

No Mini-Baja Competition?

Unrue resignation results in loss of funding for student senior project

BY GENA BERLETT
STAFF REPORTER

In April of 1995, a UNLV entry in the Mini-Baja West Competition at El Paso, Texas was supposed to have been a given.

Unfortunately, it isn't going to happen. Money for projects designed by engineering students isn't available. After spending much of their free time and money to develop a Mini-Baja design to enter into competition, the Society of Automotive Engineers got a big surprise: No funding!

The students met last fall with senior vice president for Academic Affairs and Provost (at the time) John C. Unrue to make a request for funding. The ill-fated meeting happened to fall on the same day that Unrue decided to resign. The request for funding was denied. Outside companies were also solicited for funding through a letter campaign (funded by the students) which, unfortunately, produced no financial help.

The students ended up making a deal with Dean of the College of Engineering William Wells. For every \$500 each student donated, Wells agreed to match the funding, provided that UNLV retained ownership of the vehicle upon completion. How-

ever, Mickey stated that "it was too late to have the Mini-Baja ready for the April 1995 Mini-Baja West Competition, due to the lack of funding early on to get the project done on time."

This is a national competition that would give prestige and recognition to UNLV. Other universities, such as Kansas State University, University of Texas at El Paso and the University of New Mexico were able to get funding through their college.

The idea for the Mini-Baja began with five students majoring in mechanical engineering. SAE President Jim Schweikert, Vice President Steve Mickey, Tony Hills, Christopher Solecki and Timothy Cole all decided to combine their efforts and do a Mini-Baja vehicle for their senior design project which, coincidentally, is required of all engineers for graduation.

At their own expense, the students traveled to the April 1994 competition to take pictures of other universities' vehicles to get some ideas about how to build a UNLV Mini-Baja.

The Mini-Baja West Competition consists of four races: acceleration, maneuverability, hill climb, and a 4-hour endurance race. Another great feature of the competition is that part of it depends on real world applications.

Each university entry for the competition must present a professional marketing strategy with a vehicle that is built to meet all competition requirements. The marketing plan is used in a presentation to a fictitious company to give engineer-

ing students practice in how to present and sell their work. Many competition rules for the vehicle included size and strength requirements as well as a specification that the motor must be an eight horsepower Briggs and Stratton. The marketing strategy emphasizes the best features of each vehicle as well as conformity to specifications.

The students designed a Mini-Baja to not only fulfill the requirements of the competition, but also to get UNLV involved with something that many other universities are involved in. For any university, the prestige of winning and the recognition by other schools commands a certain amount of respect. In addition, students get recognition for new ideas used in the project design.

After spending many hours of their free time on the project, the completed design for the Mini-Baja was ready to be built. When it came time to obtain funding, however, SAE students began to have problems. They needed funding to cover the materials cost for the vehicle itself as well as travel expenses for both the vehicle and the students to and from the competition.

The 1994 competition was covered by *Motorweek* on national TV. *Motorweek* is an organization that not only has a regularly published magazine, but frequently televises coverage of contests showing new types of vehicles as well as any technology or unique ideas used in the making of the vehicles.

Changing the Face of the Library

Dickinson Library still has reference material available

BY O.G. KENNEDY
STAFF REPORTER

Those of you who will be using the "power house" (library), be advised that it has undergone a number of major changes.

You will note that construction, renovations, remodeling, reshuffling, and shifting are in progress. The reasons for these changes are basically to use the current facility maximally, to make services easier to find, and to accommodate as many academic materials and various types of equipment as possible; thus the environment becomes more conducive to research and study.

To highlight those areas that have and are undergoing changes, I will begin with the exterior and move to the interior.

There is a new entrance being constructed that should be complete by the end of this month. Watch your steps. Also, as you enter the library, notice that the check-out counter and Information Desk are now part of the Circulation and Reserve Reading Service Counter. Be aware—the reserved reading area does not exist any more. That area will soon become the site for reference services. Watch for a move during spring break.

On the second floor in the non-book section, gigantic changes are still on-going. The computer lab and the Faculty Development Services have been moved to the west end of the rectangular building into what used to be the Student Development Center. The spaces vacated by the computer lab and Faculty Development

Services will be used to expand the non-book section, especially microfilm. Faculty Copy Service and the IQ fee-based research service are also located at the east end of the floor.

In the reference section on the second floor of the round building, there are also changes. Reference services are still housed there, but in preparation for the move to the first floor, some lesser-used materials are being moved to the main stack areas. The second floor remains the home for current government publications.

On the third floor, the periodical section has not been affected except that it is quickly filling its shelves with issues from over 6,000 journal titles. In the book stack section (third floor-round building), you can find call numbers K-Z. Part of that floor also carries some of the old indexes and abstracts being shifted from the reference index area. Watch for call numbers K-N to be moved onto the second floor after spring break.

On the first floor (round building), books from call numbers A-J can be found. Political science students, please note the Js are now in what used to be the "Food for Thought" room. Old journals and government documents are also found here. Watch the stairs down to the round building.

As part of the changes, the

library has attempted to preserve as much user space as possible. Some carrels that were formally meant for the faculty and graduate students on both second and third floors are now open and accessible to all. An office has been converted into a silent/quiet area on the third floor. Tables and seats have been relocated to accommodate the users better. Even lobbies and hallways have been converted into study areas.

Responding to my question as to whether these changes should be a cause for alarm, the Assistant University Librarian for Public Services, Wendy Stackweather said no. "It is important to realize that growth in the institution puts pressure on library services and collections. We added over 30,000 titles to our collection during the last fiscal year, and we had to make room for them. The challenge is to maintain a balance between collection space and study space in our present facility—until a new library is built."

Stackweather predicts a better and larger facility in the future. "Plans are underway to raise funds for that effort, and hopefully, by the turn of the century, a new library will be a reality."

Until then, library users are encouraged bear with the situation and continue to utilize the space and materials available.

News Briefs

UNLV Professor to Speak in

Forum Lecture Series
"Surviving the Salvadoran Presidential Elections" will be UNLV Professor Francisco Menendez's topic next Thursday, as part of the University Forum Lecture Series.

The presentation will be held in the new Classroom Building Complex, Auditorium A-110 at 7:30 p.m., and is open to the public free of charge.

Menendez, an assistant professor of film studies, has tracked the Salvadoran presidential elections while working for the news media 10 years ago. He will present his own video footage, slides and taped interviews to illustrate the challenges of tracking El Salvador's electoral process.

The University Forum Lecture Series is sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and underwritten by the Provost's office.

For more information on this or any other series lecture, please call the College of Liberal Arts at 895-3401.

Opportunity Village 10k and two mile run

The 29th Las Vegas International Roadrunner 10k and two mile runs are scheduled for a 7 a.m. start at Vacation Village on Saturday, Feb. 4.

This event, sponsored by KLAS-TV and the MGM Grand, will benefit Opportunity Village, an organization that assists Southern Nevada citizens with mental retardation.

Pre-registration entry fee is \$15 for all applicants who register prior to Feb. 1. After that, the entry fee is \$20. Participants will receive passes to the MGM Grand Theme Park, refreshments, merchandise. Those raising \$50 or more in pledges will receive additional prizes.

Registration can be done in person prior to Feb. 1 at Opportunity Village between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday at 6300 West Oakey. Vacation Village, at 3711 S. Las Vegas Blvd., will handle registration on Feb. 2-3 from noon to 8 p.m. at the Marathon Expo.

For more information on this event, please call (702) 259-3741.

Reading Help for Children

The Literacy Development Center at UNLV will offer tutoring for children that experience literacy learning difficulties.

This program will begin on Wednesday, Feb. 8 and continue through May 10. Sessions are scheduled from 4:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

To register your child or for more information, please call 895-3783.

DPMA Meeting

Data Processing Management Association is holding its spring membership meeting on Friday at 6 p.m. in Beam Hall, Room 110.

DPMA will be discussing upcoming events and invites all students to attend. Complimentary soft drinks and pizza will be served.

Career Day

Employers, UNLV invites you to register now for its 16th annual campus-wide career day, scheduled for Wednesday, March 1st. Employers will have the opportunity to speak with thousands of UNLV students, alumni, and job seekers regarding career opportunities. For registration information, contact UNLV career services at 895-3495.

First Security Gives Scholarships and Grant

UNLV has received funding for three new scholarships and a grant to the library from First Security Bank of Nevada.

The bank, a subsidiary of First Security Corp. of Salt Lake City, gave \$3,700 to UNLV through the UNLV Foundation.

The gift will fund three \$1,000 scholarships for students majoring in business, and will provide \$700 to purchase books, periodicals, or audio or video taped material for the library.

"UNLV is most grateful for this gift, which will directly benefit three scholarship recipients, as well as the many students who will use the library materials purchased with First Security Bank's grant," said Kenny Guinn, UNLV president.



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