

Measles epidemic invades Clark County

By Sean Higgins
YELLIN' REBEL

"There are 21 reported cases of measles in Clark County," said Director of Student Health Services Lori Winchell on Friday afternoon, March 30. "An epidemic situation is facing the entire Clark County community, which includes UNLV."

An hour later the number of reported cases was 26, according to Ed Boes, Nevada State Immunization coordinator assigned to Nevada by the Center for Disease Prevention Services in Atlanta, Georgia, which said responding aggressively to this outbreak is the only way to

stop it.

On Monday April 2 the number of reported cases was 36.

"Statistics show the older you are when you contract measles the sicker you get, and it could be fatal," Boes said.

"There are many people who have been immunized that have something to be concerned about," said Winchell.

"There are immunizations that didn't build up the necessary antibodies, and some people who received their MMR (measles immunization) too early in their life aren't covered either.

"A person doesn't know if they're covered until they're tested

and immunized and testing runs around \$70; it's wiser just to get immunized and cancel all doubt."

"Outbreaks of measles are likely to occur in those colleges that draw students who attend primary and secondary schools without comprehensive laws requiring immunization, and UNLV is one of them."

The UNLV catalog for 1988-89 is very permissive on the subject of the university's Admission Health Report Form. It (the health form) encourages, but does not require students to provide health information, or be immunized.

Persons vaccinated from 1963-1967 with inactive vaccine or a

vaccine of an unknown type, should be vaccinated, as well as all those born after 1957 who lack proof of immunity.

"The ultimate goal of rubella (German measles) immunization is the protection of the unborn fetus against congenital rubella syndrome with its side effects of mental retardation, cataracts, deafness, and heart defects," Winchell said. "Pregnant students should be especially aware of this."

The UNLV Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) and the Student Health Center will sponsor a semester Health Awareness Day tomorrow April 4, 1990, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Mo-

yer Student Union.

All students are urged to attend and become immunized. The State Health Department provides the vaccine free, but there will be a \$5 charge to cover paperwork and materials.

"Students who can't afford the \$5 charge can receive the shots free," said Boes, "the important thing now is to stop this epidemic." Winchell said no student would ever be denied immunization because they couldn't pay for it.

MMR vaccine coupons (rain checks) will be available for those who can't attend tomorrow.

Kathleen J. England to speak on sexual harassment

By Kimberly Creelman
YELLIN' REBEL

Society of Women Engineers is hosting attorney Kathleen J. England to speak on sexual harassment Thursday, April 25 at 12:30 pm at the north side of campus in the Thomas Beam Engineering Complex room 176.

"I would like to open it up to the whole campus because I am sure any woman in any field would be interested," said Rose Mary Musso, president of Society of Women Engineers.

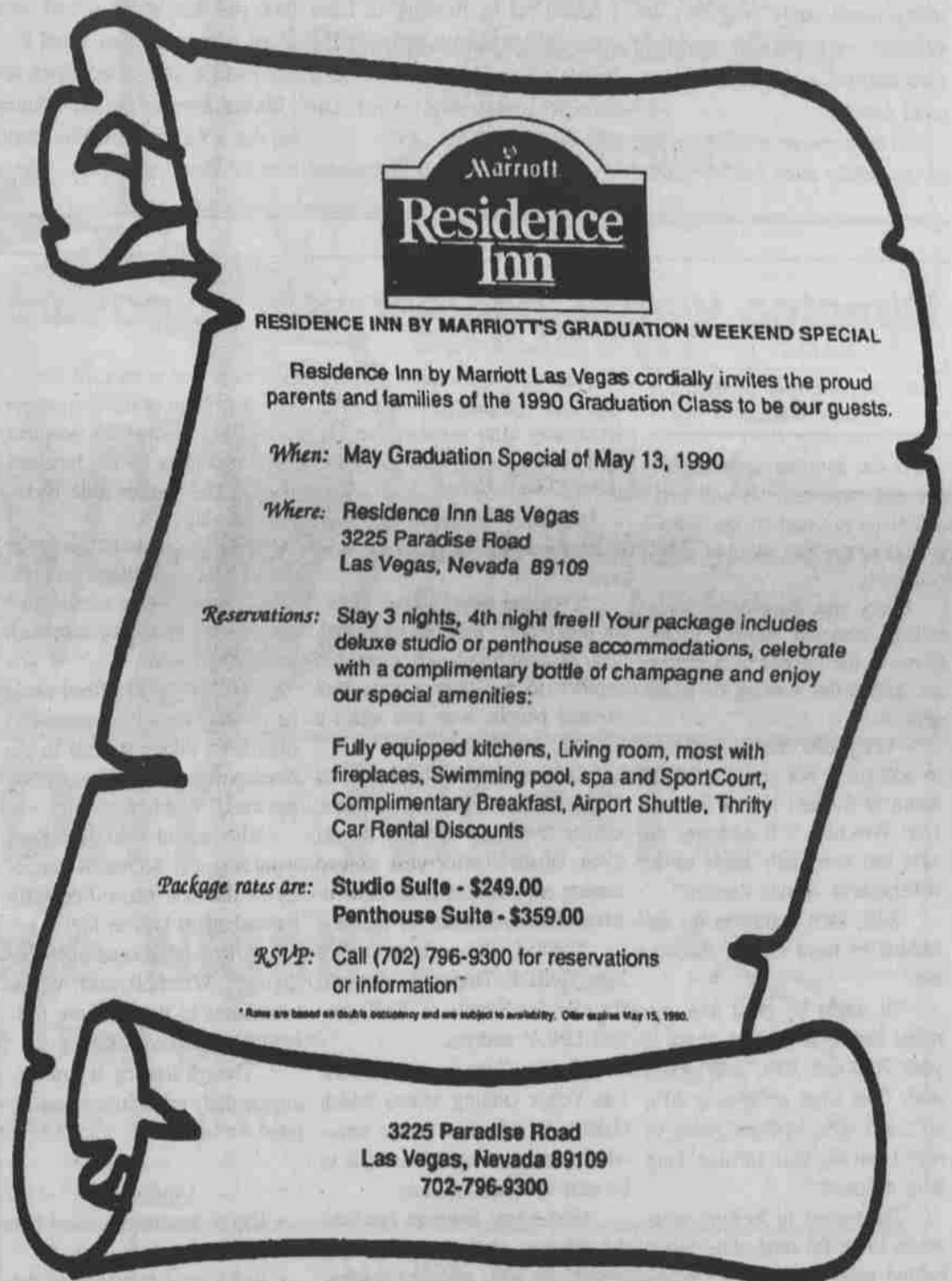
"There is an over whelming number of women in the work place that have suffered sexual harassment of some sort or another," said Eng-

land referring to some studies done by 'Red Book' and by the Merit Systems Protection Board studying federally employed women.

It wasn't until 1981 that the courts allowed one to sue for sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is a sub group of sexual discrimination which is prohibited by law, said England.

"There have been lots and lots of law suits filed and courts have been all over the place deciding what constitutes sexual harassment and how bad it has to be," she said.

"What my job is on Thursday," said England, "is to kind of educate people as to what is not proper and what laws do to help you if it (sexual harassment) happens to you."



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