

# Faculty focus: David Weiller

by Shawn Black

How did you spend the holiday weekend? If it wasn't in rehearsal, performance, and literary debate, then you are obviously not a member of one of UNLV's choral ensembles.

The three ensemble groups,

University Chorus, Chamber Chorale and Varsity Men's Glee Club, are all under the direction of David Weiller, assistant professor of music and director of choral studies.

"This is more than an ensemble; it's a family," Weiller said. "We all work together and although

it's a lot of hard work, it's also fun and a great outlet for personal expression."

Weiller, who has been in this position for the last seven years, said that it is through student commitment that the group has grown from one ensemble of 30 members to three with a total of

over 100. They travel, perform, participate in festivals, and promote UNLV.

What they receive, he explained, is a chance to express themselves emotionally, through personal interpretation of lyrics and poetry; physically, in the challenge of blending their voices with dozens of others to sound as one; and mathematically, in counting beats, measures, stops and starts.

"It's a developed talent in which most people who can carry a tune and who are willing to work as hard as my students do now could excel," Weiller said. "The majority of these students and performers are not music majors but simply people who are interested in music and its enjoyment."

The Choral Ensembles are one-credit courses and can be retaken as many semesters as a student desires. The hours involved, however, are slightly more than most one-credit courses, Weiller said. A typical week requires 7 to 10 hours of rehearsal plus performances in and out of town.

In 1989 the group went to Mexico City to perform with the

Mexico National Symphony. In March they'll host the third annual Invitational Choral Festival, attended by choirs from four states.

At the end of the month they'll begin a seven-day, 11-concert tour in Northern California ending with a concert on April 9 at the Artemus Ham Concert Hall.

Weiller said traveling is hard work, but the students enjoy it and it improves their performances.

The ensembles have received many honors and have been judged in numerous festivals but the great thing about art, he explained, is that there are no losers—only winners.

Weiller comes to UNLV from the University of Illinois where he got his music degree, and California State University, Fullerton with graduate studies in music education.

He is involved both on and off campus in promoting music. Although he's credited with the development and expansion of the choral studies program he said it's the students' dedication and hard work that are responsible for what UNLV is proud to call its Choral Ensembles.



David Weiller, Director of Choral Ensemble at UNLV

**"This is more than an ensemble; it's a family."**

# Students For Choice and so much more

by Rebecca Bostick

Students for Choice, created in September 1989 by volunteers of Pro-Choice Advocacy, is gearing up for another battle in the abortion debate.

At their first official meeting of Spring '91, Students for Choice sought new members, refocused their goals, and introduced a campaign to change parental notification and/or consent laws in 35 states across the United States.

Although the group's main concern is reproductive freedom for women both young and old, one member said that they don't want people thinking they're "just an abortion group."

The full name is, in fact, Stu-

dents for Choice and So Much More, and some of their choices concern conditions at UNLV. The group's aims include raising funds for the Women's Resource Center, working with Pro-Choice Advocacy to install a pregnancy hotline at UNLV, and bringing attention to the need for better lighting on campus, and the escort system which treks students across campus after dark.

Students for Choice's main concern, however, is the protection of Roe vs. Wade and the safety of women seeking safe abortions. They are working with a national group, the Feminist Majority, in a campaign to repeal Indiana's parental consent law, which recently affected 17-year-old Becky Bell,

who died from a massive infection after seeking a "back alley" abortion.

They're also seeking to overturn the Hyde Amendment, passed in 1977, which ended federal funding for abortion services to most Medicaid-eligible women. In the same year, Rosie Jiminez, a scholarship student from Mexico who was six months away from receiving her teaching credentials, died after Medicaid refused to pay for a legal abortion. The group is selling memorial bracelets for both women, to be worn until the laws are changed.

They're also circulating letters and a petition to the Indiana legislature, adding pressure to repeal the parental consent law,

which requires minors to have consent from both parents for an abortion. The group is tentatively planning a demonstration for spring to bring attention to the fact that worldwide, one woman dies every three minutes from an illegal abortion.

Angela Slayton, president of Students for Choice, became involved in the pro-choice movement in 1989.

"It's so much a part of my life, the first thing anyone knows about me is how I stand on the issue," she said.

Despite the clashes between

pro-life and pro-choice groups last fall, she reports only one incident of harassment here on campus.

Slayton, who attended the First National Young Feminists' Conference in Ohio in January, said she wants to avoid the stigma of Students for Choice becoming a strict feminists' group. Nearly half the students at the first meeting were males.

Their next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6 at 2:30 p.m. on the second floor in the Moyer Student Union. For more information, contact Slayton at 366-9141.

## Today in black American history

Feb. 26

In 1898, Pierre L. Carmouche volunteered to serve in the Spanish American War. He recruited 250 men to join him, and went to Cuba as a 1st lieutenant in the 9th U.S. Volunteer Infantry.

Feb. 27

The first black YMCA was organized in Washington, D.C. in 1853. Charloue E. Ray, the first black female lawyer, graduated from Howard University Law School in 1872.

Feb. 28

On this date in 1776, Phillis Whealley was invited to visit General George Washington so that he could express his appreciation for her poem written in his honor. Her work "Poerns on Various Subjects" was published in London in 1773.

Feb. 29

Charles H. Mahoney, a Michigan attorney, served as a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations died on this date in 1966.

**Great work UNLV!**

**Thanks for your support.**

**100 pints of blood donated on the Jan. 30 Blood Drive.**



**Next Blood Drive  
February 27  
MSU 201 10-3 pm.**

### NUTRITION


#### Warm up to winter with soup

Soups can ladle out nutrition and complement a rounded menu. Those recommended here have no more than 5 grams of fat and less than 800 milligrams of sodium per serving.

| Soup   | Calories | Fat (g) | Sodium (mg) |
|--|----------|---------|-------------|
| Progresso Lentil (9 1/2 oz)                              | 170      | 4       | 780         |
| Lipton Hearty Chicken Flavor & Noodles Cup-a-soup (6 oz) | 120      | 1       | 660         |
| Campbell Special Request Bean with Bacon (8 oz)          | 120      | 4       | 540         |
| Prtkin Chicken Vegetable (7 1/4 oz)                      | 70       | 1       | 175         |

SOURCE: Mayo Clinic Health Letter





## Ode to a Soldier

by Ilana Lisette Fiorenza

Sat there a watchin' the TV  
war games with Hussein.  
thought about killing for my country  
and how one day it might be me.

Ran my hands along the shoreline  
cried as I saw seabirds died.  
dreamt that I was in the firing line  
and lost sight of which side was mine.

Drove my truck to find a Joshua tree  
to hang a star and dress in gold.  
the canyon echoed my song to be free  
still, one day it might not be.

Might be me  
with adrenaline and fear inside  
gripping, gasping, gone...

Might be me  
or you, with no place to hide  
gone, far far away from home...