

# A community service of blacks helping blacks

by William Holt  
Staff Reporter

The Black Student Association presented "Las Vegas Westside Story-A Diamond in the Rough" recently in the engineering complex auditorium.

The event consisted of an open forum with guests Wendell P. Williams, representative to the state assembly; Alfred Muhammed, minister of the Nation of Islam; Faye Duncan Daniel, student coach in Las Vegas; and Frank Hawkins, a retired professional football player.

The four members of the open forum and the audience discussed how they could improve the conditions of Las Vegas' westside.

Williams offered "Although there is a lot of bad happening

today, more attention should be paid to the "positive" things that also happen.

Muhammed had much to offer, but he explicitly stated that he was not one for merely talking, but more for the actual doing. He was concerned about the image of the black person in America and thought that the media run by "white papers" should be corrected by having more "black papers."

Daniel said she felt (black people as a unit) shouldn't let white people run the westside, stating, "I think black people are the most talented people in the world. When I see M.C. Hammer, I just scream."

Members in the audience responded with questions and discussion.



Yell Photo / Marc Baruch

Panelists - (L to R) State Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams, Faye Duncan Daniel, student coach in Las Vegas, Alfred Muhammed, minister of the Nation of Islam, and Roosevelt Fitzgerald, professor of Anthropology and Ethnic Studies.

# Free thinking for only \$25

by William Holt  
Staff Reporter

Is "mind, nature, and the re-enhancement of the world" the final frontier? No one knows. But for \$25, several students who are interested in thinking bought five weeks of just that.

From Oct. 18 through Nov. 15, a class known as "Free Thinkers," or "Mind, Nature, and the Re-enhancement of the World," was held on the top floor of the library at 6 p.m. every Thursday. From UNLV were Tom Sexton, assistant professor of counseling and educational psychology and foundations, Tom Shaffler, associate professor of mathematics, Bill Wells, the dean of the college of engineering, and Bob Koettel, associate professor of psychology. These four co-ran the course.

The course was informal. The four professors positioned themselves in front near a projector and the audience (students) was scattered about the room. In keeping with the informal nature of the course, topics were spontane-

ous.

Sexton introduced as a topic a fictitious culture that scientists had discovered. He described the culture as one with absolutely no hierarchy, no government, and no police. He said that the scientists found that the way this culture remained civilized was that at special times of the year, the males and females would trade places, and even overemphasize the opposite's role. The males would act as females and vice-versa. This ritual appeared to relieve tension, and each member didn't think as badly about his or her position in society.

From this example, the class discussed how people in general need to be "what they are" by being compared to someone else. For instance, it is hard for a child to be good if he has no example or comparison to the behavior of a bad child. Or, it is very hard to be dominant or submissive in isolation.

Another interesting topic was about the balances and the imbalances of human relationships.

Many experts believe that relationships rely more on the pattern of behavioral events instead of on the behaviors of personalities themselves. An example given was: "If you've ever wondered why your next door neighbors who appear to hate each other are still together, it is because the way they hate each other fits together."

Shaffler commented on the validity of the course.

"It gives students the chance to interact with people from other disciplines. The continuing education class (free thinkers class) was composed of students who were there just because they were interested in the subject, not because it was required (which it wasn't)," said Shaffler.

"Students have the opportunity to work with and talk to other people who are discussing the same concept in a different way. The diversity and variety and background of the students is stimulating," said Sexton.

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