

NEWS

Student adds flavor to computer knowledge

by William Holt
Staff Reporter

Vince Valenti is a sophomore here at UNLV. He is 22 years old and may very well be on his way to riches.

Valenti has worked with several different types of computers and has developed a unique way of explaining them to novices. Instead of attempting to get a beginner used to the technical jargon involved in computer language, Valenti keeps the language as simple as possible, using words we all know and love.

For five years, he worked in a computer store called Software City as a tutor. He and his partner, Jag Jaeger, a 20-year-old college student, worked together to use metaphors and other tools of speech to explain what was going on with the customers.

Valenti found that, "People

are afraid of computers. IBM said that 65 million people in the U.S. don't have computers because they feel intimidated."

He also noted, "If you've read any books at all (about computers), they start off technically and stay that way."

As the customers in the store at which Valenti worked continued to have questions about the terminology, Valenti and Jaeger began using metaphors to illustrate terms. One example was to use a freeway and its travelling vehicles to describe the speed and capacity of a computer.

Valenti and Jaeger were urged to write a book in the tradition of their tutoring style. In July of 1990, "Computer Basics" by Vince Valenti and Jag Jaeger hit on the market.

The two partners had money saved up and used it to desk-top-publish "Computer Basics" on the

Macintosh using the advance program "Calumas." With this program, they made the book look like a professionally published text with graphics and illustrations. With their savings, they paid Bowman and Sons Printing of Las Vegas to print about 2,000 copies.

Valenti felt that he had the confidence to complete his project in part because he had already published a computer program in the magazine "Compute" when he was only 15. He also said that the UNLV English 101 course helped him considerably in writing "Computer Basics."

Valenti said with regard to his book, "You don't get lost with our book."

Valenti is now collecting profits from his book and is attending UNLV as a management major.



Yell Photo / Maureen Miller

Writer - Jag Jaeger (left) and Vince Valenti (right) are authors of the book titled *Computer Basics*.

Dr. Eugene Garver to speak at UNLV

Dr. Eugene Garver will discuss "Reason and Emotion in Rhetoric: Back to Aristotle?" on Nov. 29 at 7:30 p.m. in UNLV's John S. Wright Hall, Room 116.

Garver will also participate in an informal discussion on "Rhetoric and Critical Thinking: Bacon's Essay on Revenge" on Nov. 30, at 3 p.m., in Frank and Estella Beam Hall, Room 215.

The free, public presentations are part of UNLV's "Converging Interests in Contemporary Rhetoric" lecture series, which is sponsored by the College of Liberal

Arts, the Hank Greenspun School of Communication, and the departments of English and philosophy.

A prolific writer, Garver has published numerous essays, articles, and book reviews, including "Machiavelli and the History of Prudence," "Rhetorical Deliberation and the Arts of Policy," "Point of View, Bias, and Insight," and "Teaching Plato and Aristotle in the Schools."

For more information about the lecture, call Linda Stewart at 739-3964.

Second annual Festival of Trees and Lights

Where will Santa be spending Thanksgiving this year? At the Second Annual Festival of Trees and Lights, of course! The North Pole has temporarily relocated to our own awesome valley and can easily be found at Caesars Palace, Convention area.

The Festival will come to life with a stunning opening night Gala preview on Nov. 20, which includes judging of the trees, live and silent auction, cocktails, dinner and a private stroll among the trees.

The Festival will be open to the public Nov. 21 through Nov. 25 for a small admission fee. There will be something of interest for the entire family. You will be dazzled by our astonishing forest of trees decorated by professional and talented ama-

teur designers of Las Vegas. There will be an array of impressively composed wreaths that would make any door shine for the holidays. You will hear plenty of "Oh's and Ah's" from the spectators glaring at the Festival's charming gingerbread village.

It will be easy to start Christmas shopping by stepping into the Christmas bazaar. Local volunteers have worked diligently all year to donate home-made crafts to stock our shop. You can find plenty of holiday ornaments and decorations, wreaths, baby quilts, decorated sweat shirts, and even small items for children to purchase. There will also be holiday craft demonstrations scheduled to teach everyone how to make holiday items.

Children will automatically be drawn to the excitement of the

Children's Fun area where they will be delighted with games to play, crafts to make and they can even get their face painted. Magicians, clown and jugglers will be on hand to delight and amaze all ages.

Continuous local and professional entertainment is scheduled to perform the sights and sounds of Christmas.

All proceeds will remain in Southern Nevada to benefit the Southern Nevada Down Syndrome Organization and Transition Foundation. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1 for Senior citizens, and \$1 for children.

For more information regarding the Festival of Trees and Lights, please call, 387-1070.

Trap

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Students, who have been seen as unreliable in the past, are now the target of credit card companies. According to the College Press Service, the student default rate of four percent is "no higher than that of the general public."

"We've found that students go on to become our best customers," said Gail Wasserman, a spokeswoman for American Express.

Even Citibank Corporation, which estimates that over 1.5 million students are carrying their Visas and Mastercards, contends that number continues to increase.

"Credit cards, if used wisely, are a good thing if you're not using them frivolously or to expand your living expenses," Johnson said.

However, it doesn't appear that some UNLV students are heeding her advice. This semes-

ter there were approximately 2,300 students paying for their tuition by credit card, said Sharon Coomes, Bursar in UNLV's Controller office.

Credit cards can be useful for establishing a credit history, but students should limit the number of cards they carry.

"You don't need to prove you have the ability to borrow money from numerous sources to qualify for good credit," Johnson said.

Individuals who feel they are overburdened with credit card debt can contact the companies directly to work out a different payment plan, or contact the Consumer Credit Counseling Service (CCCS) to receive free counseling. If the CCCS establishes a repayment plan for you, a maximum \$10 fee per month will be assessed.

Debate

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next two or three years," he said.

Murphy said that team members typically spend 15-20 hours a week in preparation for the tournaments. The amount of time spent in preparation falls to about 10 hours after the tournaments begin.

Participation in the debate and forensic team is open. However, most students have experience from high school. For those with no experience at all in debate, Murphy recommends taking the argumentation and debate

class offered by the communications department.

"This class will expose the student to the kind of experiences to expect," Murphy said. For those interested in poetry and prose readings and persuasive speech, Murphy will arrange practice rounds for prospective members to participate in.

The debate and forensic team will be traveling to Arizona State University the first weekend in December for their next tournament.

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BRING UNLV ID AND GET REDUCED
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UNESCORTED LADIES DRINK
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TV OR VCR GIVEAWAY EACH SUNDAY 9AM
HAWAIIAN TRIP DRAWING TO BE HELD NOV. 10TH

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Return this flyer for a
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