

The Yellin' Rebel

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University of Nevada, Las Vegas

May 6, 1988

Volume VI, Issue 26

Henderson explosion rocks UNLV

by kurt hildebrand

editor

Two explosions at a chemical plant in Henderson rocked UNLV, Wednesday, breaking windows in Flora Dungan Humanities and in the dormitory.

Students were evacuated from classes and the dormitories after the second blast.

KUNV 91.5FM, UNLV's radio station, was knocked off the air immediately after the explosions, which were described as feeling like, "something big had landed on the roof," of the student union.

Susann Scott, Traffic Manager for the radio station, said the station went off the air after the explosion and didn't come back on the air until around 5am Thursday morning.

KUNV engineer, Gordie Alsum said he attempted to reach the station's transmitter on Black Mountain about 5:30pm on Wednesday and was turned back. He went back up at around 4am the next day, and was allowed through. The circuit breaker to the transmitter had to be

replaced.

The plant spewed forth a cloud of smoke which could be seen all over the valley. The smoke reportedly contained hydrochloric acid.

The smoke and gas were carried northward towards the Moapa Valley and the Overton arm of Lake Mead.

Dr. David McNelis of the Environmental Research Center said he felt the amount of hydrochloric acid would probably be too small to be detected.

"My gut reaction is that the wind would disperse the gas to the point where it would be undetectable," he said.

The plant, Pacific Engineering & Production Co. of Nevada, 8201 Gibson Rd., manufactured an oxygenator, ammonium perchlorate, which is used as the source of oxygen in solid fuel rockets and boosters, and was one of only two such plants in the nation.

After a fire lasting 10 minutes, the first blast occurred at around 11:50am on Wednesday, the second blast occurred a few



Testimony - UNLV's Flora Dungan Humanities sustained minor damage when the concussion of the blast knocked out a window above the front doors of the building photo by kurt hildebrand, editor

minutes later.

Much of Henderson was cordoned off as a result of the blast, with a 6pm curfew set by the city to prevent looting of the many shops and stores

whose windows were blown out.

In Green Valley, overlooking the blast site, windows were broken and garage doors buckled

under the impact of the blast.

Henderson area schools were closed and children were evacuated to various parks in the area.

Governor Bryan has asked that the federal government declare the Henderson and its surroundings a disaster area, in order to qualify area residents for federal aid.

Teh resigns after 12 years of service at UNLV

by Paige White

staff writer

Last Tuesday, MSU Director Burt Teh officially announced his resignation and the "end of the Teh dynasty in MSU history."

"It wasn't an overnight decision," Teh said. "After having considered

it for some time, I decided to leave the university at the end of this month to pursue new interests."

"I'll take some R and R and a couple of overseas trips. Then, I'll pick up a new career. At this moment, I don't have definite plans," Teh said.

"I do believe that since life is short, one should

enjoy it to the fullest and pursue multiple career opportunities," he added.

"Leaving the position is one of the most difficult decisions I have ever made in my life," Teh said. "I have devoted a total of 24 years in this college profession."

"I love my job, I love this profession, I love this

union building, and I love this institution."

Before he came to UNLV, Teh worked at several universities, including the University of Oregon and the University of Rochester in New York.

Teh said he has seen the campus grow beyond his "wildest imagination"

since he came to UNLV in 1976.

"I do regret that I won't be able to see the completion of a number of projects (including MSU 2000) that I started."

MSU Board Chairman Sam Leiberman said UNLV will benefit from Teh's leadership for years to come.

"In the coming years, a lot will be done in the student union. The future will be a time of transition and growth, but the future will be because of Burt," Leiberman said. Theresa Chaing, Teh's assistant, will assume directorship on June 1, Teh said.

"I have full confidence in her," he said.