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Scenes from the Dunn-Mc Cormack NAACP Campaign party at Penquin Club.

Social Service Mobile Unit For Westside Community

LAS VEGAS--A RESCUE mobile unit from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas this week will be rolling to the aid of residents of the city's West Side and North Las Vegas.

Inside the large silver coach will be students and staff members of UNLV's Department of Social Services dealing with the problems of the community by counseling with its people in their own neighborhoods.

Purchased through a federal education grant, the five-ton vehicle will play a principal role in the development of the newly-established RESCUE project at the University. The initials stand for Recruitment, Experience and Service for Community and University Education.

Project director Esther Langston said the bus will be parked each week in two of the areas largest poverty pockets. H Street and Owens from noon until 3:30 p.m. every Tuesday; and at 310 E. Lake Mead Boulevard from noon until 3:30 p.m. each Thursday.

Also, the unit will be at UNLV from 9 a.m. until noon each Wednesday to provide assistance to students requesting advisory or referral services.

"Social work no longer exists behind a desk," Miss Langston remarked. "We're going where we're really needed--where the people live and their difficulties thrive."

Miss Langston, a former social service and child welfare employee in Nevada who holds a master's degree in social work from San Diego State College, said the University people will try to resolve all types of individual hardships, including medical, legal, personal or financial difficulties.

The students and lecturers will provide a counseling and tutorial service to area residents

who request their help. Much of the time, however, persons will be referred to the appropriate agencies, social centers or professional people in the city who can lend proper advice.

"If we find there are problems in the community which no agencies are prepared to handle, then we will see what can be done to create a new service to eradicate the troubles," Miss Langston suggested.

Staff members of the department spent more than a year designing the interior layout of the RESCUE unit so that it could serve their purposes capably.

The vehicle will be equipped with seating for 11 persons, modern desks and office equipment and a mobile telephone. Space has been provided for group conferences as well as private counseling sessions.

The converted home on wheels also contains many of the conveniences found in more stationary social agencies-- a sink, stove, running water and a bathroom.

Before the unit visits an area of the city, the department will publicize its arrival with neighborhood fliers, and notices in church bulletins, organizations newsletters and newspapers.

Besides the aspect of community service, the mobile unit will provide students at UNLV with a valuable laboratory where they can put into practice the theories of social work they learn in the classroom. Each semester, students from the department will be selected to work in the field unit.

"One of our main functions is to slice through all the red tape involved in the many (See RESCUE page 12)