

## From lollipops to victory

### A closer look at CSUN Vice President Joe Mills

By Michael Saunders  
Staff Features Writer

The familiar yellow vests and boxes of lollipops have vanished forever from UNLV. CSUN Vice President Joe Mills will campaign no more. He has reached his two-term limit.

A New York native, Mills came to UNLV in 1993. His path from the "Big Apple" to "Sin City" began with his interest in architecture.

While New York schools are older and more established, Mills said he opted to attend UNLV because "it was a new and upcoming area with diverse architecture."

"I would like to be a part of the great traditions that we are starting here," he said of UNLV.

Mills said he was not originally interested in holding a CSUN leadership position. The assistance he received from CSUN during his first semester at UNLV motivated him to get involved in the process of "students serving students."

"It wasn't an interest in politics," Mills said of his decision to run for CSUN vice president. "It was an interest in helping people."

Mills said his involvement in CSUN has been a positive experience but that his road to success has not been without problems.

Enduring heated relationships with former student government leaders John Pida and Pat Smith, and defending himself against impropriety, Mills has run against rough times while holding his office.

Despite these tumultuous affairs, Mills said he is not disillusioned with politics. "If you feel you can accomplish good things, you should stick with it and weather the storm," he said.

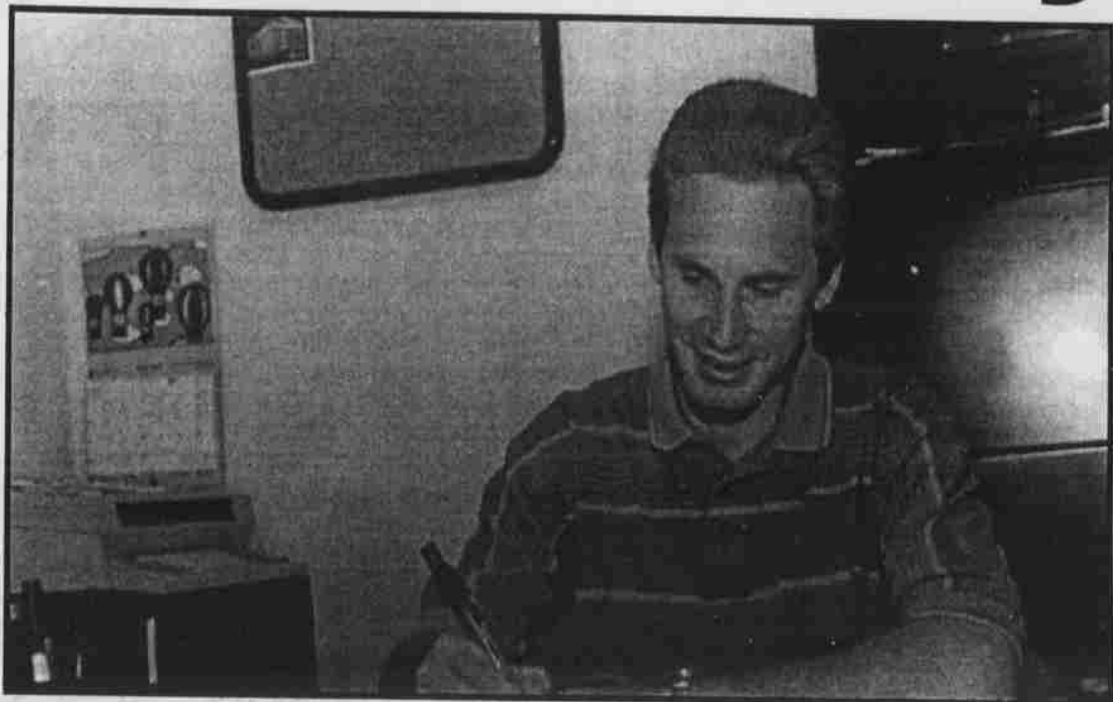
Mills is optimistic about upcoming CSUN projects. Among his list of ideas to improve school spirit is a 25-foot cold air mascot, which may soon be stationed at student government and more alumni activities.

Mills said he hopes to enhance the images of Greek organizations by establishing a specific location on campus for Greeks in exchange for community service hours. This would make fraternity and sorority members more positively visible, he said.

This fall Mills said he plans to lobby in Carson City for student interests. Also, he is working toward bringing voting booths to campus.

Another project Mills initiated is the creation of a campus phone directory for students. It will contain listings of professors' phone numbers and information about student government activities. Students will be able to obtain a free directory in the CSUN office. Dorm residents will be given a copy when they move in.

To improve campus safety, Mills has worked to increase bike



Student Body Vice President Joe Mills hard at work on another CSUN project

Photo: Gregg Benson

patrols and to improve lighting around campus. In addition, he has helped institute date rape prevention and self-defense seminars.

Getting UNLV event information transmitted through closed circuit television to the residence halls is another of Mills' priorities. A former dorm resident, he said greater access to event information will help new students adjust to being in an unfamiliar town with unfamiliar people.

The system will distribute information about campus organizations and activities and will link all UNLV buildings, allowing students on this commuter campus to learn about what goes on after class.

Mills attributes his attitude toward work to being a hotel major, in which hospitality is a must. Helping people, Mills said, gives him a good feeling.

CSUN President Aaron Rosenthal praised Mills' altruism. "He is here to help students out," Rosenthal said of Mills. "He really wants to make a difference and he tries his hardest. I could not ask for much more in a vice president."

Director of Student Information Heather Hamilton, who has known Mills for over two years, said Rosenthal's description of Mills is accurate. "(Mills) has unselfishly given of himself in every way to UNLV, to Student Gov-

ernment and to the students," she said. "He is thinking bigger and better all the time for the students and for UNLV."

Joyce Garcia, CSUN management assistant, agrees. "He is really caring about people," she said. "He has a real touch with the common person."

"He is a pretty stand-up guy," Garcia continued.

When asked if he will run for some other office in the future, Mills replied, "My concern is to do the best job as vice president that I can do."

Mills involvement on campus is not limited to CSUN. He par-

SEE MILLS, PAGE 11

### Int'l students experience culture shock

By Heather Subran  
Staff Features Writer

UNLV has more than 800 full-time students using student visas, according to Margaret Hardigree, director of UNLV's International Student Program. That means about one in 25 Rebels call another country home.

While going to college may be difficult for anyone, international students agree it is doubly so for those who feel light years away from home and are in a country where nothing is familiar.

International students feel more homesick than other freshmen because they not only miss their family and friends, but a whole culture, Hardigree said.

Students also report that they miss hearing their own language or dialect. Others don't always realize how tiring communicating can be. As a young adult with fully developed habits and tastes, it is difficult to come to a new culture with different values, Hardigree said.

"It is interesting here but Jamaicans are very different," Michelle Brown, 24, said. "Jamaican people are more honest and much more aggressive but still very warm and nice."

Any American city can be a shock for international students but Las Vegas is particularly dif-

ficult place to adapt, Hardigree said. A young person's first experience here can be harrowing and confusing, she continued.

Hardigree is optimistic about her job. "Meeting and helping hundreds of students provides an overall picture of the importance of cultural differences and the impact of those differences on today's society," she said.

Students in UNLV's International Student Program come from 64 countries. More than half are hotel majors, according to Hardigree.

"I perceive my office as the initial information source, a staunch advocate and a reliable friend for UNLV's international population," she said.

The number of international students at UNLV has increased by about 25 percent every year for the past six years, according to Hardigree. She attributes this growth partly to the worldwide reputation of UNLV's College of Hotel Administration and its recruitment efforts.

Hardigree said that only one-third of international students were hotel administration majors six years ago. Half fall into this category now.

Services offered by the International Student Services office include assisting with arrival information, processing immigration-related documents, providing

orientation on UNLV and Las Vegas and promoting cultural and recreational programs.

Pursuing an education in a foreign land involves sacrifice from both parents and students, according to Hardigree. Parents sacrifice financially and emotionally while students can feel alienated and vulnerable when they become an instant minority, Hardigree said.

"I miss the Caribs (local beer) and the carnival and the beautiful women," Thomas Harewood, a 21-year-old honor student from the West Indies, said. He added that he also misses Trinidad food, like crab an' dumplin', coconut bake with saltfish, pelau, callaloo, curry goat an' roti, breadfruit and cassava pone.

"UNLV is not at all what I expected," he continued. "I expected more of a campus community and less of a commuter college." Harewood came to Las Vegas in 1993.

Tamara Archibald, 20, comes from the Caribbean island St. Kitts. At first she saw Las Vegas as a glamorous place to go to school. "I was so excited," she said of her first trip visit to the Strip. "It lived up to all the stories that I had heard about it and then some."

SEE SHOCK, PAGE 11

### Relationships take work

By Michael Saunders  
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Relationships can be a source of relief in the frantic life of a college student but can be traumatic when lost.

According to Sandra Terneus, UNLV Student Psychological Services counselor, relationships are a source of anxiety, especially for young adults.

Before initiating a relationship, Terneus suggested getting to know a person first. People should ask themselves a series of questions: Do they have common interests? Do they enjoy each other's company? Is it okay to be different from each other?

Relationships have the greatest chance of success when founded on common values and caring, Terneus said.

The Greek philosopher Aristophanes contended that true love is finding one's other half, a perfect compliment. But Terneus said this ideal is unrealistic. "Compatible yes, perfect compatibility, no," she said.

"If you have self-esteem, by that I mean you feel good about yourself, then a relationship will grow in a healthy manner," Terneus added.

Low self-esteem can lead some people to jump into a relationship prematurely, according to Terneus.

People with low self-esteem may want someone to relieve loneliness or to help them feel good about themselves and often think finding a mate is the solution to life's ills, Terneus said.

New college students are particularly at risk for getting deeply involved too soon, Terneus said. The shock of being in an unfamiliar place may drive them into relationships before they are ready, she continued.

After finding the right person comes the challenge of relationship maintenance, according to Terneus. Stresses outside the relationship will affect both parties, making it important to perform what she calls a maintenance check, which is taking time to talk about the relationship. This helps mates be considerate of each other's needs.

Turning to friends provides temporary relief, Terneus said, but doesn't solve problems. Couples must communicate directly, she added.

Respect is another important aspect of a relationship, according to Terneus. For instance, most people maintain an immaculate image when trying to attract someone but then let their appearance slide after finding a mate.

SEE RELATIONSHIPS, PAGE 10

