

T&M box seats increase in value

BY CYNTHIA SALINAS
STAFF WRITER

The growth in Las Vegas has increased the value of the Thomas & Mack Center much to the dismay of many of the box holders.

Box seats now range in price from \$45,000 to \$75,000. Previously the most expensive boxes were \$33,000.

Robert Anderson, assistant director for the T&M, said the diversity of events hosted in the arena is a major reason for the increase.

"We are the busiest college arena in the nation. No other college arena hosts the type of events we do," Anderson said. "We have added a lot over the past 10 years such as the NFR (National Finals Rodeo), boxing exhibitions, Disney shows and we are close to finishing a negotiation that will bring the IHL

(International Hockey League)." Box seats are a valuable commodity to those that lease them.

"During the NFR, some box holders were leasing their seats for as much as \$20,000 for one week," Anderson said. "Of the major events, the people who lease the box seats can sub-lease them. What we (T&M) made per year they were making in one week. We looked at the market value of the seats when we decided on the rates."

Approximately 18 box holders say they already pay enough for the seats and have sought the help of attorney Chris Kaempfer to negotiate a better deal.

"Many of the people who have been leasing the seats for the last 10 years may feel we are selling out to the highest bidder," Anderson said. "What it amounts to is: our job is to try to get the best price."

Many box holders may not re-

alize the demand for the boxes.

"The reality is the boxes are much more valuable to a big corporation than to the small businessman," said Anderson. "For example, when big companies like Coca-Cola need to bring in important clients they will pay whatever it takes to get the seats. We're going to go for the Coca-Colas in order to make the most money."

Even though the highest bidder is what the T&M is seeking out, they do not want to lose the people that have been leasing the boxes.

"Say they sub-lease their box for \$5,000 for a (boxing match), if we host three or four fights they can make back some of their money," said Anderson. "We willingly help them find the people that want to sub-lease the boxes."

Legislation may enable University Police to work with Metro

Recent incidents exemplify the need for University Police to coordinate with Metro, chief says.

BY CYNTHIA SALINAS
STAFF WRITER

University Police may soon have the power to work with Las Vegas Metropolitan Police to fight crime thanks to a bill currently in the Nevada Legislature.

Nevada Revised Statute 396.325, says a university's police department and the local police department can provide one another with mutual aid "in counties of less than 400,000 inhabitants. Because Clark County has more than 400,000 people, University Police are limited by the statute."

"The situation we are in right now is that UNLV is the only (university in Nevada) that cannot merge with local police," said University Police Chief David Hollenbeck. "UNR (police) has been able to work with their local police since the bill was first enacted in 1991."

Because Hollenbeck felt so strongly about the issue, he approached Dina Titus, State Senate minority floor leader, about changing the law. Senate Bill 16, which would allow University Police to work in conjunction with Metro, was introduced to the

state Legislature.

"So far the new bill has been passed by the Senate. Now it has to go to the assembly," Hollenbeck said. "I plan to go speak in front of the assembly on behalf of the bill."

Hollenbeck said there are liability elements involved.

"Right now, when an officer witnesses a violent crime they have to decide what they can do," Hollenbeck said. "For example, two of our officers were having some coffee at Jo Jo's when they saw a guy being chased out of the Marrakech restaurant. The man who was chasing him had a butcher knife.

Our officers interceded and prevented someone from being stabbed to death. Under the way the law reads they (University Police) didn't have the authority to do that. Should they have let the guy get stabbed to death because of the way the statute reads? I don't think protection should be limited."

The limitation of the statute has prevented University Police from assisting Metro in a crisis situation.

"A couple of years ago when

the Hard Rock Cafe opened there was a riot. Metro wanted University Police to help," Hollenbeck said. "Under the current statute we couldn't. We would have been acting as private citizens and would not have had legal protection if something were to go wrong."

Another problem with the current statute is the lack of protection if an officer were to get hurt.

"Say an officer got hurt. The SIIS (State Industrial Insurance System) could say the officer was acting as a private citizen and the officer would not receive compensation," Hollenbeck said. "The new bill will prevent that from happening."


"This doesn't give University Police any more power than they already have. It just allows us to enter into a local agreement with Metro."

Even though University Police will be able to work with Metro in special agreements, Senate Bill 16 will not allow University Police to patrol the entire city.

"The main objective for our officers is to protect the university," said Detective Sgt. Lonnie Barrett. "This (Senate Bill 16) is a tool to allow our officers to do their job more effectively."

"The situation we are in right now is that UNLV is the only school (university in Nevada) that cannot merge with local police."

David Hollenbeck, director of Public Safety



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Seminar teaches self defense

Alcohol increases chances of sexual assault a University Police official says.

BY CAROLYN ROSE
STAFF WRITER

Alcohol and a lack of communication are the two main causes of acquaintance and date rape, said University Police Sgt. Rochelle Sax, guest speaker at a self-defense seminar Thursday night.

The seminar, held in the Dining Commons, drew an audience of 80, most of whom were women.

Sax, who has been with University Police for 11 years, said the three elements of crime are desire, ability and opportunity. "We can't do anything about the first two, but we can take away the criminal's opportunity by being aware and using safety tips," Sax said.

Referring to the use of alcohol, Sax said, "When you're drinking your gut instincts go away. There has to be more communication and less alcohol."

There were three sexual assault reports made at UNLV last year, and none went court, according to Sax.

Sexual assault crimes can happen among college students who are away from home for the first time and partying and drinking more, Sax said.

"It's more likely someone will report stranger rape than acquaintance rape," Sax told participants. She said males are also victims of sexual assault as a result of low communication.

"No guy wants to be accused of something he didn't do. That's why there has to be communication," she said.

Because the UNLV campus is compact and well lighted, with no wooded areas, it is a safe area when compared to the city of Las Vegas, Sax said.

"Our small radius makes it easier to protect," she said. "These programs help by raising awareness."

Dark hours are more dangerous than times of daylight, and summer is more dangerous than winter because more people are outdoors in better weather, Sax said.

"You have to be aware; you have to be your own protector," she said.

Seminar participants learned more about self protection from six students of Allen Sarac's Karate Center who demonstrated Korean and Okinawan martial arts techniques.

Paul Mielcarek, director of the karate team, said with the proper training, people can defend themselves against most attacks. After a team demonstration, several women volunteers participated in learning self-protection movements.

Mielcarek said sensitive areas of the body, which should be targeted during an attack include the chin, bridge of the nose, throat, underarm lymph nodes and the floating rib area just above the waist.

Jay Jay Held, student body vice president, organized the seminar. "One of my goals was to do something for safety on the campus," she said.


UNLV Residence Hall President Ed Marshall, who assisted with setting up the seminar, said he believes campus safety needs attention and was pleased with the turnout.

"It's really important to educate this many people," he said. "If anyone is helped here tonight, it was all worth it."

Angela Sims, a junior majoring in criminal justice, was an audience member who participated in the practice session. She lives in an apartment across Maryland Parkway, and said the area around the Alta Ham Fine Arts building should have better lighting.

"I have a night class, and I walk home. They need more lights," she said.

LaToi Stokes, a sophomore majoring in psychology, lives in Rodman Hall and also took part in the karate demonstration. "I feel that I am going to practice this. It gives me more confidence."




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