

Panelists discuss testing

By Roy Theiss

The Nevada Desert Experience, an anti-nuclear group, was recently on campus to promote the film *Nightbreaker*, and to discuss the concern about nuclear testing.

Following the movie, the audience roamed around, buying T-shirts and raffle tickets, and snacked on cookies. Others were jotting down last minute questions for the panelists.

When asked what the continuing necessity of testing is, Richard Barnet, a senior fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies said there is none.

Barnet cited the 50 percent reduction in the intermediate nuclear missiles as proof that the United States does not need to continue the testing. Barnet said the arms race continues because of the bureaucratic momentum.

"Neither the citizens of Nevada or the United States have forced the government to come up with alternative uses of the Nevada Test Site," he said.

State Senator Dina Titus, also an instructor at UNLV, said the Nevada Legislature passed a resolution this year asking the United States Congress for possible alternatives for those employed at the site.

Father Bill Donnell spoke about culture and violence. "We try to justify violence and the question is, how violent do we have to become to deter it?" he said.

Robert Rucker, a professor of sociology,

PERSPECTIVE — By Roy Theiss

Commemorating the 44th anniversary of the Aug. 6 bombing of Hiroshima the movie *Nightbreaker* was shown at the Christ the King Community Center. Based on Howard Rosenberg's book *Atomic Soldier*, the movie dealt with one man's journey. That man is known as Private Immerman, and he wanted to hold the U.S. government accountable for the above ground atomic testing done in the 50's.

Over thirty years have gone and many are still unaware that our government used some of its soldiers as human guinea pigs in order to find out the effects of atomic radiation. This stark movie is educational, entertaining and enlightening.

The movie revolves around Dr. Alexander Brown, a neurosurgeon, played by Martin Sheen, attending a seminar in Las Vegas, and his days as a professor interviewing soldiers 30 years earlier at the Nevada Test Site. The flashbacks are uncanny because Sheen's real life son, Emilio Estevez, portrays a young Dr. Brown in the 50's.

One reason why the government was interviewing the soldiers prior to the atomic testing was to test their opinions on the safety of the fallout. The government was afraid the soldiers would not advance after an atomic blast, the misguided beliefs of Brown's trust of the government prevented him from seeing the other reason—the effects of radiation on human beings.

This was a time before Vietnam and Watergate. It was an era when automatically trusted the government. Although no one knew the effects of the fallout, no one thought their own government would use them as guinea pigs.

This is clearly depicted in the scene when the major of the airborne rangers stationed at the test site assured his troops that Mother Earth does just fine protecting against

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agreed on the point that a reduction in the arms race is needed. However, Rucker added that he is cautious on unilateral disarmament.

Titus dealt with the issue of the movie—holding the government accountable for the fallout from atomic testing done in the 50's. Titus told the audience that prior to 1988, soldiers could not sue the government. She explained that Congress passed a law which now makes the presumption that 13 kinds of cancer suffered by veterans exposed to ra-

diation are service-connected. Veterans are now eligible for disability compensation form the Veterans'

Administration.

Roy Theiss is a staff writer for The Yellin' Rebel.

Whatever he is, Oliver North is no hero

By Aletra Hart

Today some guy asked me to sign a petition to recall Mayor Ron Lurie for the allegedly bad job he is doing.

I told him it would not be fair for me to sign it because I don't keep tabs on Mayor Lurie, and I have no idea how he has been doing in office lately. Besides, I hate to think about having Bob Stupak in the mayor's seat.

One thing I do know about politics is that politicians

are extremely dangerous people. They have some of you believing that Oliver North is an innocent scapegoat, or even worse, a hero!

I know that we are a nation that should be proud and supportive of more than two hundred years of democracy, but too many Americans are blinded by the love for our country. Does that mean we must stand idly by while our own government, the bureaucracy whose salaries we pay, tricks us into

turning our backs and bending over so they can manipulate us poor, "defenseless" civilians?

I have news for you; we are not defenseless.

No, I am not an anarchist, I am tired of supporting the unethical habits of our government. Their habits would be less expensive to support if the entire bureaucracy were addicted to crack!

Now, we arrive at my point: Oliver North, after two years of revelations, hearings and trials (all funded by a our tax dollars) received a most cruel and unusual punishment—1200 hours of community service. He is appalling that sentence. He received a slap on the hand and he doesn't think he de-

served it.

I would not put it past our government if the legal proceedings were pseudo-hearings, pseudo-trials, pseudo-sentencings, pseudo-appeals or just pseudonyms of our justice

system, there only to humor those of us truly outraged by the scandal.

Mr. North may have been "just following orders" in his mind, but I

won't buy that excuse anymore. It didn't work for the officers in Adolf Hitler's army, and it won't work for him. He has exhausted his excuse.

While government officials are walking away unpunished for federal crimes (the HUD affair comes to mind), the Pillow Patrol is prosecuting the people who take the

"Do Not Remove tags" from their pillows.

Okay, all of you Oliver North supporters, I'm calling your bluff: If North was indeed "just a scapegoat" in the Iran-Contra affair, go after Ronald Reagan and George Bush. So what if Reagan was our dear president for eight years, he's still not above the law.

And no, Bush is not untouchable. He is the leader of the nation we hold so dear, and if he was involved in such a scandal, we must take action. We need to protect ourselves from the very institution that is supposed to be protecting us. Who's to say that Bush won't abuse or isn't already abusing the powers that come with his position?

The time is now for eliminating double standards. If Oliver North (or the government as a whole) can get away with endangering our national security, our nation must then accept a long journey on a road paved with insecurity.

Aletra Hart is a student at UNLV.

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or Two"