

New Interim Dean of Fine Arts speaks out

by Shawn Black Snider
Staff Reporter

Mike McCollum, the new interim dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts, has much to say about the new college, its programs and the students who make it all possible.

"Before we split and became our own college," McCollum said, "we were like a round peg in a square hole. Now we can be more focal and not just straight academic. We can focus on the production of art and the performance of art as well."

The new college encompasses the departments of music, art, dance and theater, which have 30 to 35 sub-areas under each one, requiring some 56 full-time faculty members.

This provides a lot of exper-

tise to be called upon and places the college in a position to be the "fine arts resource of the community" a function McCollum said he sees as one a university should provide.

The thrust of each department is focused on professional performers, trained instructors and life enrichment. "It is these critical components and our close association with many of the professional organizations outside the campus that give us our unique position and encourages much growth and excitement," McCollum said.

The Artist in Residence (AIR) program is one that is not only generating a lot of excitement, McCollum said, but is also a great recruiting tool for the university.

AIR allows for the hiring of nationally known professionals in

all areas of the arts. They come for at least one semester bringing with them not just instruction, but vast experience as well.

McCollum, who has been in the art department at UNLV for the past 21 years, with eight years as department chair, said he has seen many exciting changes take place in those years, particularly with students.

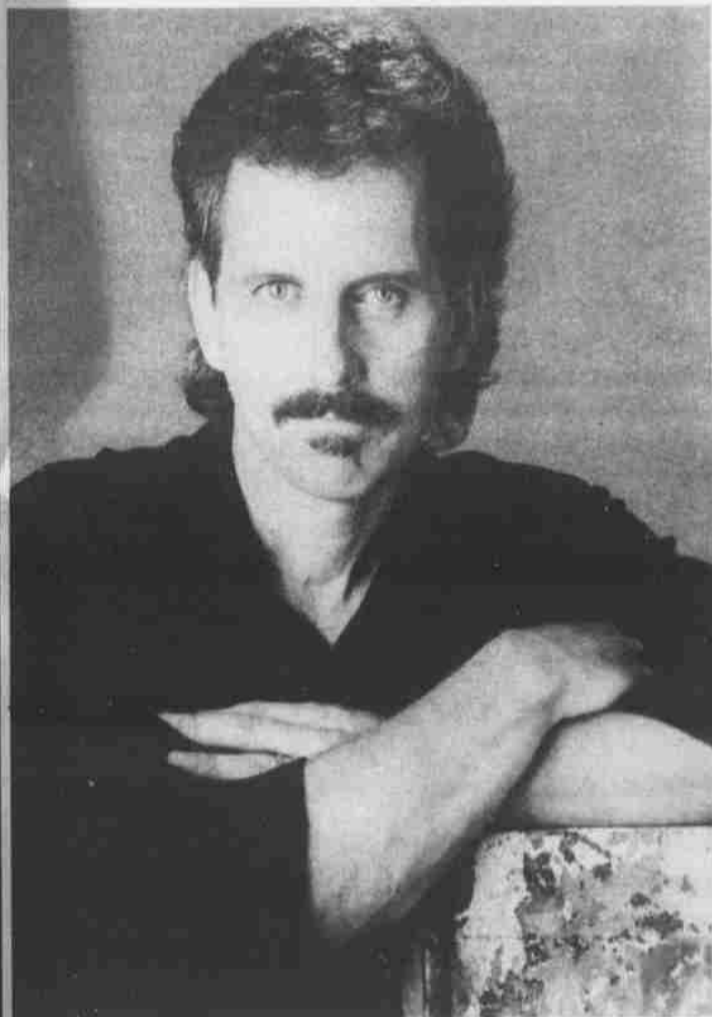
"We have a much larger cross section of students now and they seem to bring more political interest and an overall awareness," he said. "This makes for a much more exciting time for teaching."

McCollum, who did his graduate work in art at University California, Berkley in 1969, compared his new position to the exciting time of being a student at Berkley in the 60's, "a time of great change and growth."



Mike McCollum - new interim dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

Michael Franks: New music, new avenues



Michael Franks

by Debbie Tubbesing
Acting Entertainment Editor

Michael Franks literally "popped" into the contemporary music scene with his commercial hit, "Popsicle Toes." But Franks was creating music well before audiences discovered him and has continued to write and perform the type of music he believes in.

It is hard to categorize Franks' music. He has been on different charts including Top 40, rhythm and blues, pop, jazz, new age, and adult contemporary. While there was a fondness in his voice when discussing jazz, he appeared to shiver when asked about pop singers such as Michael Bolton and Bolton's current hit, "Georgia on my Mind."

"His (Bolton's) hit version of 'Georgia on my Mind' doesn't help me or my music. He is mainly a pop singer. His hits have been pop songs. I liked it better when they called my music progressive jazz. It is not mainstream," Frank said.

Franks said he felt that American music tastes are improving because audiences more readily accept new and innovative music. He was also appreciative of the loyal group of fans that has followed his career from the beginning.

"While my career has not had a meteoric burst, it has increased progressively," he said.

Franks continues to record, and tour in concert. He said he is also hoping to diversify musically with a Broadway show tentatively entitled, "Noa Noa," named after the artist Gauguin's journal. Along with his latest album release, "Blue Pacific" (already appearing on the Billboard Rhythm and Blues Hot 100 Chart), Franks continues to communicate his unique brand of music by performing in concert.

In Las Vegas, Franks will play at Artemus Ham Hall, Wednesday, Oct. 10 at 8:30 p.m. For further information, contact the university box office at 739-3801.

Danzig rocks crowd in campus show

by Brian Stransky
Reporter

Former Misfits front man Glenn Danzig and his current "Black Metal" band, Danzig played what was rumored to be the last concert at Artemus Ham Hall on Wednesday, Sept. 26.

Murmurs and shouts rose into screams as vocalist Glenn Danzig and his partners took to the stage. With the house lights down and the spotlights focused on a skull-like structure, the stage was set for the first real metal show here since Metallica in 1989.

The disappointing opening act, Trouble had left the crowd

eager for a house-shaking performance. Almost as soon as the first bass line from Danzig began, the screams and whistles picked up and the show began.

The fans showed their enthusiasm by moving toward center stage, and throwing themselves against one another in a thrashing mob of slam-dancing.

Those who avoided this circle raised their fists to the air and screamed along with Danzig as the band proceeded through its set of hard, fast songs (including a couple of Misfits' songs), with a ferocity not seen since Black Sabbath's original lineup.

The song list included songs from both Danzig albums, 1988's

self-titled album and the more recent "Danzig II: Lucifuge." Each song was either a personal tale of frustration, or a journey through the darkest reaches of Glenn Danzig's psyche.

Danzig's performance left little doubt who is the current king of "Black Metal."

The crowd of more than 800 may not have seemed substantial for many current rock bands, but their intensity was enough to bring the band back on for a dual encore, which only excited the audience more.

Las Vegas was one of the last stops on the western leg of Danzig's current tour.

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