

Architecture students discontented, caught in crossfire program

BY GREGORY QUINN
NEWS EDITOR

Part two of a two-part article detailing conflict in the architecture department.

Vefik Soyeren, a former visiting professor in architecture, has spoken out against the UNLV architecture department, claiming that many of its instructors were "dishonest" and "lazy."

"They (Department Chair Hugh Burgess and assistant professor Richard Beckman) are not looking for an architect," Soyeren said. "I understood the situation after two or three weeks working with these people. I could feel there was something wrong here."

Soyeren claimed Burgess was hiring his personal friends and that few of the professors were qualified to teach architecture.

When contacted, Burgess called the accusations "absurd." He said (all) Soyeren's information regarding the so-called "inept" faculty was "erroneous," and that Soyeren was "very misinformed."

"He's being malicious and bitter," Burgess said.

According to Burgess, the teaching contract for Soyeren was to last only one year, 1990-91. Orhan Ozguner, an architect

from Turkey, was scheduled to replace Soyeren. But when Ozguner had to fulfill an overseas commission, he turned down the offer to teach at UNLV and Soyeren's contract was extended another year.

Soyeren's second year, according to Burgess, was a disappointment.

"Students were not happy with him," Burgess said. "I noticed a lack of participation and a high rate of absenteeism on his part. Work with his students deteriorated and he didn't get along with his colleagues."

Pam Littleton, a graduate student who has been with the program since its inception in 1987, had a class with Soyeren for an entire year. "I don't want to slander (Soyeren) like he's slandering others," she said. "I'm (was) very disappointed, I'll say that. And he knows."

Some feel that it's a case of sour grapes on the part of Soyeren. "(Soyeren) clearly understood his second year would be his last," Burgess said. "He wanted to continue, but students were not happy."

Soyeren's term at UNLV was not without its highlights. In his first year, one of his students finished third in a national design competition, against such schools as Yale and UC Berkeley.

When asked about his current job status, Soyeren said,

"I'm teaching at another university," a school in the California system. "I'll not mention the name. I'm not jobless. I commute to out-of-state."

Soyeren vowed to continue the fight for the good of the UNLV program, which, he claims, "is getting international shame."

"It's such a mess," he said. "(Burgess) will continue until somebody stops him. Trouble with this is it becomes a habit after some time."

The students in the architecture program are caught between all the quarreling.

Littleton believed she summed up the feelings of many students when she criticized the university and the professionals within the program.

"I just feel like there's no support," she said. "The students were very frustrated when the accreditation process came to a standstill because of the legal battles stemming from the (design) competition."

As for students leaving the program for other schools, Littleton said they had to, "look out for themselves, and until this conflict is settled, I can't say I blame them."

"People can't put their lives on hold," she said. "(Architecture is) too much of an investment. I think I could have been a doctor with the hours I put in."

Shark

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suit.

The 89-page suit alleges that university officials conspired to ruin Tarkanian's college coaching career.

The suit also alleges that university officials libeled Tarkanian, hurt lucrative contracts as well as his overall economic well-being, and thus broke his resignation agreement. It also charges the defendants with inflicting emotional and physical distress upon Tarkanian and his wife Lois, who is a co-plaintiff.

Should Tarkanian win the case, it would make his 1991 resignation agreement invalid.

But according to reports, the case is not about reinstating Tarkanian as coach, it's about the truth coming out despite the bad publicity.

"We can't look back," said Tommy Sheppard, Coordinator of Sports Information. "And that's not disrespecting Coach Tarkanian in any way. We just need to look at the positives (of the program now)."

"Anytime you get bad publicity it hurts. But you just have to thrive on the positive."

Weaver said that a common good can come out of this latest in a long trail of controversies.

"The good that needs to come out of this is that the issue needs to be resolved once and for all," he said. "That way all parties involved can go on with their lives."

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Artist-hero in art and literature

Robert Folkenflik, a University of California, Irvine, English professor, will lecture on the artist-hero in art and literature in an upcoming University Forum lecture at UNLV.

Set for 7:30 p.m. Sept. 23 in Wright Hall, Room 116, the lecture is free and open to the public.

Folkenflik, who was awarded a Guggenheim Fel-

lowship for his work on this topic, will examine the cultural and material changes in the role of the poet and painter. His slide-illustrated lecture will also feature artists' representations of other artists.

For more information, call UNLV English professor Timothy Erwin at 895-3533.

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