July and a decision about the budget will probably come in May.

Coffin cautioned that any change in the projections will affect the entire budget, and most likely be a relatively small amount.

Titus, on the other hand, was pessimistic about any increase in the budget.

"I think Bob is being overly optimistic," Titus said. "They are tight and cautious because the last time it (the budget) was way

off. I'm not really optimistic about any real changes."

Titus pointed out that revenues rely on sales and gaming taxes and that the gaming industry was downsizing its projected revenues.

Titus also said that while some people may be looking at the proposed reorganization of state government and an early release program for state prisoners to save money despite the fact that those programs may not work out.

She said that higher education's only hope is that the state will enact triggers. Triggers are budget mechanisms that promise designated areas of the state money if state revenues rise beyond a certain point.

Triggers are illegal at the moment but Titus said that this could change.

"They are illegal," Titus said, "but the governor said he is not opposed. If the economy improves the legislature could legalize them again."

Titus also said that the Miller promised any extra money to the university system.

This contrasted with Regent Shelley Berkley's assessment of the budget situation. Berkley recently told the UNLV Faculty Senate that the Miller had given her the extra-money promise as well but when she listened to Miller's State of the State speech she heard no mention of it.

Titus replied by saying that while he may not want to announce it publicly, Miller privately supports the idea.

"I do know that the Governor said if any extra money became available, it would go to higher education. Privately, I think that's where his sympathy lies."

It would be difficult to ascertain that from his budget in which the university system was asked to cut even more from its budget. Given the number of other programs that also face lean times, any extra money could be strongly fought over.

## Service

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workers are used to fill the gap.

As a whole, the program employs about 29 workers each month. If the university was to hire its own employees it would pay an hourly rate of \$7.50 per hour.

According to McKoy, the savings are tremendous.

The replacement workers benefit from the plan because it is an alternative to a prison term or fine. The program allows them to work off their fines at a rate of \$5 per hour.

According to Joni Billich, a CAS agent for HELP of Southern Nevada, the majority of the workers have an income level of below \$3,000 a year.

They are usually single, white males, approximately 30-39 years of age. Forty-two percent have not graduated from high school or received a GED and 51 percent are unemployed.

Although some people may be frightened by the idea of DUI offenders working near them, Archibald said there are few problems.

"We had a problem with a skin head who was too opinionated, and a problem with a worker who forgot his medication, it just so happened that he was a manic-depressive," said Archibald.

Another incident occurred last December at White Hall. There was a group of suspicious men dressed like custodians casually strolling the building like they belonged there.

The administrators and secre-


taries thought they were community service workers. Little did they know, the people were participants in a burglary ring.

The police were called and the fake custodians jobs were terminated, without a two-week notice.

Since then Archibald has started distributing a monthly name sheet to each department listing the employees working in each department and implemented a photo identification and smock program.

According to McKoy the university does not employ people who are drug or sexual offenders.

Currently the custodial department is short 20 employees including people who call in sick.



## The Rebel Yell

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