

Faculty: university needs more academic advisors

By JASON LUERY
STAFF WRITER

John Doe received some bad advice from his college advisor. Now he faces an additional semester of school to complete the class. Should the school put the blame on the advisor? Or, is it ultimately the students' responsibility?

"That situation is extremely rare," said Michael Bowers, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts. "But I do understand that when it happens, the student feels it is disastrous."

He continued by stating that he is surprised it hasn't happened more often. He referred to state cutbacks that have made it impossible to fill 50-60 university positions that he feels could give students more attention. Presently, there are an average of 54 advisees per faculty advisor in the psychology department. That's 15 advisors for 800 students.

Business, economic, and athletic students have an advising center where there are people who are strictly professional advisors.

There are no ready answers for what should happen to the misguiding advisor. According to Bowers, UNLV's advisors are already overworked. But he offered some suggestions to avoid these "disasters"—suggestions that were seconded by Robert Ackerman, vice president of Student Services.

"Talk to the counselors (advisors) early in the semester," Bowers said.

"Get to know them, and let them understand what you're aiming to do. Don't show up at the door a few days before registration and say 'I'm lost' while a line of students is waiting with you."

But John Doe had a problem with communication. Maybe if we eliminate the middle man, the miscommunications could be solved. How about a computer?

Degree Audit Reporting Sys-

tem, or DARS, is a computer program that allows the registrar to determine what courses a student needs to take at the present time to fulfill major requirements.

"We're working with it," said Jeff Halverson, head of the Registrar's Office. Although it's an important tool for registration purposes, Halverson is quick to point out deficiencies.

"It can't take into account the numerous exceptions, transfers, and equivalency programs," he said.

And that is where the advisors take over. Provost John Unrue said, "Advisors are to serve as a bond between students and the school."

Bowers and Ackerman agreed that the school should have more professional advisors, that is, people who are trained in course curriculum with the time available to give individual attention. However, there aren't the funds to make it reality.

Winter concert features local choral ensembles

The UNLV Choral Ensembles will present their annual Winter Concert on Friday, Dec. 3 at 8:00 p.m. in the Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall.

"A Winter Choral Celebration" features the University Singers and Chamber Chorale conducted by David B. Weiller, the Women's Chorus conducted by Jocelyn K. Jensen, and the Varsity Men's Glee Club conducted by Kim Barclay. The Bonanza High School Singers conducted by Carol Eldrick will perform as guest

artists.

"A Winter Choral Celebration" features a variety of music from the 16th and 20th centuries. Composers represented include Renaissance composers Thomas Weelkes, Thomas Tallis, William Byrd, and Claudio Monteverdi. Contemporary American composers John Chorbajian, David Conte, Theodor Duda, and Edwin Fissinger will be featured along with favorite spirituals and "Hail, Holy Queen" which was popularized by actress Whoopi Goldberg

in the movie "Sister Act."

The university choral ensembles maintain an active schedule of appearances each year and enjoy an outstanding reputation throughout the Southwest. The choirs present several concerts each year on the university campus, in the greater Las Vegas community, and also tour out of state annually.

Under the direction of conductor David Weiller, the university choir has been invited to perform for numerous music conventions and festivals.

Rebel Relics A Blast from the Past

December 3, 1981 (UNLV Yell) Six dorm residents (including one CSUN Senator) were arrested in a **dorm drug bust**; the six were arrested for possession of marijuana and various drug paraphernalia.

December 4, 1984 (The Yellin' Rebel) UNLV began making plans for adding an Honors Program for the 1985 Fall Semester. A review board was organized to plan how and what to implement into the program.

December 4, 1984 (The Yellin' Rebel) **The Latter Day Saints Student Association** was denied recognition by CSUN senate, even though it had been a student organization on campus for over 10 years. The organization was denied recognition because of senate members' beliefs in the separation of church and state.

December 2, 1988 (The Rebel Yell) UNLV Tennis Club took legal action against Coach Albert Phillips, who was accused of **embezzling \$477.04** from the Tennis Club fund.

December 2, 1988 (The Rebel Yell) The Thomas T. Beam Engineering Complex was added to the UNLV campus. The \$14.5 million building was set to be opened for spring semester 1989.

December 1, 1992 (The Rebel Yell) According to the Student Development Center's statistics, about 10 percent of UNLV students have a **drug problem**. Alcohol was reportedly the number one problem among students, with cocaine and marijuana trailing only slightly behind.

December 1, 1992 (The Rebel Yell) Forty students at UNLV were tested as **HIV positive**. These statistics came from tests ran at the Student Health Center only, and the total number of cases was estimated to be at least three to four times higher.

—compiled by Rachel Burk

Correction

In Tuesday's edition, the *Rebel Yell* reported that professor Stephen Roddy's request for a computer was denied by the Department of Foreign Language.

In fact, the request was not for a single computer but for an entire language lab for

the university. The request is on hold until the end of the year, pending available funds.

The article also misspelled the Japanese language club; its proper spelling is Nihongo Club. We apologize for any misunderstanding.



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