

'Moment of prayer' Nothing to worry about, right? spurs controversy

by Eileen Brady

Melanie Carver, a senior at UNLV, won't take no for an answer.

While attending the UNLV vs. Rutgers men's basketball game, the hotel administration major said she felt that the announcement calling for "a moment of silent prayer" for the troops in the Middle East was inappropriate for a public university. Asking for a prayer at a public institution's function, Carver said, is obviously excluding many people and even offending some.

Carver said she thought the problem could easily be rectified by simply calling whomever was in charge of the announcements and bringing it to their attention. She first called the Thomas & Mack Center's general office which referred her to Sports Information. The receptionist at Sports Information said that the announcement had been mandated from the Big West Conference.

Carver then called the Big West Conference and asked them if they had approved the "silent prayer."

"They said that although they approved that the schools could show some support, it was up to the schools about how to word it," Carver said.

She called Sports Information again, this time speaking with Joe Hawk, director of Sports Information.

"He said it was his 'call' and that unless he heard from President Maxson, that's the way it was going to stay," Carver said.

"My interpretation is that when you have 'a moment of silence' it is in honor of somebody who has died," Hawk said. "My thinking is a 'moment of silent prayer' denotes thoughts about

trying to stop the fighting rather than 'a moment of silence,' which says you're honoring people who have died."

But she didn't let it end there. Carver called the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and talked to a representative from it.

"He said it was 'constitutionally questionable' as a violation of the separation of church and state," she said.

He recommended that she write a letter to Hawk saying it was constitutionally questionable and send a copy to the ACLU. But with there being only two home basketball games left, Carver said she didn't want to put the issue aside.

She called Dennis Finrock, director of the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, to inform him of her concerns. Carver said Finrock was understanding and was not aware of the wording being used.

"He said he'd check into it ... then it was changed at the next game," she said.

Hawk said, "The athletic director called me and said, 'Do you have a problem with changing it?' I said, 'You're the boss, if you want me to change it I will—it's not that big of a deal to me.'"

"Semantically, I just didn't think it was accurate," he said about the change.

Because Hawk types the scripts for the announcer, he made the change himself.

Carver said she was pleased at the results and that she was surprised it took so much work to change something she feels was a blatant mistake in word choice.

"I thought it was so obviously the wrong wording," she said.

But now she has gotten it changed.

by Deborah Soper

Many students walk by the building behind Lily Fong Geoscience more than once a week. The building's presence is seldom questioned.

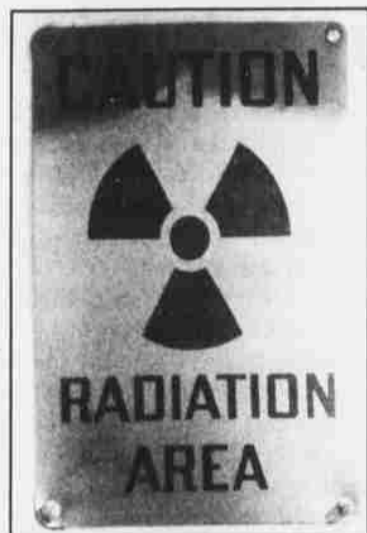
Upon close inspection, however, signs warn of hazardous radioactive materials.

According to Professor of Geology Dr. David Weide, the U.S. Government tested atomic bombs above ground in the 1950s, in a process called "atmospheric testing." This type of testing produced radioactive fallout, which settled on the land and began a chain of events. Fallout on grass eaten by cows that produce milk fed to babies led to the potential for birth defects. This chain prompted the U.S. Government to research further.

Testing was done by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), which set up a laboratory at Nevada Southern (now UNLV)

for research. According to Pat Wonder of the Environmental Protection Agency on campus, the AEC was absorbed by the EPA.

After they found the material



to be radioactive, AEC built what is referred to as the "bomb shelter."

The "bomb shelter" was the

radioactive waste storage building. There are actually two sides to the building and the oldest side has a crane on the roof. The crane was used to drop a box in the building, down into the ground. The building is solid concrete, except for the 8 sq. ft. space for the box of waste.

The old side is not used today, but the new side is. The new side is used for storage of radioactive materials such as gloves and absorbed liquids (liquids absorbed into a cloth to prevent leakage which will eventually solidify) from the chemistry and biology departments. This material is harmful if misused, but, according to Tom Graham, radiation safety officer, there "is no danger if properly handled and inside this building."

The materials are ultimately disposed of properly. Some material will decay and lose its radioactivity, but the building is checked every day to prevent build-up and ensure safety.

Kaplan Educational Center comes to Las Vegas

by Tricia Ciaravino

The Stanley H. Kaplan Educational Center offers preparatory courses for standardized exams, those taken to enter college and graduate-level schools.

The Kaplan Educational Center takes a "three-pronged approach" in preparing students. Students attend class lessons and lectures. Actual classroom time is about 40 hours in a ten-week period. Students also have extensive home studies. The center has a test and tape lab, which includes former exams, topical materials and lecture tapes.

Scott Kjar, academic director for the satellite center in Las Vegas, said he feels this is a superior method to the usual weekend cram sessions offered. The courses are designed not only to improve scores, but actual skills as well.

"It seems crazy to acquire skills that are only good for one day—test day," Kjar said. "Our hope is after you take this course you won't just do better on the test, but in that school."

The educational team consists of the actual centers, a research department that keeps current data of all tests and pre-writes lessons, experts on all tests and topics and a production staff.

"(We offer) a great deal of availability that you can't get in any other way," Kjar said.

The courses offered, in Las Vegas, are for the LSAT, MCAT, GMAT and SAT. The cost ranges from \$565 to \$745 per course. Independent study for courses not offered at the Las Vegas center is also available.

The Stanley H. Kaplan Educational Center is a nationwide organization, with 140 permanent locations. Courses are offered for about 39 exams

The Center is a nationwide organization, with 140 permanent locations. Courses are offered for about 39 exams.

The Kaplan organization is accredited by the Council for Noncollegiate Continuing Education, which is listed by the U.S. Department of Education.

For more information, call Kjar at 735-4433.

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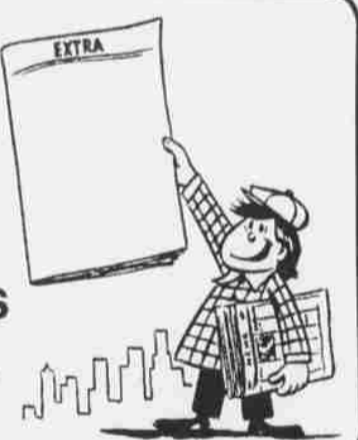
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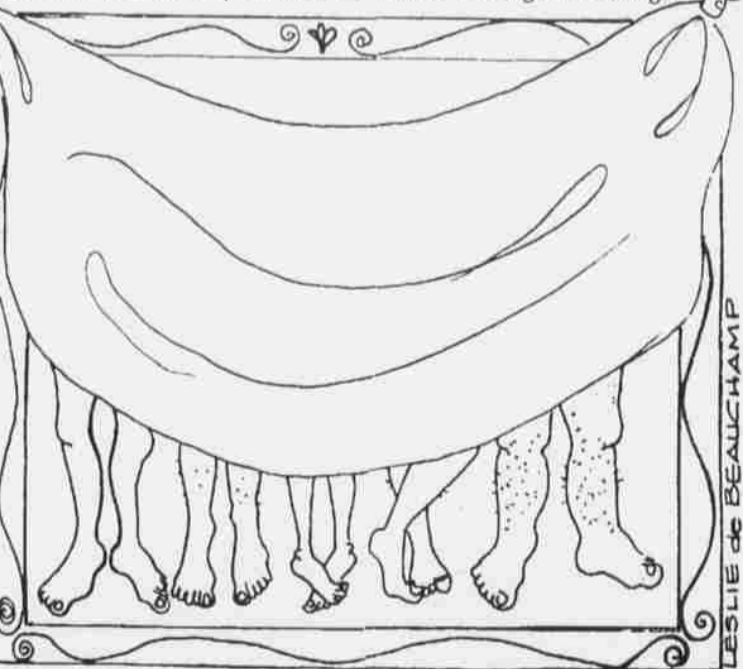
Painting of world leaders in the nude removed

(CPS)—Officials at Anne Arundel Community College in Maryland have canceled the showing of a painting of five world leaders portrayed in the nude.

After getting several complaints about the prospective showing in mid-January, artist Josef Schuetzenhoefer, a part-time faculty member, replaced the life-sized painting with a less controversial work the day before the show opened. The 8-by-8-foot oil painting, "Capitalism is Dead," was a political commentary about the cries that communism is dead, he said. Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Polish President Lech Walesa, Polish Cardinal Jozef Glomp, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the late millionaire publisher Malcolm Forbes were depicted. To strip them of their authority, Schuetzenhoefer said, dildos were strapped to the lead-

ers and they were shown standing on a cart with missing wheels. "I didn't think there would be any problem in a country where free-

Schuetzenhoefer, who decided to replace the painting with a subdued version of the same work rather than fight the college.



dom of speech is such an important issue," the artist said. "At times it struck me as a rather provincial situation," said

Schuetzenhoefer is planning to give a lecture on the painting to explain his intent. Campus art has stirred considerable furor at other

schools, too. In March 1990, an 8-foot painting of Purdue University President Steven Beering clad only in socks was removed from a campus exhibit. In January 1990, drawings of nude women hanging in a hallway of Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno, Nev., were temporarily covered because a student complained that the drawings were pornographic. In 1989, Chicago's city council, enraged by a student work featuring the late Mayor Harold Washington dressed in women's underwear and then a piece that invited viewers to step on an American flag, threatened to withdraw funding from the school at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Also that year, four University of Illinois artists wanted the Krannert Art Museum on campus to melt down two bronze sculptures, saying they represented "women as an object of lust."