

The Rebel Dwell

Volume 18, No. 13

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

December 1, 1994

Few Applicants Attracted by UNLV President Position

BY THOMAS K. LACY
NEWS EDITOR

By late Wednesday, the search for a new UNLV President had yielded just 30 applicants and 27 additional nominees.

There has been considerable speculation regarding the possibility of recruiting a top administrator in lieu of the negative press and the budget problems which UNLV has encountered in recent years.

Jill Derby, CCSN Regent and Chair of the UNLV Presidential Search Committee, acknowledged the recruitment problems faced by the committee. "We knew that nationally, there's an image problem," Derby said, add-

ing, "but we think we have something terrific to sell."

An additional factor which Derby attributes to the relatively low applicant response was the policy of conducting an open search. Under the Nevada's open meeting open record laws, all names of applicants must be made public. However, this can be challenged.

In recent months, the Community College of Southern Nevada conducted a closed search that went unchallenged.

In contrast to UNLV, CCSN had more than 80 applicants seeking the president's job at the institution.

Derby said the UNLV Presidential Search Committee could

have opted for the closed search as CCSN had done, but would have probably been challenged on the matter. "It was the decision of the UNLV Presidential Search Committee to conduct a search in an open manner so we wouldn't face any challenges that could delay our search and cause us problems," Derby said.

"We have to work against an image problem, and then being an open search, some people are hesitant to put their names into a large pool of applicants and take the chance they won't make the cut to the narrower pool," Derby added.

While the deadline was Monday for applicants, Derby said it was "not a firm deadline," mean-

ing the committee would continue to accept applications.

Just one UNLV representative submitted an application, William Robinson, Ph.D., economics. Robinson is currently the director of academic computing, Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost.

In an interview Wednesday, Robinson said he is qualified for the position and added, "the primary concern has to be the student." He too acknowledged the need to address and elevate UNLV's academic reputation. "If we do a good job as a university, a lot

of the image problems will take care of themselves."

Robinson has been at UNLV 15 years, beginning as an assistant professor of Economics.

The search committee expects to begin narrowing the field of candidates by February. According to the UNLV Statement of Desired Presidential Leadership Characteristics, which is given to all candidates, a new president will assume office July 1, 1995.

Included in the statement are:

Please see President—2

Shade Tree Provides Shelter to the Needy

BY TIERRA GRIFFITHS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As you snuggle into your bed under the warm covers, you probably don't think much about the walls surrounding you.

Curled upon the couch watching TV, you probably don't think much about the walls surrounding you. When you're eating, reading, or just enjoying the comforts of home, you probably don't think much about the walls around you either.

But, a few people are thinking about the walls protecting them. And they're thankful.

They are the women and children at The Shade Tree, Clark County's only 24-hour emergency shelter for homeless women and children.

More than 5,000 women and children have found shelter under The Shade Tree's protective branches since the shelter opened in December of 1990.

The shelter, located on the corner of North Main and Owens, consists of two formerly condemned buildings, a furniture store and an upholstery shop. Despite the humble surroundings, the buildings provide women and children a place to rest and regroup.

"It's not a fancy life, but it's warm, it's clean and it's safe," Shade Tree director Margaret Gavillet said.

She added that she tries to



PHOTO BY LESLIE LITCHFIELD

Lisa Borgna (l.), April Powell and Shanila Choudhury volunteered time at Shade Tree for their PR class.

provide the most home-like, family atmosphere possible.

"We let our people have access to their own things - their bed, 24-hours a day, just like we do in our own homes," Gavillet said.

While federal funds and United Way support Shade Tree, more than half of its funding comes directly from the local community in the forms of donations, contributions, fund-raisers and volunteer work.

Gavillet said it's very important that people in the community be aware of the needs of the shelter.

"We need on-going donations," she said. "Pillows, blankets, laundry soap, everything. In fact, most of the clothes the women have on, have been donated to us."

Three UNLV public relations

Please see Shade—6

It's baaack!

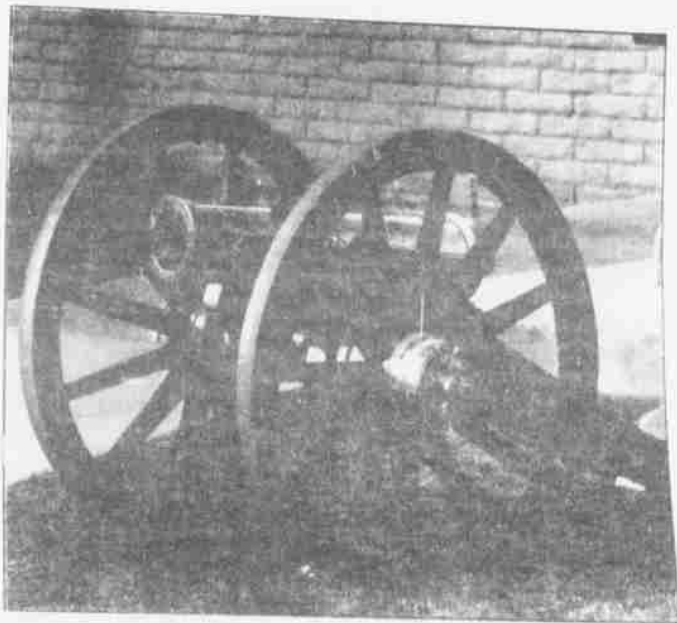


PHOTO BY MICHAEL LACY

For the first time since 1987, UNLV beat UNR on the football field and won possession of the Fremont Cannon, 32-27. The Rebels tied for first with UNR and Southwestern Louisiana in the Big West, but received the bowl bid on tiebreakers.

Please see Sports section—11

Health Center Offers HIV Testing

In conjunction with World Aids Day, the UNLV Student Health Center will be offering free and confidential HIV testing.

This will include pre- and post-test counseling. This service will be available today,

from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m.

In addition, the Student Health Center staff will be giving out free red ribbons of hope and information on HIV and AIDS at the Mayer Student Union today, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous Helps Students Kick Drug Habit

BY THOMAS K. LACY
NEWS EDITOR

Neal C. (not his real name) is like any other dedicated UNLV student. He's bright, articulate, and optimistic about his future.

Not long ago though, however, he was fighting for his life.

What began as experimental drug use, escalated to a point at which Neal had to wage a battle for his very existence.

Neal considers himself lucky though and credits Narcotics Anonymous for helping him to get off and stay off drugs.

Through NA, Neal discovered, that he has the disease of addiction. But more importantly, he was shown a way to recover. He said that by working through a 12-step program of recovery, he has been given back his life.

"I don't remember a lot about that first meeting, except that the people there were clean (not using any drugs including alcohol), and they looked happy,"



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LACY

Narcotics Anonymous provides those seeking recovery with a wide array of literature dealing with the disease of addiction.

Neal said, recalling his first NA meeting. "They didn't look like they were carrying the weight of the world on their shoulders, which was how I felt at the time."

Neal remembered how they also gave him their phone num-

bers and told him to use them anytime, day or night. "They looked like they had freedom," Neal said. "After the meeting everyone came up to me and gave me a hug. They told me to keep coming back."

"They told me that if I didn't ever want to use again, I didn't have to," Neal added. He got through that first day without getting high and said he went to another meeting the next day. It's been more than three years since Neal's first meeting, and he has remained clean since then.

Neal's first experience with drugs (NA considers any mind altering substance a drug) was taking sips off his father's beer when he was three or four-years-old. "By the time I was in high school I was using drugs on a daily basis though," Neal said.

Although he began by drinking beer and smoking pot, he and his friends would take the "hard stuff" (cocaine or hard liquor) whenever they could get it.

By the time Neal graduated from high school, he was using speed (amphetamines) almost daily. "I used all different types of speed," he said. "I used crank, white crosses, Christmas trees, black beauty's and whatever else

I could get my hands on."

There were many times Neal would literally stay up for days while under the influence of speed. "I was just existing somehow and trying to go to school and then to work," Neal said. "I would take speed to stay up and then I would drink alcohol to come down again. It was just a nightmare."

It took "hitting a bottom" many times for Neal to be willing to get the help he so desperately needed. He recalled a St. Patrick's Day parade in his hometown of Kansas City, Mo. and talked about one of those "bottoms".

"I don't remember much from that day except that I was thrown out of a lot of places, and that me and my friends had been drinking very heavily and smoking pot," he recollected. "I was singing and dancing in the street. I even went into the parade and was marching with them for a

Please see Kick—3