

# Graduate college expands

BY MAGGIE BRESLIN  
STAFF WRITER

UNLV's graduate college is undergoing changes.

Several new programs have been added to the university recently, and more growth may be in the future, according to Regent Shelley Berkley.

Health physics has been expanded to offer a master's degree because of its success as a bachelor's program, Berkley said.

Graduate College Interim Dean Cheryl Bowles says there is a need for this program in Nevada. "The focus of health physics is looking at the health of the environment, particularly people, in issues of toxic substances. We have to educate people to deal with these needs," Bowles said.

A master's program in physical therapy has also been approved, but will not be offered until a director and professors are hired. They are required to have doctorate degrees in physical therapy for the school to be accredited.

The program has been given a two-year extension by the Board of Regents to get underway. If it does not go forward within that time period the program will have to start the approval process over, according to Bowles.

Dave Hayden is a junior majoring in athletic training and plans to pursue a career in physical therapy. If UNLV does not get the physical therapy program approved, he will have to transfer to another school.

"I knew I had to apply to graduate school. I was hoping UNLV would get the program. It would make things easier, but I wasn't planning on them getting it," Hayden said.

A master's degree in environmental studies has been proposed and is currently being reviewed by the Priority and Program Review Board, according to Bowles.

There is also the possibility of a law school at UNLV. President Carol Harter was authorized \$500,000 from the state Legislature at the last Board of Regents meeting to begin a study for the law school. According to Berkley, "The university did not request the funds. The legislature gave it to us for a study of the law school."

Berkley feels the outlook for

the law school is promising. "I'm very excited about our prospects. This is a great step forward."

Sen. Dina Titus, D-NV, feels differently about the money being approved for a study of the law school. At a UNLV press conference last week Titus said, "I'm not so sure we need a law school. The resources need to go towards existing programs."

The new programs would be a good addition to the graduate program, according to Ken Harlan, president of the Graduate Student Association. "Graduate education is one of the biggest assets as far as improving our reputation," Harlan said, but he feels the university should be concentrating more on programs that are already part of the university.

"Certain programs need to be stabilized before the graduate college can go through an expansion," Harlan said, citing the social work program as an example.

The School of Social Work is at risk of losing its accreditation due to understaffing and the absence of a permanent director. Bowles feels that the problems are partly due to the massive growth the university has been through.

Bowles says the program is improving because new faculty have been hired. The school still lacks a permanent director, but Bowles is on the search committee, which will begin interviewing for a new director around December.

The other aspect Bowles cites for saving the school from losing accreditation is to lower the number of students accepted to the program so there is an adequate amount of faculty to closely supervise the students in their classes and field work.

Harlan feels existing programs need to be a priority because graduate programs are an essential part of the university's image. "The more high-caliber graduate students UNLV turns out, the better the university is," Harlan said. "It affects the programs, attracts better students and raises the quality of the university."

Some programs are partially funded by outside organizations. "A number of programs are supported quite heavily with external funding," Bowles said, including health physics, physical therapy and environmental studies. "We are certainly not going to bring in programs if we feel we can't support them."

## News Briefs

### Women's health seminar offered

The Jean Nidetch Women's Center is offering a series of seminars in November concerning women's health issues. All sessions are free and open to the public.

"How to organize your routine check-up," will be held tomorrow in the Moyer Student Union, Room 203, from noon-1 p.m. Dr. Laura Culley is the guest speaker.

ities Building.

A panel of experts from Nevada State government, the Department of Energy, the Moapa Paiute Tribe, and UNLV's Institute for Ethics and Policy Studies, will address the current U.S. high-level nuclear waste management policy. Scientific, engineering, ethical and public participation issues will also be discussed.

For more information, call 895-3394.

### Yucca Mountain townhall meeting

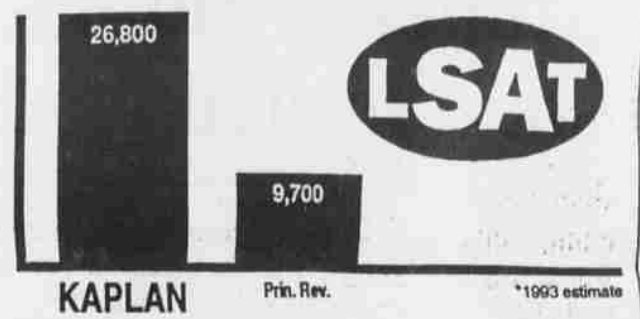
The Institute for Ethics and Policy Studies, the Greenspun School of Communication and UNLV Continuing Education will sponsor a townhall meeting on "Yucca Mountain: Ready or Not?" at 7 p.m. Thursday, in Room 109 of the Flora Dungan Human-

### Orientation leaders needed

The Office of Community Development is still seeking orientation leaders for Summer 1996 and Spring 1997. Anyone interested must first attend a mandatory information session, the last of which are scheduled for today at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. in Room 202 of the Moyer Student Union. For information call 895-3221.

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