

Does concrete float?



UNLV team at the canoe races in Fullerton, Calif.

by Andrew Geffert

On April 5, engineering students from UNLV were at Cal State Fullerton to compete in the regional conference of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). The UNLV students competed against schools from Southern California and Arizona including UCLA, UC Irvine, Northern Arizona, Cal State Fullerton and San Diego State.

The UNLV team participated in four different events.

After being given the elevation of a point on the ground, they surveyed across the campus to find the elevation of a point on top of a building.

In the volleyball competition the team gave San Diego State a run for its money. Popsicle stick bridges were next with Yao Lei building a bridge that held 460 pounds.

The concrete canoe was the big event of the competition.

Does concrete float? It does when it's made into a canoe. Months of planning and building long into the night produced the canoe. First, a mold was constructed and finished. Then the concrete and steel reinforcement was spread into the mold and allowed to cure. After the finishing and painting process, a hot-looking boat represented UNLV to the other schools in the competition.

The 245 pound canoe was fast in the race, though it proved to be difficult to maneuver.

Ultimately, the UNLV team received much praise for the design features of the canoe and new ideas for next year's competition at UCLA. UNLV students who represented the school were: Randy Thomas (ASCE leader), Yuo Lei (canoe designer), Dr. David James (faculty representative), Andrew Geffert (paddling coach), Merrill Scheppe, Louis Huff, DeEtte Rashid, Ray Hurlkey (volleyball captain), Cheryl Reeves, Justin Rasas, Joe Bosse, Jerome Duran, Sudath Alvis, Daphanne Gollier, Jenny Arms and Rick Bernard.

Human rights in China

Amnesty International and UNLV Student Government are sponsoring a human rights symposium focusing on the conditions in modern day China on Tuesday, April 23, in the Moyer Student Union Ballroom from 7 to 10 p.m.

The guest speakers will include Magdaleno Rose-Avila, Western Regional Director of Amnesty International comprising the 13 Western states; Ting Huang, spokesperson of the American Chinese Human Rights Advocates; Liu Xihu and Mo Fengjie, former Chinese political prisoners; and Dr. Maria Chang, professor of political science specializing in Chinese affairs.

Rose-Avila was previously the national director of the "Campaign to Abolish the Death Penalty" for Amnesty International, USA. He has appeared on several national and local television and radio programs in that capacity. He served as media director for the world tour of Amnesty International's Human Rights Now! concert featuring Tracy Chapman, Peter Gabriel, Sting and Bruce Springsteen. He is also the former director of the Southern Region of Amnesty International, USA and continues to serve as the organization's director of the Cultural Diversification Program.

Xihu was arrested at the age of 13 in 1959 accused of belonging to the "five black family categories." (This includes landlord, rich capitalist, counter-revolutionaries, bad elements and rightists.) Belonging to such a family, it is suspected that a person is disloyal to

the Communist system. Although caught up in the "waves of arrests" Xihu was forced to serve at a labor camp, until his vindication in 1984, in which he was subjected to hunger, disease, fatigue and torture.

Fengjie was arrested in 1961 at the age of 17 due to activities in a student organization that criticized the government. Sentenced to a five-year term for sedition, Fengjie worked in a factory and labor farm where torture was a constant. Such torture included wearing a "peace jacket" in which air is pumped into the jacket to squeeze the body so that breathing is almost impossible. Currently Fengjie lives in Los Angeles.

Huang moved to the United States in 1955 with his family and had the opportunity to pursue a higher education where he chose chemical engineering. Huang also was involved with computer work and in addition made sure while moving into the "main stream" he kept his Chinese heritage. Since the incident in Tiananmen Square in 1989 Huang has been active in the Chinese democracy movement.

Chang is an associate professor at the University of Nevada, Reno and will be speaking on China's best known prisoner Wei Jingsheng. Jingsheng was prominent in the first wave of democracy movement in 1978. Chang is looking forward to being a part of "this meaningful event," and is glad that Amnesty International is taking an interest in the problems facing the people of China.

Don't touch this!

By Adejoke Adenle

There are many different forms of sexual harassment. Some students consider staring a form of sexual harassment because it makes them feel uncomfortable, while others consider sexual harassment as being physical.

UNLV's definition of sexual harassment falls under three categories:

1) Submission to it is made either explicitly or implicitly as a term of an individual's employment or academic standing, 2) Submission or rejection to it affects decisions based on academic or employment standards, 3) It unreasonably interferes with an individual's academic or work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or demeaning employment or educational area.

Sexual harassment is classified under different categories.

First, there is sexual harassment of students by a professor. It usually requires the immediate resignation of the professor if the student wishes to prosecute. This type of sexual harassment is the most common on campus and the most reported.

Lujan said that most sexual harassment cases are unintentional. He stated a scenario that related to most of the cases.

"Usually a student agrees to go to, maybe, Carlos Murphy's with

her professor to get a harmless drink and in the end, a relationship may develop," said John Lujan, director of Affirmative Action. "The student feels uncomfortable because she cannot end it."

Sometimes harassment can be a case of verbal abuse with the professor passing degrading comments about the opposite sex.

Most of these cases are not reported. If they are, however, the professor is advised to stop.

One of the students interviewed claimed that her professor brings up sexual issues that are degrading to women which make her feel uncomfortable. This same student also said that she is often discouraged by professors to advance in her field (law). However, both allegations were never reported.

One student admitted that she did not even know where to report such an incident.

"The major problem of sexual harassment is that it is not always reported," Lujan said. When a student does report to Lujan, he carries out a thorough investigation of the matter.

To report cases of sexual harassment, contact John Lujan, Director of Affirmative Action at FDH 335 or call 739-3773.

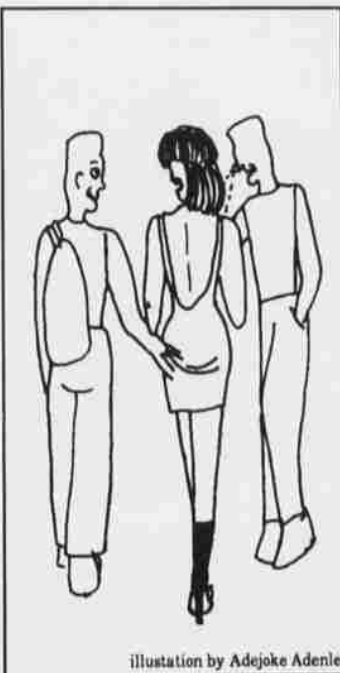


illustration by Adejoke Adenle

Surplus of sick students visit health center

by Gwendolyn C. Watson

Most people consider college students healthy, but the Claude Howard Student Health Center cares for students with very serious problems, according to Student Health Center Director and Nurse Practitioner Lori Winchell, R.N., A.P.N.

The health center is available to full-time and part-time students, undergraduates and graduates. Students may have to wait and "show patience," but the service is free with the exception of medicine and lab charges.

Since September, the student health center has seen approximately 4,750 cases ranging from pneumonia, miscarriages and cancer to Lyme and Legionnaires' disease.

According to Winchell, the health center encounters many cases of sexually transmitted diseases, most of which are of the bacteria infection chlamydia-type and abnormal pap smears.

"We also see incidents of sexual assaults, date rapes and students detoxing because of alcohol and drug dependency," she said.

Students who fight sometimes end up at the students health center, according to Winchell.

According to Winchell, the student health center treats a lot of students—approximately

190 patients per week or 760 patients per month.

The part-time physician who works at the clinic two days a week increases the number of patients treated from five to 60 patients a day. However, the two registered nurses and nurse practitioner who see the patients only in the morning treat approximately 30 to 40 patients when the physician is not present.

A third R.N. handles paperwork such as inventory and federal and state procedures to keep

The increasing demand for health services outdistances the two-year-old student health center's ability to supply students' needs due to the university's rapid growth.

the student health center current with government guidelines.

Winchell admits the increasing demand for health services outdistances the two-year-old Student Health Center's ability to supply students' needs due to the university's rapid growth.

Winchell faces a dilemma. She does not have the funds to increase the staff, and if the staff increases, she does not have the space to treat additional patients.

To ensure quality care Winchell admits having to limit the number of students and said she feels "that's really sad."

The diverse backgrounds of student health nurses also enhance the quality care provided.

"I have a wonderful staff," Winchell said. "I'm really lucky. Students don't realize the caliber of staff we have to serve their medical needs."

Such a "wonderful blend of backgrounds" is not usually found in county clinics nor doctors' offices, according to Winchell.

Combined, the three R.N.s on staff have experience in burn and kidney dialysis units, food and nutrition programs, contraception and pre- and post-partum care, AIDS programs, sexually transmitted disease programs and chemical dependency programs.

In addition to Winchell and her three R.N.s, the health center staff consists of a part-time physician, a consulting pharmacist, a medical record coordinator, an office manager and additional office help.

The student health center makes quality medical care available to all students while attending UNLV, Winchell said.

The clinic is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the summer.