

Math made easy

Dr. Bill Aslan of the mathematics department has been teaching since 1967 and says that math has come a long way in not only the breakthroughs of today's and yesterday's mathematical geniuses, but in the methods now available for students to replicate those breakthroughs.

"Students have been turned off by the tedious calculations and haven't seen the beauty of mathematics," said Aslan. If you "move with the technology," as Aslan put it, calculations used in subjects like calculus and engineering can take much less time to do. With the use of such tools as graphic computerized calculators and today's personal computers, made by such companies as Hewlett Packard, Texas Instruments, Macintosh, IBM and others, much of the actual work is left to technology, and the beauty to the student.

"Students have only the option to purchase these instruments," said Aslan, but he thinks that tools such as the graphic

computerized calculator may be a requirement in the future. "If they (the students) use these tools properly, it would add to their strength in understanding the concepts."

Calculators today, ranging in price from about \$20 to \$150 can do things like plot and calculate any type of graph using any type of formula, estimating answers to the nearest micro-fraction of a degree. Actual cursors can be used on the mini-screens of calculators to draw and plot graphs. Formulas given in texts can merely be "punched in" the instruments to seconds later have the graph, however complex, plotted by the computer. To get exact results, a "zoom" function can be used to get the accuracy desired. The adding of numbers is also available.

One drawback to the technology, however, is that it doesn't appear to stop.

Dr. Aslan recalls, "I had bought a top-of-the-line Apple III Business computer three years

ago. Now it has been discontinued. What was worth \$4,000 three years ago is now only worth about \$300"

Even the Macintosh-Plus is becoming obsolete and is being replaced by better Macintosh SE's and others in places like our own Library. Aslan said, "The Macintosh is superior."

Addison-Wesley Mathematics, among other organizations/corporations see the need for "calculators in the mathematics classroom." They promote:

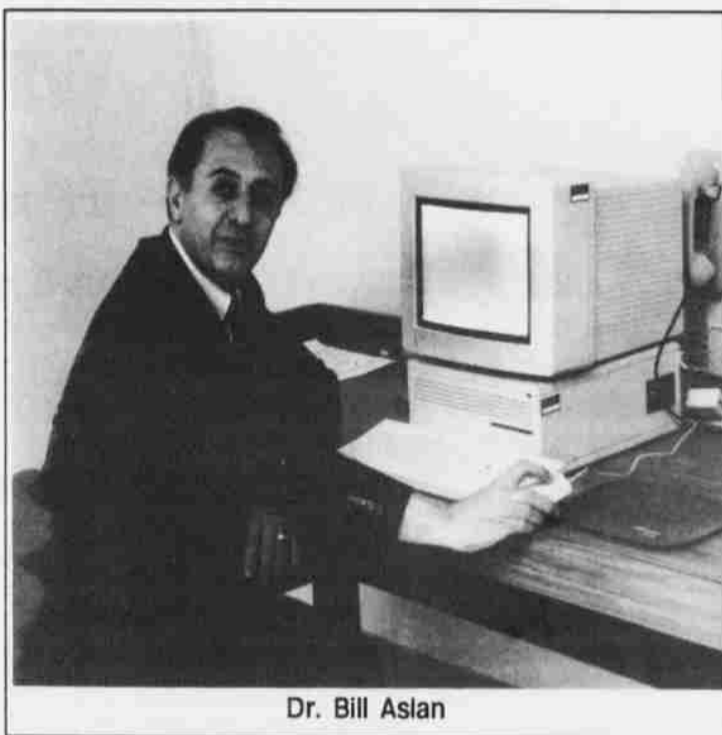
Calculators should be used in all math classes K-12.

Better problem solving performance is a result of improved computation and process selection.

Calculator use promotes better attitudes toward mathematics and better self-concepts across all grade levels.

However, avoiding paper and pencil work is not the goal.

In mathematics, as Aslan said, "...life is made easy."



Dr. Bill Aslan

Two new students appointed to Student Senate

by Karen Splawn
Staff Reporter

The Student Government Senate gained two new members during their Nov. 29 meeting. They are William Romero (Student Development) and Kyle

contingency account (which acts as an emergency funding source) to various accounts that are low.

They also approved a \$1,000 fee for anti-drug and gang activist Lawrence T. to speak on campus.

Five senators were given the OK to sit on committees. They

Kannenburg, a pre-med major, said he's not afraid of speaking in public and knows what that he's interested in the Programming Council because it has "a lot of potential."

Romero, whose major is undeclared, said he was getting involved because "Student Government is important."

The senate approved the transfer of some \$61,000 from the

are Mike Bunin (Publications Board and Student Campus Safety Awareness Committee), Wendy Finmark (Student Campus Safety Awareness Committee), George Gonzalez (Student Campus Safety Awareness Committee), Monica Ricci (Publications Board and Student Campus Safety Awareness Committee) and John Ynigues (Student Campus Safety Awareness Committee).

University Police crime alert

On Oct. 26, 1990 at approximately 7:45 a.m., a female parked her vehicle in Thomas & Mack Parking Lot #1. She exited her car and turned to get her books out of the vehicle. A white male approached her from behind and forced her down on the front seat of the vehicle at knife-point. The suspect was scared off by persons in the area. The suspect fled in a vehicle, in an unknown direction.

(partial of 2C3)."

The description of the suspect is "white male, twenties, 5-foot-7, 165 pounds, brown curly hair, dark, tanned complexion, last seen wearing a red and white baseball cap, blue muscle shirt, faded jeans and construction boots." The suspect's vehicle is "early model Datsun, two-door hatchback, dark green, bearing California blue with yellow lettering license plate

On Dec. 1, 1990, at approximately 8:25 p.m., a white female adult student was walking from the Inn Zone University to Dormitory E. As she was walking through the grassy area between Tropicana and the dormitories, she was attacked by an unknown suspect, who put a sharp object to her neck and forced her to the ground. The victim managed to escape and reported the incident to the police. There is no suspect information. However, the victim believes the suspect is a white male.

The UNLV Police Department requests that you report anyone matching this description or any suspicious activities to campus police at 739-3668 (business) or 911 (emergency).

Students should consider insurance

by Shawn Black Snider
Staff Reporter

Insurance doesn't usually generate much excitement and interest, unless you find yourself in sudden, desperate need of it.

If you were unexpectedly sick, requiring extensive tests and treatment, or involved in an accident needing emergency hospitalization or surgery, can you cover these expenses and get quality care?

If you can't, it would be wise to consider investing now in a health and life insurance policy

that could save you from financial ruin later.

According to Lori Winchell, director of the Student Health Center, this is why it is important that students have an alternative insurance policy that allows for affordable emergency medical care.

"Any student who has paid their registration fees can use the health center here on campus," Winchell said. "But the center does not provide emergency or surgical care. If these things arise it is the responsibility of the individual to cover their costs."

The Sierra Health and Life

Insurance Company is offering a special program to students who are taking seven or more credits. The coverage, effective for one year including the summer, is \$140.

Winchell urges interested students to get applications and submit them during registration. When classes begin in the spring students will have to wait until next semester to sign up.

Applications are available at the Student Health Center or the Registrars Office. For further information, contact Patty Avila at 739-3370.

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