

# Human-powered vehicles race through campus

BY CYNTHIA SALINAS  
STAFF WRITER

The American Society of Mechanical Engineering held its annual human powered vehicle race this past weekend on the UNLV campus.

"First I want to clarify we have nothing to do with Earth Day," said Keith Degner, president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. "We were doing this before Earth Day. Our

event is based mechanical engineering."

There were three categories that the entries were judged in: design, sprints, and a road race. Contestants competed in tandem, single, and practical events.

Northern Arizona University took home the trophy in the tandem category. The winner of the single rider competition, the largest event, was the University of California, Davis. The win-

ner of the practical event, an event not based on speed, was American River College.

There were 28 schools who participated in the competition.

"We mailed out invitations for the events to every school west of the Mississippi with an accredited mechanical engineering program," Degner said.

In addition to the human powered vehicle contest UNLV's ASME also sponsored five seminars concerning aspects of me-

chanical engineering.

"No other school has attempted hosting a competition and all the seminars," Degner said. "A lot of the judges said this was the smoothest competition they had been involved in. A layout of all our courses was requested to give guidelines to other schools that will be sponsoring the competition in the future."

Overall, UNLV finished fourth in the road race competition and 24th in the single-rider event.

The students from UNLV that participated in the event do not receive credit for their work and have to pay for their vehicles out their own pockets until they can be reimbursed from the money made by sponsoring a competition.

The students who designed the winning vehicles for UNLV are Degner, Bob Degutes, Mark Jones and Yao Lie.

## Derby

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during his absence.

"To raise this proposal, circumventing the informed participation of the UNR leadership, without notice to four regents with reservations regarding the issue, in a session which included all the presidents and Mark (Dawson), was the kind of less-than-forthright, end-run way of doing business that has characterized this system too often for as long as I have been a member," Derby said. "I chose not to challenge this action and the deceptive method by which it was accomplished, because I do not wish to embarrass Mark Dawson."

Derby makes the point in her memo very clear; when a minority point of view has been shut out, subdued or silenced, in whatever way, there can be little consensus as to the outcome. In a democratic process, persuasion is the proper means to decision-making through discussion and debate, not manipulations that circumvent and subdue fair process she said.

Derby said in the letter that she will denounce deceptive and unprincipled behavior publicly, regardless of the issue, should it again occur.

Regent Daniel Klaich said Derby was very open and honest about her feelings and that the letter came as no surprise.

"Derby is very much above the board, she speaks her mind on issues that matter to her," Klaich said.

Regent June Whitley who did not receive a copy of the letter said it was unfortunate that a fellow regent had to voice her feelings in a letter and that it was very unbecoming and unprofessional.

"If she had a problem with any of the board members then she should have approached them one-on-one," Whitley said.

Derby said there is a moral vacuum in governance behavior and a failure of leadership occurring in our system as well as a failure to demand honorable and ethical standards of conduct.

"I consider (the board) morally flawed and an ethical embarrassment," Derby said.

In a recent *Rebel Yell* article, Klaich he stated that one of his main objectives if he was to become the chancellor would be the promotion of team work within the board of regents.

Derby said, "What team? These people need to look into the mirror, rather than pointing their fingers of blame at colleagues whose rights to full participation have been abridged."



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