

# Life Lessons

Upward bound preps students for life

By Crisandra Varnado  
Sentinel-Voice

More than 70 students will get a taste of college life this summer as part of Upward Bound, an educational program that preps students for the real world.

Keyth Harrison thinks they made a good choice.

"When I was younger, I used to look at Upward Bound as a get away, but eventually I started to understand it, and now I have been benefitting from it."

Harrison is an Upward Bound graduate and one of the program's Residential Advisers (RAs).

In its 28th year, Upward Bound provides supportive services for all teens.

For six weeks students stay in dormitories at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and learn to live and work together. From Sunday to Friday, they live on campus. They return home for



the weekend.

Daily routines include going to class, working and attending study hall and group meetings. The afternoon ritual: working or attending additional Upward Bound classes.

Summer school students either take classes at Valley High School in the morning or attend Upward Bound classes.

Nevada Business Services provides on-campus jobs for unemployed students.

Dr. William Sullivan, the program director, has been involved with Upward Bound for 19 years.

"At the end of this summer, hopefully everyone will improve their grades and have a better understanding of college life," he said. He said the key to success in the program is to learn the importance of studying.

Keith Rogers, an RA and UNLV junior majoring in management information systems and marketing, likes lending a helping hand.

"I feel I can help the students by talking to them about short

and long term goals that are obtainable," he said. "I also stress the importance of getting an education and (utilizing) time management."

Sixth-year participant, Ricky Gladstone said the program has allowed him to grow and become a better individual.

"It (the program) gives the students hands on experience (about college)," he said. "I

feel this will help me prepare for my future."

The program's high school graduates attend UNLV and become "bridge students."

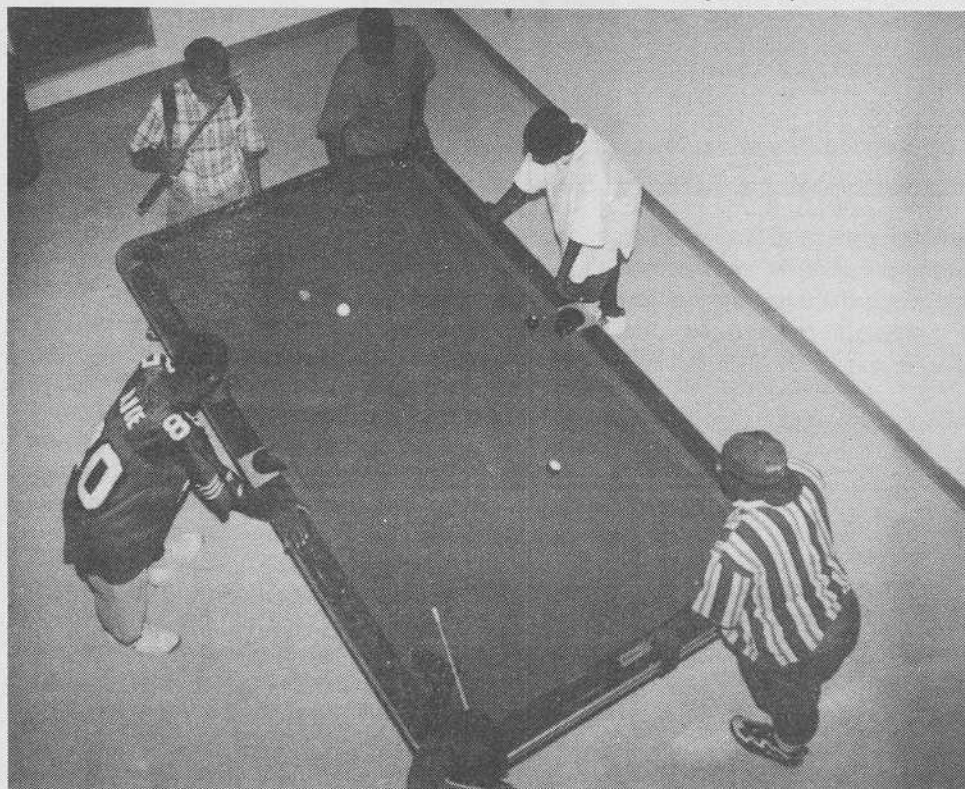
Bridge student Bianca Wood, another six-year Upward Bound veteran, praised the program. "I successfully completed my 12 years of school. I'm glad Upward Bound supports us academically," Wood said.



(Top left) Quiana Stevens checks on her clothes in the UNLV laundrymat. Upward Bound participants stay on the campus Sunday through Friday during the six-week program.

(Top right) Susanna Elcala and Maria Sanchez collaborate on classwork during one of the program's school sessions.

(Bottom left) Two young men ply their billiards talents while others watch.  
Sentinel-Voice photos by Ramon Savoy



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