

Campaigns Provide Avenue for Real-Life Experience

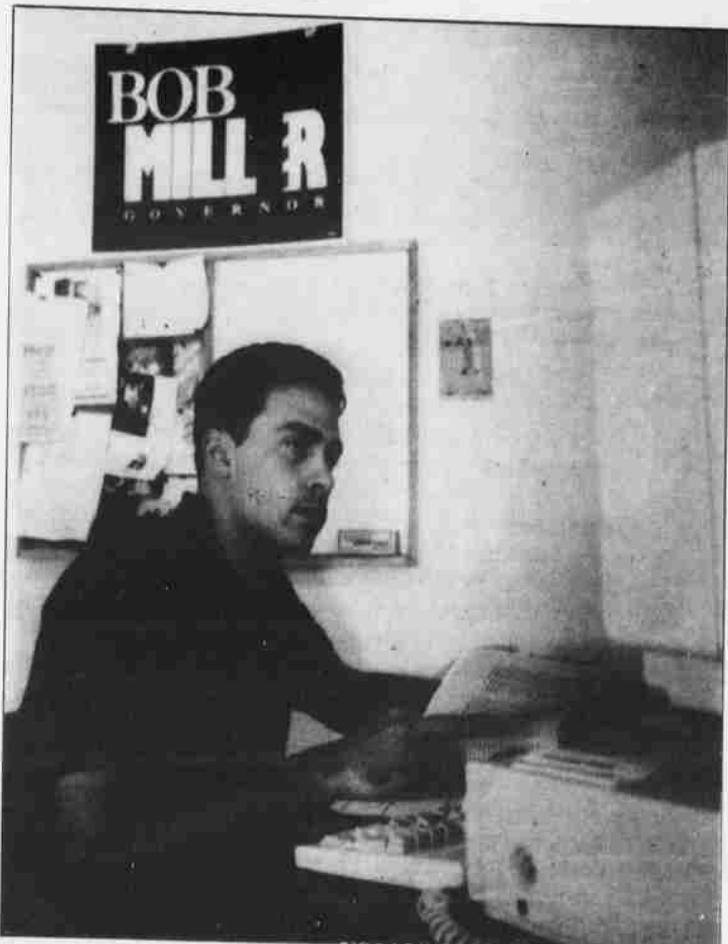


PHOTO BY LESLIE LITCHFIELD
Dario Herera, working for the Bob Miller reelection campaign, is one of the number of students working for candidates.

Students take advantage of this election year to break the mold of apathy

BY MARK H. GOODMAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Election time. Candidates dodge bad press like the plague while voting citizens dodge campaign signs strewn along the side of every road in Las Vegas. Yes, it's an exciting time of the year, especially for those UNLV students who work in the campaigns.

Dario Herera, youth coordinator for Governor Bob Miller, believes the experience of working for a political candidate is highly rewarding. "I'm enjoying it," Herera said. "My responsibility has increased dramatically."

According to Herera, the largest part of student involvement revolves around "getting the word out." Activities like phone banking, posting signs, stuffing envelopes, helping others register to vote, and walking the dis-

trict all require several hours of individual and group participation.

Walking, according to Andre Lagomarsino, Student Government vice president, consists of the student physically walking house to house or around the neighborhood, providing information about their candidates. This bit of leg work helps to keep the volunteers directly involved in the campaign.

"We want to find out what Southern Nevada voters feel are the most important issues so we could respond to them," Herera said.

Working for a campaign results in more than just toned leg muscles. Students learn about working with a group for a common goal and how an election is run from the inside out. "The students (who work on campaigns) feel they're a significant part of the political process," Herera said.

Participants also learn to be more goal orientated, accepting of differences between political ideals, and keeping and maintaining a positive attitude. "I've learned something I don't think I would have learned on a normal basis," Lagomarsino said.

"It's been a total learning experience."

Herera first began working for the campaign when he realized he shared the same opinion on issues as the candidate. This motivated him to increase his involvement in the great political machine.

Herera continues working politically in hopes of breaking the apathy he believes is prevalent among large numbers of youths.

"I want to make a difference," Herera said. "People between the ages of 16 and 30 are not that interested in politics because traditionally, policy makers have not included them in the policies they make."

School, work and a social life all require participants' time. Herera said working on a campaign is a part of his life and could be for other students as well," Herera said. "A lot of people see the importance of getting involved and I just accelerate the process. "And when it's all over, I'll feel satisfied."

Lied

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to the university if the Nevada Legislature appropriates \$3 million for architecture and design costs during the 1995 legislative session and the balance—approximately \$27 million—during the 1997 session. If funding is secured, the library is expected to open by the year 2000.

Christina Hixson and the Lied Foundation Trust have been strong financial supporters of both UNLV and UNR. This donation brings the trust's total donation to UNLV to more than \$16 million. The Lied Foundation Trust has given \$2.5 million to UNR.

Hixson, in a press release concerning the donation, said she was very proud to be a part of helping the University fulfill its number-one priority. "This library will serve not only UNLV's students and faculty, but also the community."

Hixson said that the library will be dedicated to the memory of Ernst F. Lied and his parents, Ernst M. and Ida K. Lied. The late Ernst F. Lied, long-time Las Vegas resident, was successful in the real estate business.

The Lied Foundation was created for the purpose of supporting charitable organizations. The trust has contributed to such projects as the Boys and Girls Clubs of Las Vegas, the Lied Discovery Children's Museum, the Lied Opportunity Village, Association for Retarded Citizens and the Salvation Army.

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