

COMDEX offers more than Apples

Networking, job opportunities for student volunteers

BY KRISTINE BREWER
STAFF WRITER

ntioneers threw these words around like Greg Maddux throws a baseball. A novice computer user can feel as overwhelmed at COMDEX as a t-ball player trying to get a hit off the former Las Vegas.

No matter how computer-literate one might be, getting COMDEX tickets has always been a bit of a mystery, and this year was no exception.

One of COMDEX '95 best-kept secrets was that all UNLV students who presented valid ID at registration received a free admission ticket. Organizers didn't publicize this freebie because they were afraid of getting a rush of students.

But for those who didn't know about the UNLV offer, a bit of string-pulling and networking, and connections, is all it took to gain entrance to COMDEX.

For UNLV students the connection was Sean Roach.

A 1995 UNLV grad with a degree in communications, Roach coordinated the placement of fliers around campus and announcements in classes, offering students the chance to work the Apple booth at the COMDEX show.

Student workers not only received a t-shirt, admittance to COMDEX, a letter of recommendation, possible job opportunities, and a free surprise product from Apple for their volunteer time, but also gained valuable connections

and work experience.

An orientation session for student volunteers was held the Sunday prior to the start of COMDEX, where they were instructed in how to man the Apple information booth, track potential customer leads, answer questions and distribute literature and software.

One student volunteer, Dan O'Donnell, a senior in hotel administration major, said, "I thought I was computer literate until I came here and fielded questions, then I found out just how computer illiterate I was." O'Donnell pointed out almost every student uses computers regardless of their major, and feels all students should become familiar with the new technology.

He saw COMDEX as a wonderful soft-marketing opportunity and appreciated the experience of making connections and meeting people.

Another UNLV volunteer, hotel administration junior J.C. Fernandez, said he was interested in the exhibition and marketing field, and the opportunity to work for Apple helped him apply classroom knowledge to practical experience.

"The high-tech part of the computer industry is overwhelming, but students should take any chance to work with a top-notch organization like Apple," said Fernandez.

Volunteering to work for Apple at the COMDEX convention gave senior Claudio Rodriguez his first practical experience working in his chosen field.

The management information systems major said that working the booth and answering questions helped him learn

new things about the computer industry.

Rodriguez changed his major from accounting to MIS when he learned a \$500 computer program could perform all the record-keeping functions he was being trained to do.

O'Donnell, Fernandez and Rodriguez said their experience with Apple was positive and that they would like to participate in similar programs in the future because of the job and career possibilities it opens up for them.

Ruthanne Baker, an Apple project manager, worked closely with the UNLV students and was pleased with the volunteers.

"Ninety-eight percent of the students performed great," she said. "They were enthusiastic and answered a lot of questions, and they were willing to ask for help when they didn't know the answer." She said students were immensely helpful in making it one of the most efficient information booths ever.

Roach said Apple was pleased with way the UNLV students performed, and Apple is interested in future relations with UNLV and may recruit students to work the booth for the CES show.

Other companies like IBM, Digital and Microsoft approached Roach to inquire about the possibility of getting students to assist with their own upcoming shows.

Roach encourages students to take advantage of the convention opportunities. CES is coming up in January and many companies may be looking for student volunteers.

Apple will sponsor a convention in San Francisco, called MacWorld, and the company is willing to get students passes or even working internships for the convention.

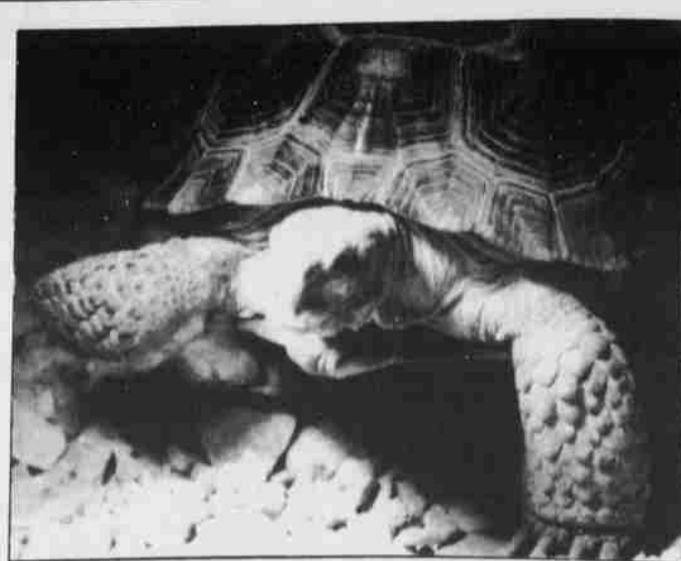


PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN
Rebel Green Vote's primary task is the enforcement of the politically charged Endangered Species Act, which in Nevada protects such species as the desert tortoise.

Rebel Green Vote works to protect

Students and politicians unite for the environment

BY PAULINE VILLAPANDO
STAFF WRITER

UNLV students are getting involved in the politics of environmental protection. UNLV's Rebel Green Vote, a politically-active environmental organization, is providing new opportunities for students to become involved in protecting the community's environment.

Although once included as part of Students Conscious Of Protecting the Environment, the group has become a separate association.

"Basically, SCOPE handles the educational aspect while Green Vote deals with the political side," says co-founder Benjamin Contine, a junior. Along with Contine, the steering committee is composed of junior, Tamara Shaw, and senior, Jill Hammond.

Contine's decision to become involved stemmed from a vacation in Chile. "I went to Chile and saw that their environmental problems were much worse. So I

decided to get involved. The more I did, the more I was interested in our environment."

The organization's main project is the enforcement of the Endangered Species Act. In Nevada, species such as the desert tortoise, a variety of pup fish, and the Armagosa toad fall under its jurisdiction.

"The Federal Government is trying to weaken the bill through authorization," says Contine. "We do the lobbying for Nevada representatives, go to conferences and hold demonstrations."

Although Rebel Green Vote was only formed this semester, membership is already at about 40 students. Along with petitions, conferences and demonstrations, the group also focuses on fundraising.

On the weekend of Feb. 10, Rebel Green Vote will sponsor a leadership training conference. Students attending the conference will be taught how to deal with the media, write press releases and convey their message to the public.

"I believe the Rebel Green Vote is becoming more and more successful by providing the campus with more opportunities to get involved and for students to stand up for themselves," says Contine.

Job

from pg. 5

paper and begin listing all your positive attributes" or something to that effect. Why? I thought you wanted to write a resume? To develop an exhaustive list of your attributes,

go ask your mother. Moms are great in the "positive attributes in spite of all else" category.

This practice in attribute development futility might be okay for little Johnny who is about to graduate from high school and wants to figure out what to do with his life, but

are we not college students? Take that quantum leap and just start putting together the actual information on disk in resume format where it can be used.

NEXT COLUMN: The second part of this column will run Dec. 5

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Williams

from pg. 5

gree in biology and began her teaching career with a definite mission in mind: to use humor to teach non-science majors a difficult subject, without using the standard lecture format.

"In my first few years of teaching I figured out that the amount of terms students needed to learn would seem overwhelming and so I published a simplified book for lecture and a supporting lab manual that was user-friendly," said Williams.

"On the average I teach about 300 students per semester. I also teach a course in environmental science and one in human genetics. I've had at least 6,000 students since I've been at UNLV. Everybody knows me, except Dr. Harter," Williams joked.

Assisting Williams in one of the lab sections is senior biology major, Scotty Keiser.

He balances out the lecture part of the curricula with pro-

cedures and practical work. "My tests are tough, but the students learn," Keiser said. "It all balances out because if you come to lab you automatically get 10 points, and an additional 10 points if you turn in your lab work."

Students in Keiser's lab are allowed to form small working groups to do their labs, which cuts down on lab-work time, and allows students to help one another learn.

There is no doubt about how Keiser feels about working with Williams. "I love her ... she's so incredibly intelligent."

In addition to receiving high praise from her co-workers, Williams' students also offer their praise freely. Many say she is what teaching is all about—enthusiastic and informed about the latest information about her subject, accessible to students and ready to help whenever she is needed.

Says senior Brigitte Wittel, "She is so into teaching what she teaches that you can't help but learn, and her laugh, it just cracks me up. I hear she

gets the best teacher evaluations every semester."

Williams' love for teaching goes beyond the UNLV student populace. During the summer she puts together science education classes for Clark County School District teachers.

Williams beams as she relates a teaching experience she remembers as being the most fun. "I was able to get a grant called the Ms. Wizard Science. That grant let me bring local middle school girls onto the UNLV campus to expose them to many aspects of science."

"If you think I get excited in class now, you should've seen me when I was teaching those little girls. They would get so excited."

For a fun, 15-week educational journey that will unravel the mystery of how the human body works, and to fulfill that dreaded science-with-a-lab requirement, take another look at the Spring semester class schedule.

You'll find Williams' classes listed on page 27.

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