

# UNLV students in danger at dusk?

## Campus lighting evaluation shows need for improvement

BY KAREEN HALE  
CONTRIBUTING NEWS WRITER

Attending college should be an enlightening experience, but some believe UNLV students are in the dark.

Depending on where you're walking on campus at night, that is.

A Lighting Project Status report issued Feb. 27 revealed campus lighting problems and possible resolutions. Representatives from various student organizations and UNLV department representatives evaluated the safety quotient of the current lighting system during the annual "Walk in the Light" survey last November.

Lighting deficiencies ranged from one end of the campus to the other. A trend seemed to emerge, with the oldest areas of campus needing the most improvements.

Areas of concern listed in the report include the Paul McDermott Physical Educa-

tion Complex's (MPEC) east plaza and the north side of Artemus Ham Concert Hall. Several areas encompassing the Juanita Greer White Life Sciences building were cited, including a walkway near the northwest substation and both the northeast and southeast corners of the building.

Areas surrounding the parking lot north of the Thomas Beam Engineering Complex were found to be dark, as was the Environmental Protection Agency's west parking lot.

Leia Fleischman, fine and performing arts senator and Campus Safety & Awareness Committee chair, is concerned about the pending projects listed in the report. Fleischman said most lighting complaints involve five main areas on campus: The northeast and southeast corners of the Chemistry building, Brussels Road (across from the Latter Day Saints Institute building), the south side of the architecture trailers (near the parking area on the corner of Maryland Parkway and Tropicana Ave.) and the west side of MPEC.

Fleischman said her main frustration is that many of the "top five" list of lighting grievances have remained pending since she assumed her posi-

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## MTV survey results show discrepancies

BY CHRISTOPHER REITMAIER  
STAFF NEWS WRITER

A recent survey conducted by MTV "Rock the Vote" personnel during their March 22 visit to UNLV revealed a series of contrasts among how UNLV students would vote on various political and social issues.

While 64 percent of those surveyed indicated they are generally happy with the direction America is headed, 79 percent feel that politicians do not take the concerns of young Americans seriously.

This is only one in a series of discrepancies. For instance, the majority of students surveyed labeled themselves conservative. Yet 71 percent said they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supported abortion rights.

"People have been influenced too much by what they see, hear, and read," said David Sutherland, a junior liberal arts major. "We call ourselves conservative because, right now, it's the thing to be, but echoing in the back of our minds are the liberal ideals reinforced by a university setting."

"How strange it is that the many people lack information in a world supposedly built on it. Others are fooled by it, while others still simply can't make up their minds about what to believe," Sutherland continued.

Of the 64 percent of UNLV students surveyed who are registered to vote, 36 percent said they would vote to reelect President Bill Clinton. Twenty-one percent would cast their vote for Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole.

"Most people feel that Clinton hasn't completely ruined

the country, and that's a good thing, so they figure that they'll take the safe road and vote for him because they don't know much about Dole," said Connie Williamson, a senior secondary education major.

The survey included a series of questions concerning various social issues. It revealed that UNLV students are concerned about protecting the environment. Seventy-nine percent said they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who upheld strong anti-pollution laws.

Thirty-six percent said they would be more likely to support a candidate who passed gay rights legislation, while 36 percent said the legislation made no difference where they would cast their vote.

Affirmative action programs received student support. Forty-three percent of those surveyed said they would be less inclined to support a candidate who voted against these programs.

When it came to fighting crime, 50 percent said they would support a candidate who favored spending a greater amount of money on social programs rather than on building jails. Twenty-nine percent said they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who favored the opposite.

When asked to pick the three most important political issues from a list of 12, 43 percent ranked education as their number-one issue of importance. Health care and jobs were both viewed as the second most important issues. Both received 21 percent of the second-place vote. AIDS,

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PHOTO BY VASNA WILSON

Renovation of the Lilly Fong Geoscience Building totals nearly \$900,000.

## Renovation of the geoscience building 'wasted money'

### New building to be constructed in 2000

BY NORA E. GRIFFITH  
CONTRIBUTING NEWS WRITER

Norval Pohl, UNLV's vice president for finance and administration, said the \$900,000 spent renovating the Lilly Fong Geoscience building was "wasted money."

"The geoscience building needed to be rebuilt, but because we can't get funding for it until about four years from now, we decided to go ahead and renovate the building," Pohl said. "Construction of a new geoscience building will not be looked at until around (the year) 2000."

The building's \$900,000 renovation is nearing completion with the installation of an air conditioning unit, improved labs and the removal of asbestos.

Renovation was originally scheduled for May through September, 1995, but did not actually begin until late June.

Eric Anderson, director of planning and construction for UNLV, said the renovation cost the state approximately \$850,000 to \$900,000. According to Anderson, the money was used for mechanical, elec-

trical, and cosmetic repairs.

Wanda Taylor and Tim Wallin, assistant geoscience professors at UNLV, and Clay Crow, instrumental analyst for UNLV's geoscience department, received a grant for \$101,000 from the National Science Foundation. The grant was matched by state money.

Taylor said the \$202,000 went toward renovating the mineral separation lab, the rock lab and the construction of an additional lab room. The money provided three new fume hoods, new cabinets, sinks, ventilation systems, plumbing and floor drains.

Asbestos was removed from the building above the ceilings in the crawl spaces and piping, said Brad Manning, UNLV occupational safety officer.

"As long as asbestos is isolated and not airborne, it is not really a health problem," Taylor said. The asbestos was isolated until renovation began, Taylor added.

Some of the remaining floor tile has asbestos bonded into it, Manning said. "The tiles are in a non-friable state, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards have been met," Manning said. According to Manning, a "friable state" means the asbestos will not become airborne.

Renovation included the addition of an air conditioning unit to the building. Previously the building had its cooled

air pumped in from the James R. Dickinson Library via an underground pipe system, Taylor said. This sharing meant that no outside air, or "make up air," was entering the building. "It is important to have air circulating in from the outside," Crow said.

The building's 37-year-old single-pane windows were replaced with double-pane windows to help insulate the building. According to Taylor, the old windows leaked, defeating the purpose of installing an air unit. The new windows are covered with a protective ultraviolet block.

Bathrooms in the geoscience building were brought up to code and handicap regulations have been met with the addition of automated doors. Bulletin boards were added in the hallways and new hallway floors were installed. New desks were purchased for some classrooms and the interior of the building was painted.

Nate Stout, technical illustrator for the geoscience department said, "The greatest improvement made was the automated doors." Stout, who is wheelchair bound, said the bathroom stalls are easier to get into now but are still just adequate.

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### Parking reserved for Honors Convocation

Parking Lot Y, located north of Judy Bayley Theatre, will be reserved for honors students and their guests during the morning of the university's Honors Convocation ceremony April 18. Lot Y will reopen at noon for general parking.

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