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THE REBEL YELL



Omar Love: Hang tough
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Free

Faculty under fire

Former architecture professor crusades against department

BY GREGORY QUINN
NEWS EDITOR

The following is part one of a two-part article examining the charges leveled against the department of architecture.

Legal wrangling and red tape have cast a dark cloud over the future of UNLV's architecture program.

At issue is the need for accreditation. Planning began last year for a new building that would house the program and meet at least one of the requirements for accreditation.

Plans ran amuck though, when the State Ethics Commission questioned the eligibility of designers Ray Lucchesi and Steve Carr, the winners of UNLV's design competition. The case ended up in court, halting construction of the architecture building and leaving the program in limbo.

What followed was an exodus from the program of both graduate students and part-time faculty members.

And now, a former professor has come forward with several stern accusations aimed at the architecture program.

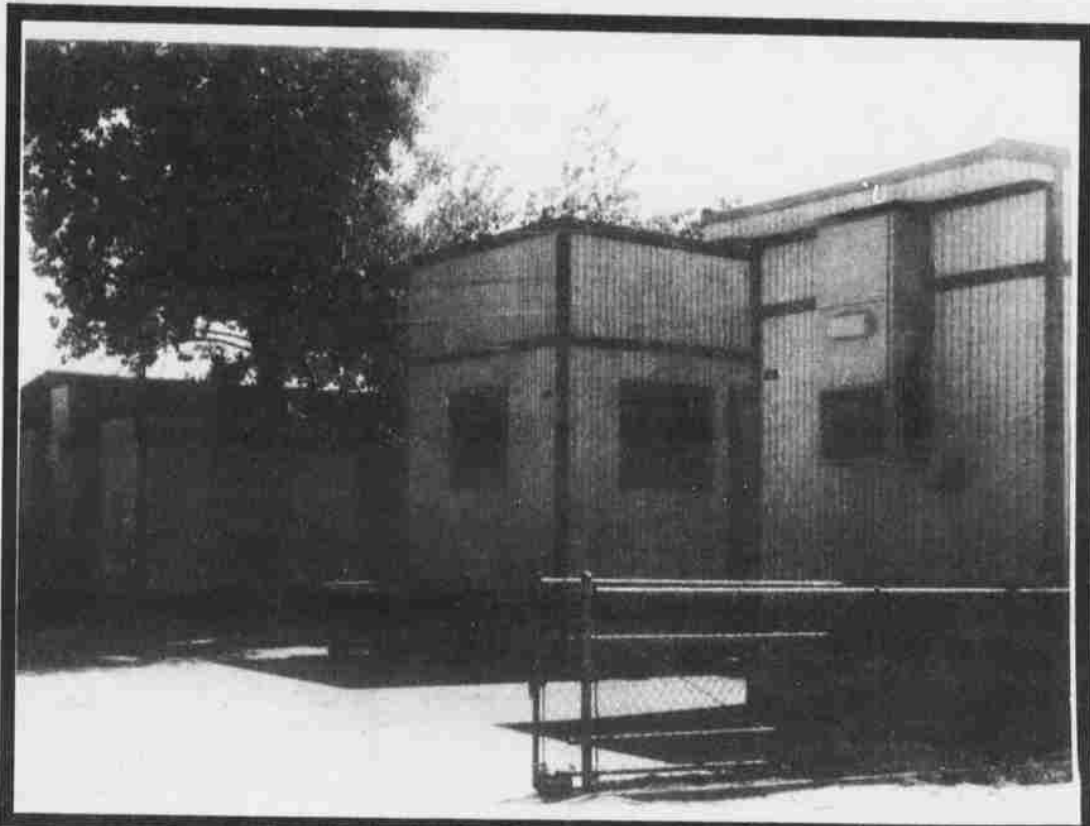
Vefik Soyeren, a visiting professor who taught at UNLV from 1990-92, has been waging a one-man crusade against the architecture department. Armed with documentation, he has taken his case to the local press. Last summer, *Casino News* published a number of his allegations. Also, the *Las Vegas Sun* claims to be looking into the case.

Among his accusations:

—Most of the department's professors are unqualified to teach and are overpaid for their work.

—Many of the UNLV teachers listed in the 1990-'91 annual directory of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) were never seen on campus. Two such professors are Orhan Ozguner and Jean-Louis Nouvian.

—The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) has withheld accreditation from UNLV because of a lack of proper faculty and student participation, not because of a lack of proper space, as was reported previ-



These bungalows along Brussels Road have been used as "temporary" classrooms for architecture students.

STEVE HOBBS/REBEL YELL

ously. Soyeren also believes the architecture program is using false advertising to lure unsuspecting foreign students to the program.

When contacted, the response from several UNLV architecture students who read the charges ranged from surprise to disappointment.

"When I read this (*Casino News*) article I was very surprised," said Philippe

Hurier, a first year graduate student from France, who has been in the program for one week.

He said from what little he has seen, the program hasn't reflected the reported disarray.

"(The professors here) seem to be good," he said. "For the time being I can't say more because it's very new for me, too short to say something."

Oscar Sanders, a graduate student and president of

UNLV's chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students, objected to all of Soyeren's remarks.

"I would have to say that this is one of the best schools in the nation as far as trying to update this program to match the technical (advances) in the workplace now. I'm very happy with the program," he said.

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Alumni Amphitheater not on track

BY HEATHER SUBRAN
STAFF WRITER

The completion of the Alumni Amphitheater will be further delayed. According to Fred Albrecht, the executive director of the Alumni Association, there have been problems in the construction of the amphitheater.

As a result, certain plans for the structure will be changed. Special events will no longer be etched into the stairwells because of the threat of erosion. This will also exclude the inscription of historical dates.

Colored concrete that was to be used instead of such etchings also poses a problem; it can only be purchased in Los Angeles, Calif. The only pump available to pump the cement is being used in the construction of the Luxor Hotel and Casino. The increased labor also needed to acid wash and stain the stairs has lengthened the completion.

Albrecht states that beauty and efficiency are the main priorities. A bulletin board will feature up and coming events. Equipped with 200 amps of power from the Flora Dungan Humani-

ties building, the amphitheater will finally be completed by the end of September.

The opening ceremony will

take place on October 22, 1993. The first event planned for the amphitheater coincides with homecoming festivities.



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The Alumni Amphitheater is set for completion by the end of September.