

Sagebrush

University of Nevada-Reno

Tuesday/March 31, 1987 Volume 93, Number 46

AIDS The epidemic has just begun

By Monica Parkhurst

More than 33,000 Americans have been diagnosed as having had AIDS — nearly 19,000 of them have died.

But the epidemic has only just begun, according to experts.

The Center for Disease Control estimates that in four years the total number of AIDS cases will reach 270,000 with 179,000 deaths.

It took six years for the epidemic to reach today's toll of 33,158 AIDS cases in the United States. In the year 1991 alone, there will be 74,000 cases of AIDS diagnosed in the United States, experts say.

That year 54,000 Americans will die of AIDS, federal scientists say.

If you have had three to four partners in the last three to four years, you are at

risk of getting AIDS, James Conkey, director of the AIDS education project at Truckee Meadows Community College, said.

"No one is safe anymore," he said.

Art Lund, Washoe County communicable disease investigator, agreed. But, he said that most of the people who have tested positive for AIDS in Washoe County so far have had histories of other sexually transmitted diseases such as syphilis and gonorrhea.

"They have a lot of sex with a lot of people," he said. Cases of up to 15 partners a week are not that unusual, he said.

The AIDS virus is spread from blood to blood or semen to blood through sexual intercourse, the sharing of intravenous drug needles, from a pregnant

Prevalence of AIDS by age group

	Highest prevalence	Lowest prevalence
Men		
20 to 29 years old	3.4 percent	.09 percent
30 to 39 years old	11.1	.21
40 to 49 years old	7.4	.21
Total	3.34	.07
Women		
15 to 19 years old	.04	.00
20 to 29 years old	.78	.01
30 to 39 years old	1.36	.007
40 to 49 years old	.43	.00
Total	.38	.004

• California, District of Columbia, Florida, New York, Texas
• Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming
• Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, New Jersey, New York

Source: Center for Disease Control

woman to her fetus or from a mother to her infant through breast milk. Sharing IV needles is not confined to crack or heroin users. Steroid use is a common form of shared needles as well.

There have been 18 cases of AIDS and 11 deaths in this county as of March 26. In the state there have been 73 cases of AIDS and 45 deaths, with other cases pending, Diana Wells, who works with the state AIDS coordinator, said.

"(There have been) a lot of positive tests for a state this size," she said.

Why?

"It's just everywhere," Wells added.

It's in Americans' blood streams and in America's blood banks.

Since early 1985, blood banks in the United States have been screening blood for the AIDS virus antibody. The Public Health Service has recommended that Americans who received blood transfusions and other blood products between 1978 and April 1985 be tested for the AIDS antibody.

Health officials estimate that 12,000 transfusion recipients have been infected with the virus before the screening test was developed.

There is a major glitch in the blood screening system, however.

It may take anywhere from two weeks to six months for the immune system to develop antibodies to the AIDS virus. This process, called seroconversion, means that a person may be carrying the AIDS virus for up to six months and still have a negative blood test because antibodies have not yet been produced.

"Most people will seroconvert in two to four weeks," Conkey, of TMCC, said. The rest will develop antibodies up to six months later, he added.

A person who may be worried about AIDS gets the antibody test. He has not seroconverted yet, so he shows negative on both the ELISA and the more sophisticated Western Blot blood-

screening tests.

He is thrilled with the results and has sex with his girlfriend. He also donates blood.

The blood he donates will be screened again and show negative results even if tested six months later. The blood will not develop antibodies outside of the body.

His blood is "safe," according to modern technology.

But it is deadly.

Experts estimate that one in 100,000 units of blood is contaminated with the AIDS virus. Conkey said one in 50,000 units is contaminated with AIDS because of the seroconversion factor.

"There has been a tendency to soft-pedal this information (so as) not to panic the public," Dr. Joseph Beres, director of the UNR Student Health Service, said.

The media tries to emphasize the positive, he said. "The risk factor has been very slight," so this is what has been played up, he said.

Conkey said he thinks blood-testing for marriage licenses is ridiculous because of the seroconversion lag.

If you didn't seroconvert until a couple of months after the blood test, "What's the point (of the marriage blood test)?" Conkey said.

Surgeon General C. Everett Koop recommended that all women contemplating pregnancy should be tested for the AIDS antibody.

If the woman carries the AIDS virus she has a 50 to 90 percent chance of passing the virus to her baby, experts estimate.

"The baby will die before two years if it has the virus," Conkey said.

He said it's a question of do you abort or not?

Experts are recommending that women who test positive for the AIDS antibody



Brett Pauly Sagebrush

All washed up — Ed Richard of Buildings and Grounds uses a water spray gun to clean off green paint left by pranksters on the Mackay Statue on St. Patrick's Day.

See AIDS page 2

AIDS from page 1

get an abortion, Lund said.

"That's pretty heavy stuff," he said. "That's how devastating it is."

Because of variations in seroconversion time, it is possible that the woman will test negative but give her baby the virus she has been carrying all along without knowing it.

While the debate over mandatory blood-testing flares, the Center for Disease Control has started anonymously testing blood samples of certain hospital patients admitted for reasons other than AIDS, at selected hospitals in February, the AMA News reported March 13.

Patients will not be informed that their blood is being tested. Nor will they be informed of the results.

The testing will be used to monitor the level of disease in the general population and spot trends in disease pattern.

A total of 300 blood samples will be tested monthly.

"I don't approve of that," Beres said. "It sounds sneaky."

There is a certain responsibility to the patient when you check their blood, he said. They should know, especially if they are positive.

"It's unethical, if not illegal," he added.

AIDS cases in Nevada and Washoe County

Month	Nevada	Washoe
September 14, 1986	49	9
November 7, 1986	57	12
December 16, 1986	62	13
January 21, 1987	65	14
March 24, 1987	73	18

Paul Quinlan Memorial Scholarship
 Applications now available,
 ASUN office, JTU
 Deadline to apply:
 Thursday, April 9

Qualifications:

The ASUN Scholarship will be based on academic achievement and overall participation in and contribution to ASUN and university life. Applicants must be an ASUN member at the time of application and also at the time they are the recipients of this scholarship. There will be five \$1,000 scholarships awarded in two equal allotments in the fall and spring semesters of the succeeding year. Applicant must be a full-time undergraduate with an overall grade point average of 2.75 or better.



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 "Business & its Ethical
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 April 2, 5:30 p.m.
 BB 402**



Applications are being accepted for the following positions:

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 Editor of Artemisia
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Basic skills required:

- Knowledge of print media
- Budgeting and personnel management
- Layout and production skills
- Journalism skills

Requirements:

- 2.2 GPA
- ASUN student

**Applications in ASUN office, JTU.
 Deadline to Apply:
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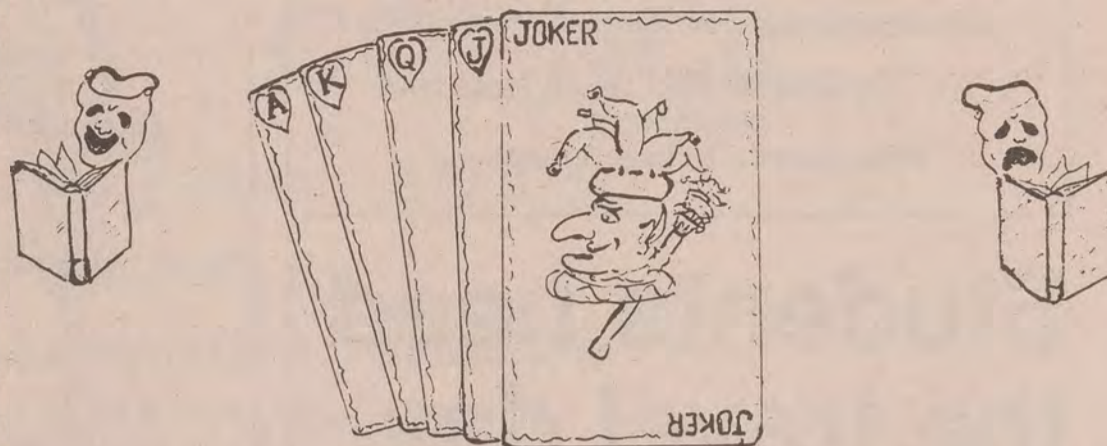
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The ASUN Forensics Society presents:

Evening of Dramatic Foolery



Featuring the critically acclaimed "Luck of the Draw," a reader's theatre satirizing the life of the strip in Las Vegas.

Join the very best story tellers in the country on April 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the Pine Room of the Jot Travis Student Union on the UNR campus.

Tickets:

General	\$4.00
Students	2.00
Seniors	2.00

For further information call 784-4035.

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Presented by the Graduating Class of 1987 and ASUN

Sagebrush

Newspaper of the University of Nevada-Reno

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(702) 784-4033
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Students need the travel day

Spring Break will be a day shorter than usual this semester.

Because of a shortage of teaching days, the travel day, usually given after Easter Sunday, has been taken back. Students who require a day to get from home to school will have to leave on Easter.

The day was eliminated from the holiday schedule by the addition of Martin Luther King Day. President Reagan said the states could decide whether or not to make the day a state holiday, and Gov. Bryan declared it a day off.

As a result, the UNR administration had to find another holiday to cut, and since Washington's Birthday is a traditional day off, the travel day was it.

Deciding which day should become a holiday is a tough decision. Taking a day to celebrate a great civil rights leader is important. But letting students spend Easter with their families is equally as important.

The travel day was taken away last year when a week of school was canceled because of flood damage to the university.

But the travel day is more important than the university seems to realize. To be with their families at Easter is important to a lot of students. And to leave in the middle of the day is more than just an inconvenience.

Even Dr. King would understand the need for families to be together at Easter. In fact, if he were alive, he would probably encourage it.

The King holiday also falls just after the semester break. The students have just had almost two months off, and would not be discouraged if they were not allowed to take that Monday off.

Remembering Martin Luther King is important. Having a day set aside to do it is also necessary.

But letting students spend Easter holidays with their families must take precedence. King would have wanted it that way.

AIDS to be covered

Sagebrush has been covering the AIDS crisis intensively in recent issues. As this disease spreads across Nevada, the only way it will be slowed is by informing the public exactly what it is, and how best to prevent it.

Sagebrush's coverage will try to provide UNR with the most current information that can be obtained about AIDS and how it affects the university community. In doing this, Sagebrush will not stray from the controversial stories — nor can it afford to — if AIDS is to be stopped.



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Letters

An apology to SAE

Editor:

I want to publicly apologize to the present and past members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity for the incident of March 12, 1987, as described in your letter to the Sagebrush editor in the March 27, 1987, issue.

I do not find fault with the officer's concern for the safety of one of your brothers, but I do find fault with his overzealous allegation of kidnapping and unlawful assemblage. He should have explained the possible dangers of broken glass, debris and organisms which could be harmful to anyone thrown into the lake. He should have prevailed upon your human concern as adults to refrain from throwing a brother into the murky waters of Manzanita.

Your letter accurately describes the incident as reported to me in the Reserve Officers's report. However, you neglected to mention a visit to your house and the conversation that took place between a university police detective and your president immediately following this incident. The detective did advise your president and numerous brothers of the safety hazards and apologized for the way the situation was resolved.

The UNR Police Department is not trying to stop a tradition, but would suggest the possibility of the SAE's leading and organizing other Greek organizations on campus to clean up Manzanita Lake. This could begin simply with a clean-up of accumulated litter and trash in and around the lake.

UNRPD has awakened to the smell of roses, but we are also concerned about the smell of the lake and its possible safety hazards.

L. D. Bizzari
Director of Public Safety

Sagebrush is one-sided

Editor:

All men are religious. All people worship or idolize something. Americans are tending their religion toward self-satisfaction. All people need to have meaning in their lives, and where this meaning is satisfied is where

one's religion comes from. Teke Kelley falls into this category. In his column he tried to promote his religion of selfism. The Sagebrush tends to promote these types of articles and hides the other viewpoint.

I believe in Jesus Christ as my God. The Sagebrush would not print my letter, but it gives Teke Kelley a large portion of a page as well as a bold title. Secular humanism has man himself as the god and pleasure without morals as the way to please this god. This type of religion never leads to a satisfied and fulfilled life; no matter how much alcohol, sex, etc. try to fill the emptiness inside of all men.

Everybody seeks a deeper meaning to their life. If they only seek in bars and bedrooms, they are limiting their satisfaction to something which will fade away and cease as youth fades. If I try to propose a new answer (Jesus), the Sagebrush thinks it is too controversial and edits it out of their paper. The Sagebrush and its freedom of the press tend to cover up viewpoints opposed to its thinking.

I would appreciate more freedom to the students and faculty to present opposing viewpoints in the letters to the editor. Mr. Sullivan, you have the rest of the paper to present your viewpoint.

Scott M. Coleman

Sagebrush

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The opinions expressed in Sagebrush are not necessarily those of ASUN, the administration or the faculty.

Returning Women Students:
You are invited to participate in a
Wine and Cheese Party

April 3, 4-6 p.m.

Alumni Lounge, JTU

\$1 donation

Child Care Provided at the Women's
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Filing is now open!

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Filing closes April 3

5:00 p.m.

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ASUN Office, JTU

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OUTSTANDING SENIOR — 1987

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Reno Gazette-Journal
every morning, every day

Bowman's Manville show needs control

By Marta Murvosh

The large space created by the recent remodeling of the Manville Gallery presents an excellent location to exhibit the large (roughly 5 X 6 feet) mind-paint-activity paintings of Brice Bowman.

This exhibit will be shown through April 3.

In a vein similar to Karel Appel's work of the early 1960s Bowman's paintings are active and busy with color and forms.

He drags color across the canvas with the tube of paint, his brush and fingers.

Any mixing of paint appears to be on the canvas, not on a separate palette (a piece of glass, plastic, or wood that the artist blends his various colors on. The colors an artist uses in his work are called his palette as well.)

Bowman has ignored the rich range of grays available to him by mixing various colors. Many of his paints have the sense of being squeezed from the tube.

The artist has allowed himself freedom of many hues of color. This detracts from the overall impact of his work.

He relies on the use of bright, even

neon, color to grab the viewers and hold their eyes to his work. Especially distracting is Bowman's signature in very bright colors.

Yet Bowman's works that have the most strength have a limited palette.

Instead of throwing every color from the spectrum on the canvas, he chooses colors that are analogous (next to each other on the color wheel: red, orange and yellow) and a complement (color opposite on the color wheel: red and green, blue and orange, purple and yellow).

The paintings with a predominate use of black tend to be the strongest work. (This feeling could be due to the fact that the author of this review is a print-maker who works mainly with black inks.)

Bowman paints very heavily. In some areas the paint is a quarter-inch thick.

A lot of what occurs on the canvas results from the sheer mass of paint. Color gets dragged across still damp or dried paint, lifting up, distorting and changing previous layers.

Any blending of hue into gradated tones or other colors is accidental, even serendipity.

Bowman seems to have little control over his medium. Quantity, not quality, of paint seems to be the goal.

Artists, whether working realistically or abstractly, make choices about the composition of their work.

Bowman deals with form in a very limited, safe way. Thick lines of paint framing three sides of the center of the canvas are a recurring idea. The lines at the bottom area of the canvas run off the edge, leaving the form open.

Bowman creates a gravity in his work. Shapes, lines and/or color run off the bottom of his paintings and act as an anchor.

His shapes — though interesting representations of faces and bodies — are lost in the many layers of paint.

Bowman doesn't seem to say anything profound about the act of painting. His work has the sense that the artist enjoys paint and painting.

These paintings possess textures that

do not have anything to do with good painting technique. He is indecisive about the way he paints.

Apparently, Oakland, Calif.'s Tribune reviewed Bowman's show. Manville used this review in promotional literature but left out a phrase on Bowman's talent. Manville calls Bowman's work "honest, intuitive expressionism, retaining the vitality and immediacy...of a Jackson Pollock."

The full Tribune quote: "Bowman's is an honest, intuitive expressionism, retaining the vitality and immediacy, if not always the magic, of a Jackson Pollock."

Bowman's work lacks an intensity and a richness of technique that is found in what history has termed great painting.

In this show, Bowman has shown us a wide range of approaches to the handling of abstract activity painting. He now needs to decide how to control his paint and which one of his many ideas he wishes to focus in on.

'Bombs' an excellent buy

"Bombs in the Backyard" by A. Constandina Titus. \$19.95 Published by the University of Nevada Press.

By Jason Holloman

It was the day Prometheus stole fire from the gods.

"At precisely 5:29 a.m. Mountain War Time on July 16, 1945, the first atomic bomb was detonated with results beyond anything imagined. The light in the bell-shaped fire ball was...so intense it could have been seen from another planet.

"The temperature at its center was more than one-thousand times that at the surface of the sun, and the pressure, caving in the ground beneath, was over 100 billion atmospheres.

"The steel tower that held the bomb had vanished after being completely vaporized in the explosion."

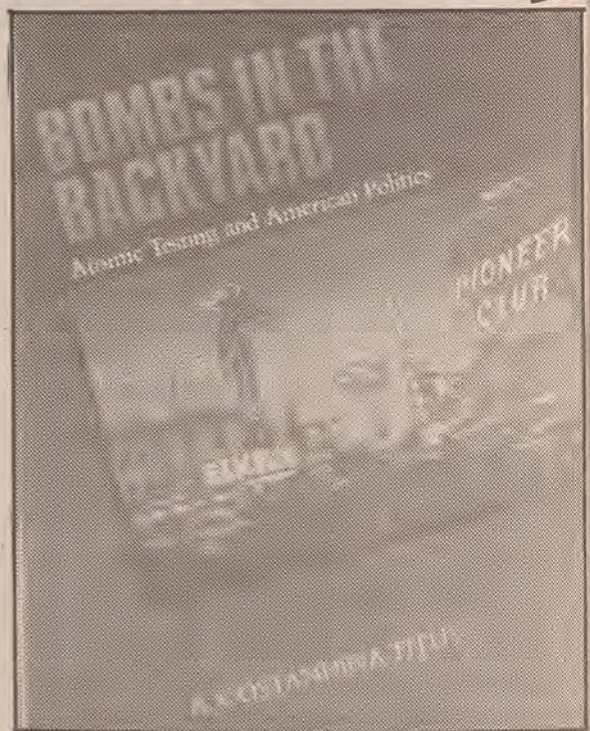
A. Constandina Titus wrote these words in her new book, "Bombs in the Backyard," just published by the University of Nevada Press.

It is a book that shows the magnificence of man's creative genius and at the same time attempts to measure the immensity of this ignorance in dealing with the unbound forces of the atom.

Titus' book is a study of two worlds torn apart by the bomb.

It is a chronicle of American politics suffering under the pangs of giving birth to an awesome monster of destruction, and it is a story of intense interest as the characters in the plot begin to realize that the sword they yield will not only kill their enemies, but kill the sword-bearer as well.

Titus takes the reader back to the Greek philosopher Leucippus, who invented the atomic theory and walks him through the path of history that leads to class-action suits against a government which sanctioned atomic testing on an uninformed public.



The role Nevada plays in this history is significant and the cover of "Bombs in the Backyard" is illustrated with a popular postcard of the 1950s showing the neon Las Vegas Strip framing an atomic explosion in the background.

The postcard is not a figment of some science-fiction artist's imagination. The photo of the event actually exists and is displayed in the book.

Recalling the events of the Manhattan Project, the explosions at the Bikini Islands and the subsequent testing of nuclear weapons at Frenchman's Flat in Nevada, Titus draws on first-hand observers of the events. The effect is chilling.

Frank Karasti, one of the many Navy men who were assigned to clean up the destroyer "Hughes" only one day after an atomic explosion in the Bikini Islands, tells of his experience: "Out of the four hours we spent on her (the destroyer), two were spent vomiting and retching as we all became violently ill."

Of the same incident, George McNish said: "We had scientists dressed like for

After 8-year hiatus, Community Alliance Church returns to Reno

By Rick Hoover

We have a new church in Reno.

Well, it is not exactly new. The Community Alliance Church was founded in Sparks in 1921, but it closed its doors eight years ago.

Now, Pastor Paul Willyard is starting it again.

"We're targeting the people who are really unchurched in the Reno-Sparks area," Willyard said. "The people who have dropped out of church or who have just never gone."

Willyard is making this effort in conjunction with a national effort.

The denomination is 100 years old this year and its goal is to have 100 churches open.

"Our slogan is 'Easter 100,'" Willyard said, referring to the target date. "Meetings are scheduled to start Easter in Jot Travis (in the Pine Room), but we are meeting in homes right now."

Willyard, who was the pastor of the Christian and Missionary Church during the past 12 years, said the Community Alliance Church closed for one reason.

"(The church was) in a location that was not conducive to growth in our denomination," Willyard said. "It was over on Montello (in east Reno).

Willyard added that the building is still being used, but by another church.

Willyard was contacted in January by the denomination, but said the drive to start up the church began earlier, in December of 1986.

"We don't have a membership list yet," Willyard said. "That will be determined after the first Sunday meeting."

Willyard, along with Assistant Pastor Sam Dalin, is making sure the community finds out about the re-opening of the church.

"Twenty thousand letters of invitation are being sent out in the community," Willyard said.

Willyard would like for everyone who receives an invitation to show up for the first service, but he does not expect everyone to attend.

"We foresee a possibility of 300 or 350 maximum out of that mailing," Willyard said. "There is usually about a one percent response."

Willyard stressed the point that the church will be a member of a larger organization.

"We are to be affiliated," he said. "This is not an independent church, but a member of an international denomination."

Willyard said there are benefits to being a member of an international denomination.

"We have a strong foreign missionary program," he said. "We have approximately 1,100 missionaries in 50 countries in the world.

"Being a member of the alliance means to be a member of an international missionary alliance."

For more information, contact Willyard at 747-0234.

See Bombs page 7

KNPB has best fund-raiser

By Joel Muller

"It was our last break of the fund-raiser. We just needed \$270 to reach our goal. Then someone phoned in a \$500 membership and put us over the top."

The "top" was \$115,000 and KNPB General Manager Jim Pagliarini went on to describe his elation at meeting and exceeding the goal set at this year's first major membership drive: Festival '87.

"We hold three of these membership drives a year, but this is our most ambitious," he said.

The drive began on March 7 and ended Wednesday. It featured a telethon phone bank in the evenings.

During this prime-time programming, KNPB would cut in to appeal for new members.

Almost all of the hosting and phone answering was performed by volunteers.

"We are very grateful to all of the volunteers who helped out," Pagliarini said. "Last year, approximately \$80,000 worth of volunteer time was donated."

Bombs from page 6

outer space, with instruments like I had never seen. But when it came to diving or bringing up samples, all we had were skin and tanks."

The titles of the chapters give you a clue to the contents in the struggle of man versus bomb: "The Awesome Dawn," "Politics of Control," "Selling the Bomb," "Living Under the Mushroom Cloud."

And, in one chapter entitled "More Likely Than Not," we are presented with pictures of "Miss Atomic Bomb" — dummies used in Nevada's desert "Doom Towns" destined for destruction by atomic testing — and soldiers casually brushing off fallout dust with a broom

Titus shows us the mood of the country with comments about movies like "The Atomic Kid," "Hell and High Water" and "The Atomic City" which sold the idea of the Atomic Age to Americans.

A quote from a Little Caesar ditty gives the reader a feeling for the nonchalance of the '50s.

"Boom! Something exploded down inside,

And rushed teardrops in my eyes,

Oh yes,

I have that funny feeling,

I guess it's my atomic love, for you (ooooh) ..."

An important book, "Bombs in the Backyard" is itself just a chapter in the history of the Atomic Age, but it is a clearly written, historically correct chapter that is well-documented.

Titus wrote the book after doing research for U.S. Senator Howard Cannon, with whom he was co-sponsoring an atomic victims compensation bill.

For those of us living in Nevada, the book could be considered required reading. It gives the reader ammunition against the uninformed who inquire about a state that endorses bombs in its own backyard.

That was only part of the drive's success, though, according to Pagliarini. Pagliarini said caring citizens are the station's cornerstone.

"We reach about 110,000 households," he said. "From those, we have over 6,000 members. The support of the community has been extraordinary."

The memberships are one of three major sources for the public broadcasting station's income. The station also receives funds from businesses and

See KNPB page 10

MarbleheadXVI

The contest began. Adolph Rupp downed three beers in 10 seconds and Butch Bafe Boyd downed three beers in 9.5 seconds. It was a drink-off to the death. "Boy," Rupp said. "That was fast drinking. We're all going to die anyway."

From the UNR Women's Center- Thanks New
Keystone Cinema!

See you at the benefit movie
"Malcolm"
April 4th



His Holiness Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Founder of the Transcendental Meditation Program

Dear Student,

There's something you can do for a short time each day that will improve every aspect of your life—your grades, your future career, your relationships, everything—all at the same time. What's more, it's easy to do. Over 1,000,000 students have experienced the benefits. And you can too.

You'll learn about it soon at a special free lecture on the Transcendental Meditation technique. This lively, entertaining talk may well change your life.

My name is Kevin Blair. I'm president of the student government at Maharishi International University, where students, faculty, and staff all practice the TM technique. I want to tell you three things about the upcoming lecture:

1 At the lecture, you'll learn how the simple, natural TM technique, which is practiced 15-20 minutes twice a day, brings profound benefits to mind and body, and how these benefits automatically improve one's social behavior, school and job performance, and much more.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

2 You'll also learn that more than 350 scientific research studies have been done on TM worldwide over the past 15 years. Many of the research results are directly relevant to your personal and academic development as a student:

- increased intelligence and learning ability

If you really want to know how to improve your grades, your career, and your life there's an upcoming lecture you shouldn't miss.

- improved comprehension, concentration, and memory
- improved academic performance
- reduced stress and anxiety
- increased happiness
- improved interpersonal relationships
- improved athletic performance

You can have these qualities growing in your life too, simply as a result of practicing the TM technique.

3 Finally, you'll learn that the TM technique doesn't just help the individual. Research has shown that when as little as the square root of one percent of the population of a city or nation practices the TM program and its advanced aspects, the entire population becomes more orderly, peaceful, and progressive. This brings great hope towards solving the age-old problem of world peace.

IT WORKS!

If you're wondering how one simple technique can bring so many benefits to mind, body, behavior, and even the world as a whole, then attend the lecture. The explanation you'll hear is at once simple, scientific, and profound.

You'll hear, for example, about the unified field of all the laws of nature as described by modern physics and by ancient Vedic science. And about how the TM technique lets you experience the unified field within your own consciousness, thereby bringing you the support of all the laws of nature. The main thing, however, is that TM

works. I know from my own experience. I've been practicing the technique for 6 years, and it's made me more relaxed, yet more dynamic and productive. As a result, I'm enjoying greater success—both in and out of the classroom!

That's why I'm urging you to attend this free lecture. If even ten percent of what I've said about TM proves to be true, think what it could mean for your achievement and happiness for the rest of your life.

The date and time of the lecture are given below. I hope you'll be there. And don't hesitate to bring your friends; you'll be doing a great thing for them as well!

Wishing you success
in all that you do.

Kevin Blair

Kevin Blair
President, Student Government
Maharishi International
University

"TM is the single most important part of being a peak performer. It gives you the ability to excel in an environment of stress, to make rapid decisions based on rapid changes, and to do so functioning very well."

—Christopher Hegarty, President
Hegarty and Associates
San Francisco, CA

Transcendental Meditation

Transcendental Meditation is a service mark of the World Plan Executive Council—United States, a non-profit educational organization.

Wed. April 1st at noon BB Room 638
Wed. April 1st at 7 p.m. Nevada Rm. JTU
Thurs. April 2nd at noon Nevada Rm. JTU
Call 348-9599 for more information.

Martin Luther King Hall

A unique sanctuary for some of Reno's homeless

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of stories about Reno's homeless.

The Rev. Vincent Thompson is living proof that one person can make a difference.

Thompson has operated the Martin Luther King Hall for Reno's homeless the past five years.

"I saw that there was a need for it," Thompson said of the hall. "There were people in the community who were homeless in abundance, sleeping under bridges, in ditches, staying in cardboard boxes, in empty cars. The Salvation Army and the (Gospel) Mission can't do it all."

Thompson puts in about 14 hours a day at the hall in addition to his duties as a chaplain at the Veteran's Administration.

Thompson also is active politically. He is former chairman of the Nevada Blacks for Ronald Reagan Committee, former assistant director of the Equal Rights Commission, chairman of the Black Republican Council and past president of the Northern Nevada Political Action Committee.

"He's more concerned with things than a lot of people in this town," Germaine Polikalas, who co-owns the hall with Thompson, said. "For as long as I've known him, he has been involved with people and their problems. He takes his Christian ministry seriously."

Thompson's largest commitment, the Martin Luther King Hall, is a beaten and battered old house at 563 Vine St., about two miles southwest of UNR.

It is a hodgepodge of makeshift construction, with pieces of unpainted plywood covering holes and broken windows.

Additional bedrooms are tacked onto the back of the hall like large doghouses strung in a row.

A small sign, handwritten with black marker, adorns the front of the house and reads: "Martin Luther King Hall."

Inside, the living and dining rooms are cozy but tattered. The walls need paint, the floor could use new carpet. Upstairs, the bedrooms are small and unfinished.

The residents can enjoy the use of a small black-and-white TV and an old, dusty stereo.

But, with all its problems, the hall is still the much appreciated living quarters of 12 homeless men. Women also have lived there in the past.

"We need more support," Thompson said. "There is more building to do, more rooms to add. We would like to build a day-care center for single women. We need a babysitting service."

The hall is supported by donations from the community, money out of

Stories by
Geoff Schumacher

Photos by
Adrian Fox

Thompson's own pocket and the low rent charged to residents with jobs.

"We're primarily assisting those who can get work," Thompson said. "If they have a job, we charge them a fee to stay here, we give them food and clothing. They get one solid meal a day and breakfast."

Thompson said he would like to see UNR get more involved in helping the homeless.

"We would like (UNR) to hire more of the people we send up, maybe provide some scholarships for us," he said. "The students could help also with food drives, clothing, etc."

Another way the students could help, Thompson said, is by tutoring some of the residents.

"Some people who come here don't know how to read or write," he said. "If they could, they might be able to get better jobs with better pay."

The Martin Luther King Hall has

housed as many as 36 people at one time, according to Thompson, but no longer takes in everyone who knocks on the door.

"We can't afford it," he said. "We can't feed everybody like the Mission does. We try to rehabilitate the whole man, from giving him a place to sleep, feeding him and clothing him, to seeing that he gets a steady job and a nice place to live. We want to give him back his dignity."

This rehabilitation includes hygiene classes, job placement and counseling.

Attending Sunday religious services is required of hall residents, Thompson said, but not enforced.

"They'll go maybe two Sundays and then miss three," he said. "Then they'll go three and miss six. We can't enforce it but we want them to be aware of other avenues than the ones they may be choosing."

Thompson, who has been an active member of the Reno community since 1966, has connections that have provided employment for many hall residents over the years.

"Kelly Warehouse Service has hired just about everybody we've sent them," he said. "We also send them out to talk to people, say at Valley Bank, the Reno Gazette-Journal."

Thompson says he doesn't discriminate at the hall regardless of race, religion or past history.

"There is no one kind of person we turn away," he said. "Murderers are the same as anybody else to us. We've had bikers here, Nazis here. There are just a whole bunch of people who are hungry."

As of last week, there were eight whites, three blacks and one Hispanic living at the hall, Thompson said.

Alcoholics and drug addicts don't stay at the hall, however, Thompson said.

"Other agencies are referred to concerning those people," he said. "But if we get a grant we have requested from Washoe County, they would provide us with counselors and psychiatrists to work with these problems."

Thompson said the hall's philosophy is based on love.

"Sometimes the people who come here don't believe this is happening to them, that people are loving them," he said. "We take on a lot of problems here. We just try to make the people feel like they are not alone."

He said this isn't always easy. "Some people take a long time to adjust to the fact that someone really

See Hall page 9



Jack Sroka discusses his life at the Martin Luther King Hall last week. Sroka, who has a college degree in English, hasn't been able to land a job as a writer.

Hall from page 8

cares," Thompson said. "They are so used to dog-eat-dog surviving that they can't believe they have broken out of it."

Polikalas said Thompson's program is unique in Reno because it offers long-term shelter and rehabilitation.

"The others, the Mission and the Salvation Army, are very temporary," she said. "The Martin Luther King Hall is a lot more flexible. It is more helpful in letting people take a little more time to get back on their feet."

King Hall resident discovers that good jobs are scarce in real world

Jack Sroka is one of 12 men who live at the Martin Luther King Hall, a homeless shelter in Reno.

He is 25 years old and has a bachelor's degree in English from the University of New York at New Paltz.

After graduating from college, Sroka found it difficult to find a job that fit into his creative English background.

"I haven't been able to make a door for myself in the career world," he says. "My degree was very unpractical."

Sroka came to Reno to live with his father after a relationship with a girlfriend turned sour in New York.

"We were going to get married and live in New York City, and I was going to work as an editorial assistant somewhere," he says. "But she changed her mind. And when we went down the tubes, I had no place to go."

Sroka says he came to Reno and "got into the whole trip" of Nevada's nightlife, meaning gambling, brothels and the 24-hour party atmosphere.

"My father made me get my own apartment after a month and I didn't have the money for it," he says.

Sroka worked at Harrah's and at the Reno Gazette-Journal as a telemarketer during that stretch but both jobs fell through and he was forced to move into a cheaper apartment — across the street from UNR.

"It drove me nuts, doing the working gig, and wondering how I could get back into school," he says.

Sroka says he is proud that he lived in that apartment for a year, however, during which time he worked as a "big six" dealer and as a loan officer.

"I should still be working as a loan officer right now," Sroka says. "But they wanted somebody who could type well on a computer. I am primarily a hunt-and-peck typist."

He lost that job just before Christmas 1986 but he had enough money saved up to survive until another job came along.

"I had plenty of money saved but my teeth were just killing me," he says. "I found out I had six cavities that needed to be taken care of."

After paying to have his teeth worked on, Sroka found himself jobless and with \$250 to his name.

"I had to find a place to stay and I knew about the Martin Luther King

Hall," he says. "I was hesitant at first to ask to stay here because of the name of the hall. I thought it was mostly a place for black people. But in January, the Rev. (Vincent Thompson) let me move in."

Now, Sroka works part-time at Wendy's and is trying to get a job at Valley Bank with Thompson's help.

It is a job which he says could eventually get him back on his own. "After I get enough money and I am stable here in Reno, I want to go back to New York where there is a better chance of me getting a job in my field — writing," he says.

The only outlet in Reno for Sroka's creative work has been the Sagebrush. Other places, such as the Reno Gazette-Journal and the local TV stations, haven't had jobs available for somebody with his credentials.

"I turn on the TV set and see all the lousy shows and I know I could make them better," he says. "It's depressing."

"I would have taken, if I had been practical-minded in college, classes in advertising or journalism. Then I could get a writing job."

Sroka says his biggest problem in finding a job is that he is discriminated against because of his appearance.

"I'm discriminated against because they think I'm a Mexican," he says. "They want to see my green card. I'm not saying anything bad about Mexicans but if they think I am Mexican, they would rather give the job to a redheaded kid."

When the United States bombed Libya recently, Sroka almost got into a fight because somebody thought he was a Libyan. During the Iranian hostage crisis, he says people thought he was an Iranian.

Sroka actually is of Lebanese descent.

"I try to keep all this in the back of my head because it can destroy a man," he says. "It can really get you down."

But what depresses Sroka the most is that his parents are disappointed in him.

"I got a letter from my dad today and he still thinks I am as irresponsible as ever," Sroka says. "But he hasn't been here to see how living at the hall has changed me."

Sroka says he is just looking for one break.

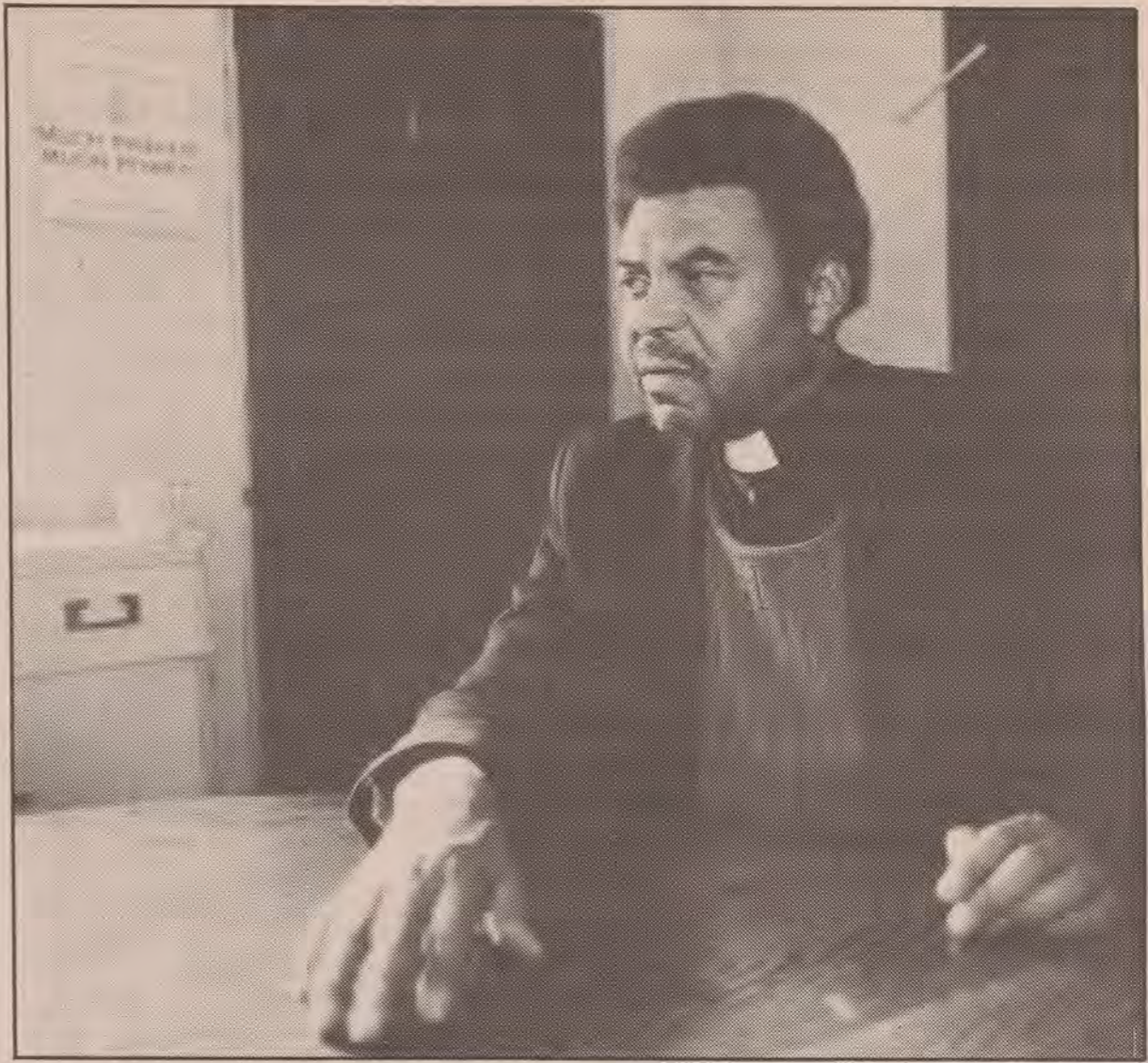
"The way things are, it's an insult," he says. "I'm no dummy. Why is the world treating me like I'm stupid?"

The hall served more than 1,000 meals in 1986 and provided housing for hundreds of Reno's homeless.

One man, the Rev. Vincent Thompson, is the source of the hall's survival and success.

"The man's just unbelievable," Jack Sroka, a 25-year-old resident of the hall, said. "He's got to put up with a lot of crap around here — liars, thieves and cheats abuse this place sometimes. He's not stupid but he gives a guy a break."

"That's what makes him great. He gives a guy a break."



Rev. Vincent Thompson runs the Martin Luther King Hall.



Adam Manczur, the cook at the Martin Luther King Hall, fixes sauerkraut and franks for the 12 men who live at the hall.

Crest examined by advocate

By Brett Pauly

Consumer Report: Tartar Control Crest Toothpaste With Fluoristat — Original Flavor.

Crest is a winner, every time. Mom, you can't go wrong with Tartar Control Crest, just read the label: "Reduces hard, crusty tartar build-up above the gumline between dental visits, fights cavities, helps remove plaque, gentle on tooth enamel, safe for the whole family."

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As a matter of fact, mom, next year at the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, the last runner in the progression of torchbearers will come into the stadium with a lit tube of Tartar Control Crest held high in his hand, proceed up the steps and ignite the Olympic flame.

Could there be a toothpaste more worldly?

And remember, mom, if your family is looking for a new house of worship, try the Holy Church of Crest where there are no candles, of course, only Tartar Control Crest toothpaste tubes brightly lighting the interior.

Could there be a toothpaste more religious?

No mom, you can't go wrong with Tartar Control Crest.

KNPB from page 7

foundations to underwrite programming, and from the corporation for Public Broadcasting in the form of a grant.

KNPB's plans for future fund-raisers include membership drives in fall and winter and an live auction at Meadowood Mall in June.

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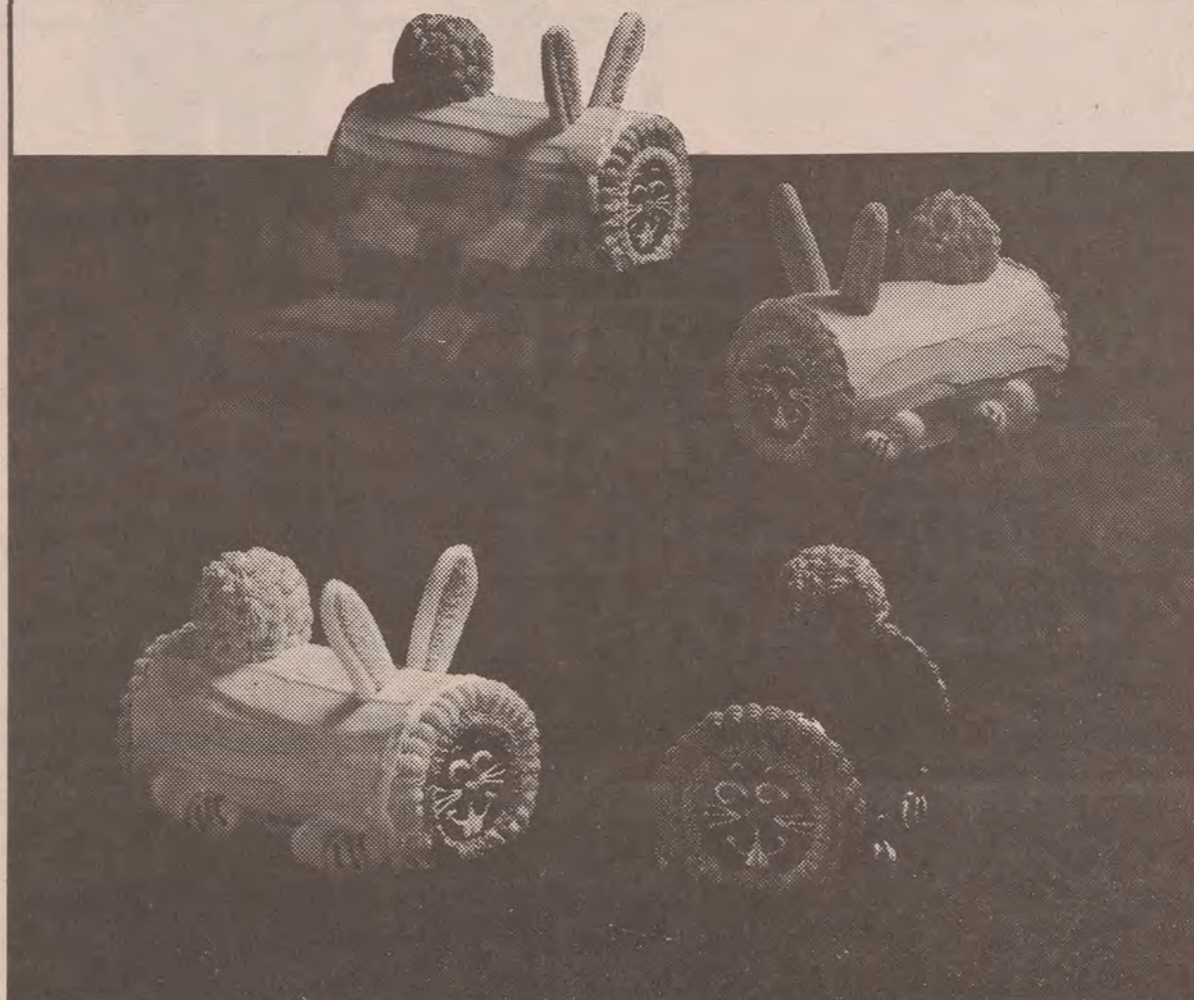
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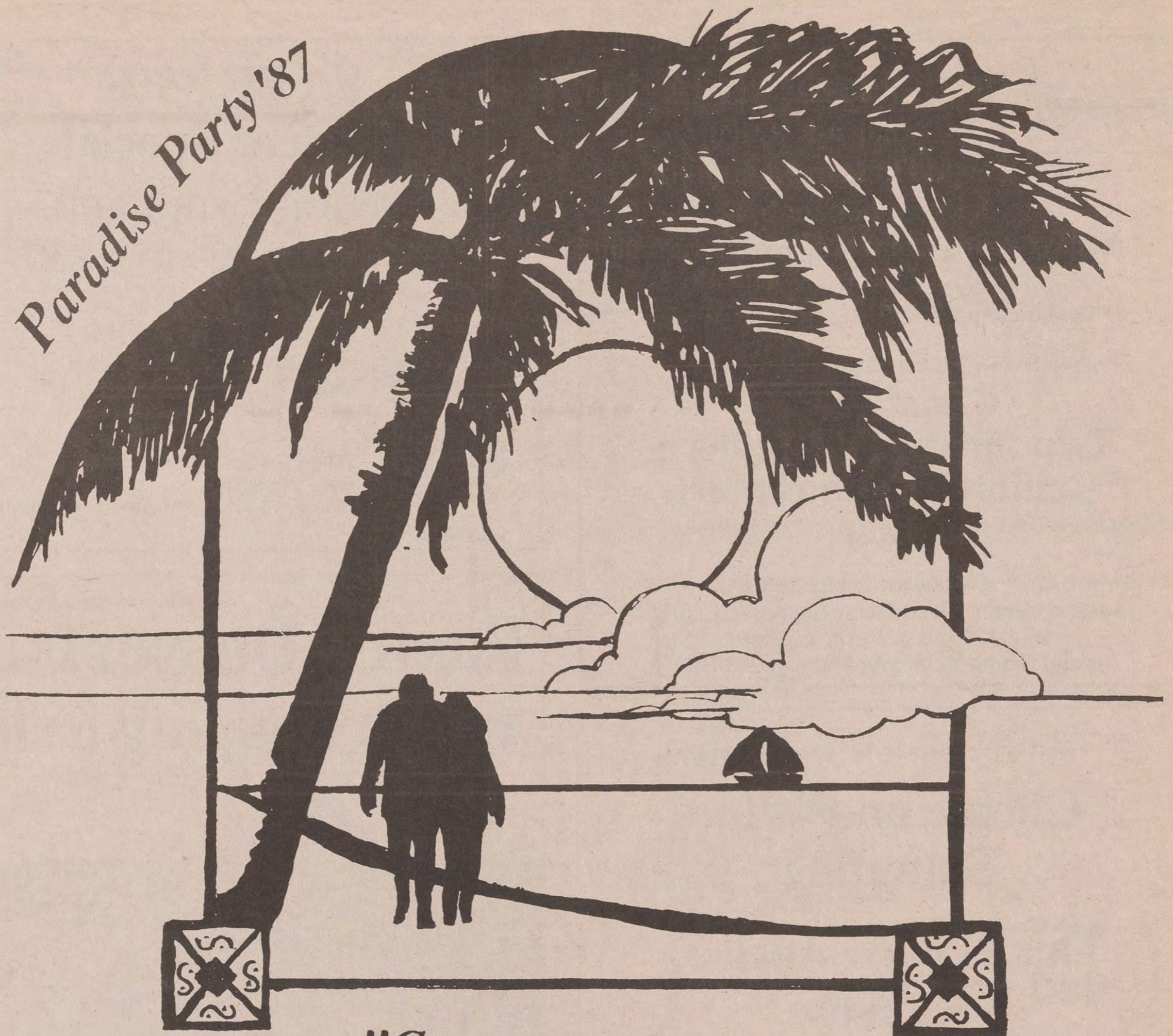


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Campus Briefs

Counseling Center and Testing Services — Testing schedule, 1987. The following are listed in order of date, test and late registration deadline. April 25, MCAT, April 10; May 9, TOEFL, April 6; May 11, CLEP, April 20; June 6, GRE, May 12; June 11, ACT PEP, May 4; June 15, LSAT and CLEP, May 25; June 20, GMAT, May 26; June 27, NTE Core, June 1.

UNR Frisbee Disc Club — plays ULTIMATE FRISBEE on Sunday afternoons 12 p.m. at Mackay Stadium. Call Brett Pauly, 784-4033, for more information.

Special Programs Tutorial Services — provides tutoring (at no cost) to undergraduates in nearly 100 courses. Scheduling takes place between 8-1 p.m. daily. TSSC 107 or call 784-6801. Also, we have tutor positions available for Spring semester for persons qualified in accounting, biochemistry and managerial sciences.

Sigma Pi — Looking for people with commitment and motivation to become founding fathers. If you're interested, call Kurt, 323-0835. Meetings every Tuesday, 7 p.m., Ingersoll Room, JTU.

AHEA — All Home Economic Students are urged to become members of the American Home Economics Assoc. Student member section. Contact Dr. Elaine Pederson, 784-6977 in the school of Home Economics for further information.

Special Services — is scheduling several free seminars for special students in TSSC, room 107. Please call 784-6801 or stop by the office and sign up in time. Seats are limited. Seminars are on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Counseling Center — Offering another 6 session group for women students whose eating behaviors interfere with their positive self-esteem or physical well-being (bulimic, anorexic). It will be open to new members the first two sessions (March 25 & April 1). Group will meet at 4:30-6 p.m. at UNR's Women's Center. Call 784-4648 for information/prior sign up.

Adastra Science Fiction Club — meets every Monday at 5:30 in the Hardy Room, JTU. New members are welcome.

Photography Club — meets every Tuesday at 12:30 MSS Room 17 until further notice. Everyone interested in photography is encouraged to attend.

AA — Meeting in addition to the Monday 1:30 meeting there is now a Wednesday 1:30 meeting held in Thompson Hall Room 209. Join us.

Camp Lotsafun — Camp counselors are needed for Camp Lotsafun, Lake Tahoe, a special camp for mentally retarded, June 15-19 (orientation June 10-12). Counselors also needed for Camp Leamalot, Galena Creek, a special camp for talented youth ages 7-14, June 29-July 3 (orientation June 25-26). Three UNR graduate and undergraduate credits possible. Interviews April 23-24. Contact Dr. Larry Oakley, 827-3866.

Women's Center — Invites you to a friendly potluck supper, Thursday, April 2, 5-7 p.m. Bring a dish, munchies or just yourself. Everyone welcome. For more info, call 784-4611.

ASUN, PTN, Women's Center — Cheese and Wine Sampling. Friday, April 3 from 4-6 p.m. Alumni lounge. Must RSVP as participation limited. Information and RSVP, 784-6116.

Delta Sigma Pi — Presents Senator Randolph Townsend April 2, 5:30, BB402. Senator Townsend will discuss business and its ethical responsibilities.

Blue Key — Meeting Tuesday, March 31 at 6 p.m. in JTU.

Prime Time Network (PTN) — Weekly meeting Thursday, April 2 at noon in Pyramid Lake Room; bring \$2 for lunch. More info, 784-6116.

Women's Center — Free films: "Women in Business," profiles of 10 women business owners; and "Women at Work: Change, Choice and Challenge." Thursday, April 9, noon, Nevada Room, JTU. Everyone welcome.

Women's Center — Lunch discussion on "Men and women sharing career, school and family," with a student panel. Tuesday, April 7, noon, Hardy Room, JTU. Refreshments provided.

AED — Dr. Cole, M.D. will be speaking on Trauma Care and Emergency Medicine. Officer nominations for next year too! March 31, 6 p.m., Senate Chambers, JTU.



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Miscellaneous

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Want to Buy: Used mountain bike and Canon Mount Zoom lens and standup bass fiddle, 348-6275.

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For Sale: New Vega Bluegrass Banjo and Vega Banjo case. \$500 or best offer. Call 329-1035.

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Jobs

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Little league umpires needed. Will pay \$12.50 per game. Season begins April 25 and last for approx. 2 months. Baseball knowledge a must. For more information please contact Brian Kaskie at 747-1216.

Want to work and get a good tan at the same time? Reno Lawn is looking for part-time workers to do yard and lawn work. Must be reliable and hard working. We will try to work around your school schedule. Call 827-5296.

Spring Break — Whitewater Guide School — Whether for commercial whitewater guide training or personal fulfillment this 6-day hands-on course is for the adventurous. Possible summer employment. April 13-18, \$220. American & Carson Rivers. Ram River Tours, 826-2307.

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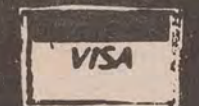
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Sports Tuesday

March 31, 1987

Search for new basketball coach still open

By Geoff Schumacher

The search for a new UNR men's basketball coach springs surprises on the unsuspecting media every day.

In the last Sagebrush (March 27), it was reported that Milwaukee Bucks assistant coach Rick Majerus would be the new UNR coach, according to reliable sources, and he would be announced Thursday afternoon.

But the Sagebrush deadline was *early* Wednesday night, and *late* Wednesday night athletic director Chris Ault decided to delay the naming of the new coach.

Nevertheless, the Sagebrush's assumption that Majerus would be the new coach was still valid as of Friday, even though Ault had reopened the search because he and Majerus had not yet reached an agreement.

Several local TV stations also agreed that Majerus, who was the head coach at Marquette for three years, was the main man, according to their own sources.

It was announced Saturday, however, that Majerus had withdrawn his name as a candidate.

What is a twice-weekly newspaper to do?

Anyway, as it stands this Sunday afternoon, the search is still on for a new coach.

And the pickings are becoming less and less desirable.

Maybe nobody wants to be basketball coach

Sonny Allen should be named the new UNR men's basketball coach.

He is the most qualified candidate since San Jose State coach Bill Berry, San Diego coach Hank Egan, Milwaukee Bucks assistant Rick Majerus and Idaho State coach Jim Boutin are not interested in the job.

Allen has 27 years of experience as a basketball coach. He knows the area and the UNR program well.

Allen has worked with the players in the past. He is also very familiar with the Reno community and already has a place to live. UNR will pay Allen \$53,000 next year anyway, so why not make him earn his salary?

Geoff Schumacher and John Trent

Allen has said he would like to retire from college basketball coaching. But we're sure Ault, the ultimate salesman, could make Allen an offer he could not refuse.

It is an offer that several others have passed by but maybe Allen will be receptive if Ault promised him job security.

If re-hiring Allen is totally out of the question, maybe Ault should consider Reno's winningest coach: Ken Fujii, girls' basketball coach at Reno High

School.

It seems as if that is what it all boils down to. The whole situation is a debacle.

Is UNR ever going to hire a head basketball coach? Does anybody even want the job? Will Chris Ault take over the basketball program and wear headphones on the sidelines? If Allen won't take the job, will he accept a position as a college basketball analyst for CBS?

"We're in good shape, Brent," Allen might say during a telecast.

These questions remain to be answered.

Stay tuned.

- San Jose State coach Bill Berry, a native of Winnemucca, withdrew his name early on although he had a favorable interview with the search committee.

- San Francisco coach Jim Brovelli withdrew his name.

- San Diego coach Hank Egan, whose team won the West Coast Athletic Conference this season, withdrew his name after an interview recently.

- Because Majerus was apparently better than any of the other candidates

already interviewed, Idaho State coach Jim Boutin is no longer a candidate.

- Although his name was mentioned in connection with the job, Tulsa head coach J.D. Barnett is not a candidate, Ault said.

- Former Fresno State coach Boyd Grant, who was available and interested in the UNR job, has taken the head coaching job at Colorado State.

A new name, New Orleans coach Benny Dees, remains a candidate but recently interviewed for the Wyoming

job, opened when Jim Brandenburg took the head coaching job at San Diego State. Dees is a graduate of the University of Wyoming.

College of Idaho coach Marty Holly and Pepperdine assistant Tom Asbury have applied for the UNR position but Ault isn't sure if they are interview material.

Sonny Allen was pressured to resign March 10 after seven years as UNR's head coach.

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