

# UNLV bomb shelters holdover from past

by michael white

staff writer

In the 1950s and 1960s the fear of nuclear war was as great or maybe even greater than it is today and some Americans spent the time and money to construct bomb or fallout shelters.

The following four buildings are fallout shelters here on campus: Flora Dungan Humanities, Judy Bayley Theatre, Chemistry and the Physical Education Building.

There are several requirements that a structure must meet for it to be deemed a public fallout shelter.

A public fallout shelter must have a protection factor of 40, that is to say the level of radiation inside the building must be  $\frac{1}{40}$

the level outside or the structure must shield against 97 percent of the radiation outside.

A building's protection factor is determined by a civil engineer who is train-

ed in fallout shelter analysis.

All buildings constructed with federal funds must qualify as public shelters.

An entire building might

not be used for shelter because fallout particles can concentrate in different areas. If used, shelters would be tested with radiation meters to

find the places with the lowest level of radiation.

Shelters protect people by keeping fallout particles at a distance and by providing shielding to absorb the gamma rays.

spend two weeks in a shelter."

According to O'Neill, in the '60s after the Cuban missile crisis, the government was spending lots of money on civil defense and the shelters were stocked with empty water barrels, crackers, candy and medical and sanitation kits.

Since then, said O'Neill, most of the stock is gone except for water barrels and sanitation kits. Now less money is spent and there are no replacements so people would have to bring their own supplies.

Making a very rough estimate, O'Neill said the Soviet Union spends 10 to 15 times as much money on civil defense as the United States.

Ideally the Emergency Management Bureau would have advance war-

ning of an attack and divide the city into ZIP codes and send the people from each code to different shelters.

According to O'Neill, the problem would not lie in dividing the population, but in communicating the information and transporting the people, since the majority of shelters are in hotels on the Strip and Downtown.

If you think Las Vegas Boulevard is crowded on Saturday nights, imagine if 500,000 people were trying to get to the hotels.

One might look at the silver lining. If you're sitting in a boring class and the bombs come you may not have to go very far to reach a shelter.

Besides, you probably wouldn't have homework for a couple of weeks either.



How long would people have to stay inside? Jim O'Neill of the Emergency Management Bureau of Clark County said, "People should be prepared to

## Smoking/non-smoking areas established in MSU

by paige white

staff writer

Separate smoking and nonsmoking sections have been established within the Moyer Student Union in the interest of public health.

"The separate areas were suggested by nonsmokers," said Burt Teh, Director of the Student Union. "The nonsmoking areas have been in effect since the new semester, and people observe the policy."

The main smoking area, located directly across

from the Italian Accent pizza restaurant, is the only place on the first floor of the student union where smoking is allowed. There is an additional area on the second floor, located in a corridor, where smoking is allowed.

Teh said a table and chairs were placed in the upstairs hallway because of a student's complaint that smokers had no quiet place to study like the nonsmokers did since there is a television set in the downstairs smoking area.

Like other smokers at UNLV, Niki Rodriguez, a student, said she agrees that other people have the right to a smoke-free atmosphere, but she is concerned that the smoking area is too crowded.

"It bothers me that it's so small," she said. "They should give smokers just as much room as everyone else."

Teh said, "The smoking areas are tentative right now and will be redesigned with the expansion of the student union in the spring."

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Static Line

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Easy Hike. we provide lunch.

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