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THE REBEL YELL

The News Source For UNLV Students Since 1955

2 *quote of the Day*

You are helping to potty train the university.
-Student Body President
Will Price to incoming freshmen at last Thursday's orientation

December graduation ceremony to take place

By **Tracie Walker**
News Editor

For the first time in the history of UNLV, there will be a ceremony for those graduating in December due to the efforts of Za'Keisha Jones, a senior majoring in education.

The winter graduation ceremony will take place at the Wilson Baseball Stadium on campus Dec. 19 at 11 a.m. with an estimated 800 to 1,000 students and up to 6,000 family members and friends in attendance.

In a letter to the university administration, Jones stated that she and other winter graduates "are no less worthy of a ceremony, just because we did not complete our education in the months that are warm."

Jones was not met without opposition.

"I contacted all the VIPs on campus from President Carol Harter to financial supporters in the UNLV Foundation," said Jones.

"Some people said, 'This won't

happen because so-and-so doesn't like the idea,'" said Jones, "but I ignored those voices, and every week I would call or visit the people who would listen."

Commencement Committee Chairman Donald Schmiedel credited Harter for the decision to have a December graduation when the committee balked.

"I have been listening to students," said Harter, "and after May's commencement, it was clear that we

needed a winter commencement. The Commencement Committee terrifically responded."

Schmiedel thanked Jones for her commitment to the project.

"When Za'Keisha first started this, I thought some rowdy student was trying to cause trouble," said Schmiedel, "but I want to thank you," he said turning toward Jones, "and the other students who have helped you."

"The fact that you are willing to help and are helping is gratifying and almost amazing to us."

Jones said, "The administration was actually very helpful. I thought

there would be a fight, but Dr. Ackerman of the Student Affairs Office was very understanding."

"After the May commencement we knew we had to do something," said Ackerman. "The Thomas and Mack was full of family and friends, and there were complaints that grandma couldn't get in and the like."

Jones was not alone in her request.

Exactly 620 signatures of students who also wanted to see a winter graduation ceremony were gathered.

See **Graduation** page 3

Welcome back



by Shawn Beard / The Rebel Yell

The Valerie Pida Memorial Plaza was again busy late last week as students prepare to return to school today.

UNLV law school begins first session

By **Tracie Walker**
News Editor

School began early for the 140 students who comprised the inaugural class of the William S. Boyd School of Law.

The following are statistics on the inaugural law school class:

- the median age of class members is 31.
- 93 percent are Nevada residents.

- 54 percent are male.
- 84 percent are white.

- 10 students already have earned doctoral-level degrees, including four with medical degrees and one with a dental degree.

- other degrees held by students include political science, history, criminal justice, English, Italian, Asian studies, business, engineering, nursing, inorganic chemistry, zoology, education and vocal performance.

The location of the law school later this semester will be the former Paradise Elementary School on Tropicana that has relocated to the UNLV campus. Classrooms have been refurbished and basketball courts removed for additional parking.

There remains a sandbox and slide on the playground, but former Student Senate President Terry Moore said, "[The sandbox and slide] doesn't bother me. We are trailblazers and just laying the foundation for future years. Besides, it will give us something to talk about at class reunion."

"It's kind of a funky place," said Richard Morgan, Dean of the Law School, "and the playground equipment makes it even funkier."

In two and a half years, the school will relocate to the James

See **Law School** page 5

Law school administration does not foresee problems with accreditation

By **Chris Nickerson**
Staff News Writer

The UNLV William S. Boyd Law School administration is not concerned with the possibility that law students could graduate with a degree that would not allow them to practice law.

In most cases, law students wishing to practice law in any state must graduate from an American Bar Association accredited law school before they are allowed to take the bar exam in that state.

Students who receive a law degree from a non-accredited institution must individually petition a given state before they can take the exam.

Nevada is no exception.

Like any new law school, the Boyd School of Law opened its doors Aug. 17 as a non-accredited law school.

ABA accreditation is not an automatic process and there are no guarantees. There is a long list of criteria that must be met before the ABA will grant accreditation.

Art Gaudio, deputy consultant of legal education for the ABA describes the accreditation process as "a long and complicated set of requirements that must be met in substantial compliance."

Gaudio said the first requirement is that the school will have to be open and teaching for one full year before it is allowed to apply for provisional accreditation.

After the waiting period, the ABA will put together a review committee and schedule a visit to evaluate the school's program.

"The review committee is not the final decision though," states Gaudio. "If the committee makes a recommendation for accreditation, the report must pass before two more review boards before a decision is made."

Representatives of the law school are not concerned.

"Sure there are risks, but we are up front with applicants and we make no promises," said Assistant Dean of the Boyd School Frank Durand. We feel the risks are very small.

"We have established the roots of a good law school with a staff and faculty experienced in both receiving and granting accreditation. Some of them have been on ABA evaluation committees so we feel that we will be fully compliant," he stated.

Durand said that the only barrier to immediate accreditation could be if construction of adequate facilities is not finished in time, but the ABA does give credit for such projects if they are near completion.

Initially, the school will operate from temporary facilities in the newly renovated Paradise Elementary School until construction of the Lied Library is completed in the fall of 1999.

The Dickinson Library will then be closed and remodeled to become the school's permanent location. The new facility is expected to be ready by the end of 2000.

Durand also said, "If any area of the school is found non-compli-

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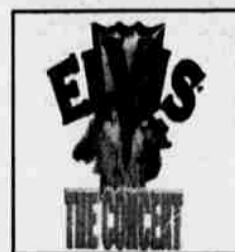
Story previews from the pages of *The Rebel Yell*



From the Sports desk:

Gearing up for another exciting year of Rebel Football. See page 17.

by Heather Grady / The Rebel Yell



From the A&E desk:

Elvis rocked the Las Vegas Hilton in an after-death show.



From the Features Desk:

Students prepare for next school year by purchasing last minute necessities.

by Shawn Beard / The Rebel Yell