

## Faculty Focus: Dr. Ernest Peck



Dr. Ernest Peck

by Eileen Brady  
Reporter

program director. He goes back there on a fairly regular basis. "They use me to evaluate grant proposals and programs," he said. Last summer he made several trips back east to do work for NASA. They needed him as an expert consultant in endocrinology. Peck made six trips around the country evaluating scientific proposals for three national centers in different aspects of space biology. "It's not being 'dearly,' but it's using your science and your expertise in administration as well, to make evaluations, judgments and recommendations to the federal government," he said. Peck said that in science today public universities are competing with private industry for young scientists. "Universities don't have the salaries to pay that the private sector has," he said. "A young biochemist with today's state-of-the-art training might go into a biotechnology company starting out at \$50,000-60,000 a year. The same person offered an assistant professorship here, for instance, would probably be offered \$35,000." Peck said the substantial difference would allow a totally different lifestyle. Many graduates are "quite appropriately drawn to that better lifestyle" and go to work for industry. He said there is now a "move" by a number of people who have gone into industry to come back to academics. The reason they come back is because they found "the money wasn't everything they thought it was. And there are more things to life (than money)," Peck said. He said there are such faculty members at UNLV who are very good, if not better because they have spent time in industry.

Dr. Ernest Peck is Dean of the College of Science and Math and a lecturer in endocrinology. Peck said he spends the "bulk of his time" with work, but he spends his spare time reading. He usually reads works that deal with academics. When he was a research scientist he read scientific journals, trying to "keep current." When he is not at work, he said he enjoys natural science. When he came to Las Vegas a year ago, it was the first time he had lived in the desert Southwest. "I grew up in Mississippi where it's swampy, wet and green," he said. He explored the desert environment by taking natural science courses in the Continuing Education program at UNLV last fall. He also bought a four-wheel drive vehicle to enjoy the desert on his own. He said he has become interested in the "migration patterns" of Native Americans "as indicated by the petroglyphs and pictographs and things you find in the shelters and the caves." When he lived in the Southeast, he spent a lot of time at a farm he owns in Louisiana. At that time his avocation was working on the farm. He went back every weekend. Over a period of 10 years he built a house and a barn on the land. "It's one of those '40-acres-and-a-mule' kind of farm," he said. "There's an oil and gas well that doesn't make any money but just sits there and stinks up the place." Because he lives so far away now, he isn't able to get back to his farm as often as he would like. The two years before he came to UNLV, Peck was in Washington, D.C., working at the National Science Foundation. He was a consultant and a

## Switchit skates newest craze

by Tina Crinite  
Lifestyles Editor

It's the newest skating craze all "rolled" into one. The in-line, interchangeable roller/ice skate, "Switchit", is currently the most advanced innovation designed by the original developer of Rollerblades, Scott Olson.

To promote the new skate, UNLV's Rebel Ski Club sponsored a demonstration by seven performing members of the Switchit team. The relatively new team promotes the product all around the country by performing jumps and various skills involved in using the Switchit skate.

"We're here to show people how fun the skates are," said team member Tim Gantz.

The team performers use two 36 inch ramps for jumps in which the members reach up to 13 feet in the air while wearing protective helmets, wrist guards and knee pads.

"This sport/recreational activity has become very popular in California while being fun and good exercise," said team member Greg Westermeyer.

Using the Switchit has become the ideal conditioning for skiers during their off-season. Skiing is a strenuous sport which extensively uses a person's leg muscles in addition to concentrating on balance, while moving over the snow. A similar motion is used in skating.

Tim Buck, the manufacturer's representative for Switchit skates in New Mexico, Nevada and Arizona encouraged students passing by the demonstration to try on a pair and skate for themselves.

"We're the newest skate demonstration team in the country," said Jeff Jochum, team director. The new group had previously performed in Phoenix, Arizona and various other outdoor shows.

"We also try to promote a good time as well as safety when using the skates," Jochum said.

A major consensus of UNLV students who tried the skates on for a test run said they weren't as easy to balance on as roller skates, but not as difficult as ice blades. Most enjoyed the Switchit and it's



Yell Photo / Channing Perkaquanard

High flying - Switchit, an interchangeable roller/ice skate is just in time for Christmas.

lightweight material which gave them more maneuverability than a plain roller skate.

Rob Bayard, a hotel administration major, said, "I've never tried them [the skates] until now. I'm going to buy a pair. Hopefully they will create the ability for the skate to be attachable to skis."

Various members of the team said that this concept may become an added feature in the near future.

In comparison to its predecessor the Rollerblade, the Switchit features a longer wheel base and better design. It is also 2 1/2 pounds lighter. The term "in-line" refers to the design of the skate's four replaceable wheels in a straight line.

Switchit skates are available featuring laces or buckles that secure the ski boot-type skate on the foot. They also come in a variety of neon colors.

There are two models of Switchit skates. The High Performance/Cruise model features precision bearings and one of the fastest wheels available, and the Recreational/Touring model is designed for comfort and leisure skating.

Switchit skates are available for rental or purchase at the Jock Shop, and for purchase only at Nevada Bob's. Prices range from \$174 to \$230, and the ice blades are approximately \$60.

### THE YELLIN' REBEL STAFF BOX

Richard Crow Editor-in-Chief/  
Business  
Bonar Tucker Editor-in-Chief/  
News

Steve Ciulla  
Advertising Manager

Robert Anderson  
Photography Editor

Debbie Tubbesing  
Entertainment Editor

Billy Naftaly  
Acting Sports Editor

Brad Palmer/Eileen Brady  
Office Managers/Classified Ads

Marc Baruch  
Distribution

Raymond R. Frankulin  
Typesetting/Production

Joseph J. Wheeler Assist. Editor /Opinion  
Tina Crinite Assistant Editor /News  
Philip DaQuino Assist. Editor /Business  
Jason Birmingham Comic Page Editor  
Gary Puckett Copy Editor  
Connie Laudeman Copy Editor  
Chod Whitney Copy Editor  
Eileen Brady Copy Editor  
Dawn Melby Proofreader  
Tom Daniels Proofreader  
Barbara Cloud Faculty Advisor

#### Staff Writers

Russell Williams, Angela Desmoni, Julie Wolf, William Holt, Michelle Padillo, Marc Sperberg, Adejoke Adenle, Audrey Conway, Jennifer Elledge, Maria Migliore, Roy Theiss, Thomas Moore, Kara Kelley, Jack Poleski, Sheri Thomas, Rebecca Doering, Tricia Carravino, Karlene Edwards, Tracy Clark, Lisa Sutherland, Christy McDonald, Tina Lytle, Angela Ramsey, John Glynn, Aletra Lopez, Kimberly Richardson, Victor Ingram, Shawn Black Snider, Lou Parolisi, Chris Donovan, Michael Bunin, Tom Daniels, Sean Higgins, Karen Splawn, Kathleen Patrick, Susan Caruso, Kelcey West, Gena Atkinson, Danielle Allbrook

#### Photographers

Matt Dovel, Channing Perkaquanard, Jennifer Elledge, Margaret Freebaim, Maureen Miller, Shane Roth, Lisa Sutherland, Marc Baruch, Russell Williams, JoAnn Pelaez

#### Cartoonists

Adejoke Adenle, Jason Birmingham, Justin Carmanica, Robert Spezzano, Jack Poleski

#### Typists

Charlene Phillips, Erik Stueinger, Eileen Brady

**THE YELLIN' REBEL** - The Yellin' Rebel is a publication of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The opinions reflected in The Yellin' Rebel are those of the authors stated, and do not necessarily represent, in whole or in part, the views of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, its students, administration, faculty or staff.

The Yellin' Rebel is printed by the Nifty Nickel on a twice weekly basis. Not published holidays, weekends or when UNLV is not in session. The Yellin' Rebel is a member of the Intercollegiate Press Association, the California Intercollegiate Press Association, and the Rocky Mountain Press Association. Telephone Numbers: Editor's Desk - 739-3878; Display Advertising - 739-3889; Classified Advertising - 739-3479; General Information - 739-3478. All inquiries should be sent to The Yellin' Rebel, MSU 302, 4506 S. Maryland Pkwy, Las Vegas, NV 89154.

## FairTest asks I.R.S. to punish Merit Scholarship Program

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (CPS)— Using PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) scores to award National Merit Scholarships amounts to race and sex discrimination, and the group that awards the scholarships should lose its tax-exempt status, the standardized test watchdog group FairTest said in an Oct. 20 letter to the Internal Revenue Service.

"Just as the tax-exempt status of Bob Jones University was revoked because of its racially discriminatory programs, so the National Merit Scholarship Corporation should be denied tax-

payer support because of its use of tests which result in racially and sexually discriminatory awards," wrote director Cinthia Schuman of FairTest, which forced New York state to drop SAT scores as measures of who should get state scholarships.

FairTest says the tests are biased against women and minorities, and don't really predict how well they actually do in college.

Women and minorities get an unfairly small percentage of National Merit Scholarships because the PSATs do not accurately test aptitude, Schuman said.