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University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Free

Residential halls unfit for disabled students

By TONYA LOMELO
STAFF WRITER

Kitty Rodman Residence Hall may not be completely suited for the needs of disabled students, which is what at least one able-bodied resident observed.

Jeff Ellis, a sophomore dual-majoring in secondary education and athletic training, is a wheelchair user who lives in Rodman and has been seen having trouble getting through the front door of the residence hall.

"It's ridiculous," Ellis said. "I can barely fit through the door."

He also explained that he does not have much space to move around in his room.

Rodman Hall, which was opened in 1990, "was built to the legal specifications of the Disability Act," said Terry Piper, director of residential life. Piper declined further comment, saying he would need to speak personally with those involved.

Ellis' concern, however, is that the school probably had not "consulted with someone in a chair when they built the halls."

Many campuses have dorms



Kitty Rodman Hall, built in 1990, is difficult to access for wheelchair users, according to some. PHOTO BY STEVE HOBBS

that are completely accessible to the disabled, Ellis explained. He cited the University of Arizona and many California universities as examples.

"This university isn't ready for the disabled population of the 90's," Ellis added.

Chris Lewis is also a resident

on campus and a wheelchair user.

Lewis lives in Hughes Residence Hall, which was opened in 1988. The room he occupies is bigger than other rooms, he explained, and he doesn't have a problem with it.

However, "more doors need automatic openers," Lewis said.

Not even the dining commons is equipped with such doors.

This need for automatic doors should be extended to all doors throughout the campus' buildings, both men explained.

"This is the 90's," Ellis said. "Let's get with the times."

Lewis also said he can't use the

desks provided in classrooms because they're too small.

Seating for sporting events is another annoyance, Lewis explained. "I can't stand where they put us for football games, way off in the corner. And I checked the Thomas & Mack. It's the same thing for basketball, behind the backboard."

But it is not just physical obstacles that are facing these individuals. Ellis also explained he applied to be a residence assistant but was turned down because he would not be able to evacuate the entire building.

"They're not willing to make program changes," he said. "But it's not over."

Ellis stated, "it's a lack of knowledge" that seems to be behind the problem. "It's a great campus, but the disabled population is scared away."

Anita Stockbauer, Director of Student Support Services, said the university is "making strides everyday" toward programmatic and physical accessibility improvements. She added that the university has "a plan of action to make the campus accessible" for the now 500 students which make up the disabled population.

Health center focuses on sex, birth control

By HEATHER SUBRAN
STAFF WRITER

The fall semester begins with a bang. This is when the Student Health Center has to juggle each area of its mission to provide health care for the student body.

Students returning to school after a long vacation tend to indulge in pleasures of the flesh that could have unwanted consequences.

As a result, the physicians notice an increase in the number of students who are worried about sexually transmitted diseases.

Ray Rodriguez believes that "Very often the new students are in such a rush to fit in that they either forget how to say no or are afraid to. As a result, the Health Center has to deal with some cases of sexual assault related to alcohol consumption. There is also an increase in positive pregnancy tests.

To deal with these problems in the most effective and efficient way, the Health Education Coordinator, Ray Rodriguez, has implemented programs that teach students about the risks and consequences involved in certain behavior habits.

Rodriguez is also the director of the Peer Education Programs. He conducts various seminars on

individual health and trains students in different areas so that they can go out and educate their peers. The information is given through three different peer education groups.

The first group focuses on sexuality. This group talks about sexual intimacy and communication, the fifteen different birth control methods, as well as how to deal with cases of sexual harassment and date/acquaintance rape. It educates about the body, and your individual health.

The second is the Alcohol and Drug group which deals with the cycle of addiction and co-dependency. There are also cross groups which focus on alcohol and intimacy; how alcohol affects sexual relationships.

Another cross group deals with alcohol and how the media tends to promote an inaccurate image of what the human body should look like.

The third group focuses on nutrition. The group educates students about weight loss and weight gain, anorexia and bulimia, cholesterol, and even how to eat right for the holidays. There is also a focus on sports nutrition.

Rodriguez believes the Health Center's program is effective. "Every presentation is free, and each group is willing to give them at colleges and high schools anywhere in Nevada."

Novelist Lynne Sharon Schwartz to speak on campus

Novelist Lynne Sharon Schwartz, author of *Leaving Brooklyn*, will give a reading at UNLV on Oct. 14 as part of the Southwest Gas Distinguished Artist Series.

The reading and discussion session are set for 7:30 p.m. in Frank and Estella Beam Hall, Room 241. The event is open to the public and free of charge.

Schwartz, who lives in New

York, is an essayist and short story writer as well as a novelist. Among her short story collections are "Acquainted with the Night" and "The Melting Pot and Other Subversive Stories." Her novels include *Rough Strife* and *Disturbances in the Field*. *Leaving Brooklyn* is her latest novel.

The Southwest Gas Distinguished Artists Series is funded by a grant from the Southwest Gas Foundation and is sponsored by the Col-

lege of Fine and Performing Arts. For additional information, call 895-4210.

SCHWARTZ

BEH 241

7:30 P.M.

OCT. 14

UCCSN system receives \$7.5 million grant

The University and Community College System of Nevada will receive \$7.5 million over five years from the National Science Foundation to support scientific research in several areas at UNLV, the University of Nevada, Reno, and the Desert Research Institute.

The funds will be used to support research on the greenhouse effect and studies on the origin of the solar system. It will also enhance research on how bridges can be made more earthquake-resistant and will boost participation of women in science and engineering, according to Dr. John Farley, a UNLV physicist and administrator of EPSCoR funding for the university system.

UNLV will receive \$549,000 in the first year of the cooperative agreement between the university system and NSF. It will support researchers in plant biology, chemical physics, and

the women-in-science programs, according to the Office of the Associate Vice President for Research. UNR will receive \$764,000 for the same programs, as well as bridge engineering. DRI will receive \$172,000 for its plant biology program.

The funds are made available through the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). NSF announced this week that Nevada, along with Idaho and Montana, would receive the funding. The goal of EPSCoR is to help those states with less developed research infrastructures to become more nationally competitive for federal research support.

Because EPSCoR grants require matching support from the receiving institution, scientists at the three UCCSN institutions will actually receive \$15 million in financial and in-kind support over the period of the agreement.

Some of the funding will pro-

vide start-up money for some 20 young faculty members in the system, who need help getting their research projects off the ground before they can apply for larger grants, Farley said.

"We first receive EPSCoR funding during the period of 1986 to '91, and that made a big difference for the physics department," Farley said. "In 1986, we had six faculty in the department. Now, we have 14, and nearly all of them are actively involved in research. EPSCoR grants have played a very important role in the transformation of our department, and they have enhanced programs at other institutions in the university system. This new grant will have a big effect on the research climate in the system."

Farley said the new funding and support will make it possible to hire postdoctoral researchers, obtain equipment and supplies, and pay for travel.