

INSIDE

- Debate and forensics win tournament pg. 2
- Vince Callguire pg. 4
- No UNLV TV for dorm residents pg. 5
- Classifieds pg. 11

THE REBEL YELL

The Student Newspaper of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas

SPORTS



UNLV Golf is ranked No. 1 in the country. See "Golf gets top ranking in polls" in SPORTS, pg. 10

A&E



Gluttony, Greed, Sloth, Lust, Pride, Envy, Wrath. Which would you be murdered for? See "Seven: Beautiful in a Gothic sort of way" in A&E, pg. 5

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Tensions rise between Pida, Mills

Student leaders clash over executive orders

BY ERIN NIEMEYER
NEWS EDITOR

"Some people have decided to play 'king of the mountain' on the Executive Board," Student Government Vice President Joe Mills said about President John Pida at the Sept. 25 Senate meeting.

"By God, then who is CEO or the president of CSUN? I think it would be me. So if he's (Mills) implying me being the king, if he sees the Student Body President as such, then I am king," Pida responded.

Tension between Pida and Mills has been an ongoing issue in the CSUN office this year. At the Senate meeting Monday evening, Pida identified their most recent dispute, Mills' refusal to return the master keys to the directors' desks and filing cabinets in

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—Pres. John Pida

the CSUN office. According to Pida, Mills ignored his executive orders to return the keys no later than Sept. 21. Pida submitted a letter to University Police Sgt. Donald Drake outlining Mills' failure to respond to Pida's orders. No action has been taken by Sgt. Drake as of yet.

Mills claims his position requires he have access to the desks of the directors he oversees, that it's part of his job, and says he will not return the keys unless he's legally obligated to do so.

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several months ago I brought up the fact that he was involved in spending CSUN funds to provide minors with alcohol," Mills said.

Prior to adjournment of the meeting, Pida re-addressed issues concerning himself and Mills, saying the "personal attacks by Joe are clearly one-sided."

Sen. Leia Fleischman walked out of the meeting during Pida's reiteration of his problems with Mills.

"This is the Student Government. They (Pida and Mills) should have their petty, little arguments somewhere else," Fleischman said.

"I wish the rest of the Senate would have walked out, too," she added.

Sen. Scott Schwartz said of the problems between Pida and Mills, "Pointing fingers isn't productive. It never gets anything done. They've shown they can't work together. I think they need someone impartial to come between them," Schwartz continued.

Sen. Carl Tolbert was disappointed in the continuation of problems between Pida and Vice Pres. Mills. "It's time we, as Senators, demand they work their problems out. It's

hindering the way CSUN is being run.

"John (Pida) should realize he's not 'king of the mountain'. The students are. We, CSUN, represent the students," said Tolbert.

Pida contends his attempts to work with Mills have been ignored, that Mills has been "uncooperative." Vice Pres. Mills claims the opposite.

"They're like two kids on a kindergarten playground," Sen. Schiff said of Pida and Mills.

"They need to learn to resolve their differences," Schiff added.

Pida asked the Senate for suggestions in dealing with his problems with Mills, claiming his attempts to work with the vice president have been ignored.

"I've identified executive orders and they haven't been fulfilled. The Senate has the keys to put someone in the jail cell. I don't. I need your direction now," Pida said.

T&M dismisses 15 employees

BY CATINA HAVERLOCK
STAFF WRITER

Jerry Garcia's death hurt more than just "deadhead" fans. The cancellation of several money-making events, including the uncertain future of the Grateful Dead's appearance in Las Vegas have led to the dismissal of 15 Thomas & Mack employees.

Although it's possible the group may tour again, it's not certain, and it would be unwise to count on funds that aren't guaranteed, said Pat Christenson, director of the T&M. The Grateful Dead's appearance in Las Vegas last spring generated \$650,000 for the T&M.

The concerts became annual events over the past five years and drew as many as 45,000 fans to each show. The three-day stints each spring were second only to the National Finals Rodeo in special event income for the T&M.

The Las Vegas Posse, the Big West Basketball Tournament and Mickey Thompson Off Road Racing brought \$750,000 to the T&M last year. None of the three will be held there this year.

Laying off 15 employees cut costs by \$600,000 and balanced the budget, according to Christenson. "We had to make some painful decisions if we were going to meet our

budget," he said.

Layoffs include members from food and beverage, event coordination, and marketing departments, all of whom are directly linked to events.

"If you don't have events you don't have the need for people," Christenson said. "We need to get our organization in line with the number of people and services we provide."

Of the 15 employees, five have been placed elsewhere on campus, six have elected to retire, and two have other local jobs. Employees who were not placed elsewhere received two months pay and pay for accumulated vacation time.

In an anonymous letter written to the editor of the Rebel Yell, a former employee complained that layoffs could have been avoided had the director and assistant directors of the T&M taken pay cuts. "Even if two of the 'generals' took pay cuts or just resigned, then eight more 'soldiers' that were relieved of their duties could still be working."

Christenson said laying off two, or any, of the directors (in lieu of staff) was not an option because each one is essential to the smooth operation of the T&M.

"We would end up with more people and less direction,"

See T&M pg. 2



Volunteers working side by side to restore America's natural resources at last year's inaugural Public Lands Appreciation Day. PLAD 1995 is Saturday.

SCOPE volunteers for Red Rock trail building

BY WILLIE PUCHERT
STAFF WRITER

Students Conscious of Protecting the Environment will volunteer their efforts to clear several miles of trail in Red Rock Canyon on Saturday, in celebration of Public Lands Appreciation Day.

Volunteers will complete the construction of a hiking trail along the scenic drive, started during last year's

PLAD. The 83,100-acre area, located 20 miles west of Las Vegas, contains the Keystone Thrust Fault and much of the Mojave Deserts wildlife, and is used by over 700,000 visitors annually.

According to SCOPE member Tamara Shaw, SCOPE has planned other activities this weekend in the area after the event is concluded.

BLM spokeswoman Lorraine Buck said that volunteers will spend the morning

clearing the trail, and will be given a free lunch, T-shirts and water bottles in recognition for their efforts.

The event is a national effort to call attention to public lands, harnessing a volunteer workforce and restoring natural resources.

UNLV students are encouraged to contact the SCOPE office at 895-4495. Other interested participants may pre-register by calling 647-5000.