

Donation

from page 1

"The landlord for the first lease I signed (for my business) said 'take this to your husband and have him sign it.'"

Nidetch was also the recipient of a proclamation, by Las Vegas Mayor Jan Jones, who named April 21, the actual date of the gift as Jean Nidetch Day.

UNLV President Robert Maxson was at the conference and spoke of the need for the Women's Center.

"In a perfect world we wouldn't need a Women's Center," Maxson said and added that the problems of harassment and the glass ceiling have made life difficult for women. "I think that there was a time when women would wake up and see no light at the end of the tunnel. The women's center will help provide the light."

Pell Grant changes hit students in worst way

Over 1 million students face cuts in their grants, official says.

BY ERIN HIMES
STAFF WRITER



of students who receive Pell Grant awards will lose them entirely or have the grants cut by more than \$100, Belanger said.

"It's a disaster," Ross said. "Students who used to get the Pell

Grants are finding the grants reduced drastically or cut out entirely—and these are the students you want to get the grants. These are the poorest of the poor."

The Pell Grant program was designed to help financially needy undergraduate students meet the costs of their education by providing them with direct financial assistance. The awards are calculated using a formula that determines how much income students and their families can afford to contribute to education.

The grant cuts are rooted in a bill that was signed into law by President Bush in July 1992. About every five years, the Higher Education Act of 1965 is reviewed and amended. In 1992 the amendments targeted, among other things, the defini-

tion of dependency and the old needs-analysis system.

Belanger said the new amendments make it harder for a student to be classified as an independent thus making it more difficult for a student to receive money.

Nationwide, the effect of the new laws is expected to be dramatic, Ross said.

Of the approximately 4.5 million college students who are expected to receive Pell Grants in the 1993-94 academic year, about 25 percent will be classified as single independents and about 13 percent will be classified as dependent students who work.

A report released by the Congressional Budget Office estimates that 300,000 students who were once considered independents because they earned more than \$4,000 will now be reclassified as dependents. Many of those students will lose their Pell Grant awards or have them reduced.

A UNLV student talked of her situation:

"I make \$9,000 a year. Under the old system I received \$1,611 per year. But under the new system, my Pell Grant award will be a mere \$400 for the 1993-94

academic year.

"Oh, sure, I could go and borrow more money and go further into debt or I could stop going to school."

According to Ross, "the poor students, the minorities—they've gotten screwed by our society all along and now they're getting shafted again."

At the time of the cuts, Education Secretary Richard Riley admitted that "the Pell Grant system is in very bad shape economically" and asked Congress for \$2 billion as part of President Bill Clinton's economic stimulus package, so the program could continue operating at its current level.

"This is a means for the government to protect their dollars and it's a shame the students have to suffer," Belanger said.

Miffed

from page 1

for their lobbying efforts in Carson City.

Sen. Arron Rosenthal, engineering, said, "All of us can tell you they do go up there and they do lobby. They know the senators. UNLV's Student Government goes up there and no other Student Government does."

In other Senate action the legislators passed a resolution calling on the administration to add lighting in some parking lots around campus, improve lighting in others, increase directional signage, and upgrade the surfaces of the lots. The lack of emergency call boxes around the campus was also addressed in the resolution.

Sen. David Turner, Student Development, asked for support of the resolution.

"I've had several students who said they don't feel safe," Turner said. "When they (the administration) made these lots, did they think about lighting? Obviously not... I think it's about time we stood up as student leaders and say we're tired of this."

The resolution passed with 14 in favor, none opposed and one abstention.

Sen. Jamie Nalder, hotel administration, did not give any names but accused some members of the Senate of hypocrisy.

Nalder was reprimanded by the Senate for throwing a cup full of beer at a football player last year. According to Nalder some of the same people that criticized her for her actions were drinking at a reception before a Senate meeting earlier and as a result they were drunk at the Senate meeting.

"When you are going to come out and be holier than thou you had better be sure you live up to your standards," Nalder said.

Hearings

from page 1

members is to wonder "Why do we have to study the problem again?"

The committee recently sent an 11-page survey to ethnic minority students, faculty and staff in an effort to assess minority needs. The survey asks respondents to evaluate their perceptions of the campus, interaction with faculty, the curriculum, student life and campus life. Surveys are to be returned to UNLV by April 23.

In assessing the mood on campus during the days before the April 17 verdicts in Los Angeles, Ackerman called the "All of Us Together" campaign "very helpful." He said he sensed "a spirit of coming together."

"The question now is 'Can we build on that?'" said Ackerman.

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