

Governor candidate Gallaway visits UNLV

by Karen Splawn
Staff Reporter

Admission standards should be raised, so the university can receive the full benefit of state funding, gubernatorial candidate Jim Gallaway said during an Oct. 3 rally.

Gallaway, speaking to a small crowd in the Donald C. Moyer Student Union courtyard, said that if elected, he would propose a minimum grade point average of 2.25. According to the university undergraduate catalog, the current admission GPA is 2.0.

More money should be spent on students who are absolutely serious about doing well in college, and not wasted on those who are not, he said.

"The 28 percent dropout rate in the freshman class [at UNLV and University of Nevada, Reno]

is unacceptable," Gallaway added. The candidate, an independent consultant from Zephyr Cove, Nevada, said high school graduates who may not be ready for a university should be encouraged to attend a junior college or trade school.

"Let's raise the standards, because I've heard from people who get their degrees from here and say that once they get out [into the job market] the degree isn't worth enough," he said.

The job future for many graduates could be threatened if a proposed payroll tax, supported by Gov. Bob Miller, becomes a reality, Gallaway contended.

"Why do we need new taxes when we have a \$100 million surplus?" he asked.

Such a tax, he said, could cause some businesses to leave Nevada or to cut back on hiring.

One way to keep Nevada's economic engine in smooth working order is to attract new types of enterprise, Gallaway said. However, he stressed the importance of gaming and mining to the state.

Diversification, he said, would raise the standard of living for everyone, and it would mean more job opportunities for the working poor and homeless people.

Gallaway elicited a few groans from the audience when he said that society has no responsibility for those who choose to remain homeless.

Gallaway said he supports "clean" businesses, or those that wouldn't be harmful to the desert wildlife. He also said he does not support any high-level nuclear waste dump in Nevada. "It's not safe," he added.

Still, Gallaway said, state officials and scientists shouldn't stop doing research on nuclear waste storage. "I think we ought to be the experts [on the dump]," he said. "We should not be turning down grants for studies."

Gang violence has become a very serious problem in Nevada, but Gallaway said he doesn't have the solution to get rid of gangs, other than tougher law enforcement and early rehabilitation for some gang members.

Many young people who join gangs are bored, and simply need other activities in their lives, he said. One idea is a "peer pressure" group to dissuade them from joining, he added.

Because Las Vegas has experienced traffic snarls due to construction, Gallaway proposed that developers "pitch in" for the costs of road repairs.

Water conservation has become a hot issue for the state, but Gallaway said sources have told him there is more than enough water to go around, but people have to stop wasting the precious resource.

"We have to bite the bullet, and say, 'Hey, we live in a desert,'" he said.

A state-wide study of Nevada's water sources is needed, he said.

Gallaway has been a resident of the Silver State for only two years, and scoffed at the notion that he is a "carpetbagger."

"I've had a long relationship with the state," he said, adding financial reasons kept him from becoming a resident earlier.

Syphilis at highest level in 40 years A prelude to AIDS?

(CPS) - Syphilis in the United States has risen to its highest level since 1949, with the resurgence of the venereal disease striking blacks hardest, researchers reported Sept. 18.

College-aged people, who tend to have more sexual partners than older people, could also be at a higher than average risk of contracting the disease, Drs. Robert Rolfs and Allyn Nakashima of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) added.

For women of all races, the incidence of syphilis was highest among the 20-24 age group, Rolfs said. For men, black and Hispanic men the 20-24 age group had the highest incidence, while for white men, the highest incidence was for those between 25 and 29, he found.

The return of syphilis as a more common disease is particularly ominous.

"The dramatic increase in syphilis incidence among homo-

sexual men during the 1970s foreshadowed" the beginnings of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, the researchers noted.

Although syphilis itself is often treatable with antibiotics, the doctors wrote, its recent spread is "likely to be (an) important indicator of changes in sexual behavior" that, in turn, would also help spread the virus that causes AIDS.

AIDS, an incurable disease that destroys the body's immune system, is transmitted through the use of contaminated blood products, the sharing of intravenous needles with infected people and sexual contact with infected people.

The AIDS virus, can take four to five years to begin affecting its victims noticeably.

Consequently, people who are already infected may not yet know it, and could inadvertently go on infecting other sexual partners for years.

Rolfs and Nakashima found that, after decreasing in the early 1980s, the overall syphilis rate increased 61 percent between 1985 and 1989, with the incidence disproportionately high among black women and black men and in the South and the District of Columbia.

Crown Prince of Magic to appear at UNLV

Missing anything? Have you looked at your watch lately? Chances are, if Fabjance is around, the comedy/magic performer has already pocketed your time piece. Fabjance will be performing his unique brand of sleight of hand and humor as part of UNLV's participation in

Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week.

Fabjance will entertain at 11 a.m., Monday, Oct. 16, in the north mall of the Moyer Student Union, then begin another show at 12:30 in the Dining Commons.

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