

## Richard Chesnoff points to possible war mistakes

by Tricia Ciaravino

Richard Chesnoff, senior correspondent and Mideast specialist for *U.S. News and World Report*, spoke of the problems in the Middle East and his experience during the war. This presentation took place at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas on April 29.

"When we deal with people like Saddam Hussein, (we think) we are dealing with people who think the same way we do," Chesnoff said. "We think we may be able to work with him. Is this government going to be smart enough (to realize) these are not people the United States can work with? We can try to stop them. We can try to change them. But, the worst thing the United States can do is to try to bargain with them."

Chesnoff also said that he disagreed with the government's decision not to invade Basra on the last day of the Persian Gulf War. "I believe we made a terrible mistake on the last day of the war," he said. "It will go down in history as a bad mistake."

Chesnoff said that he feels the situation in the Middle East will improve but it's going to take a long time. "The best we can hope for is some incremental improvement," he said.

Attitudes are changing in many of the Middle Eastern countries, but the reasons for the changes are questionable. Syria, whose leader supports terrorism

**"I believe we made a terrible mistake on the last day of the war."**  
- Richard Chesnoff

and actually lets terrorists walk its streets, has turned to the United States for help. The country, which borders Israel and has one of the most powerful armies in the Middle East, will have to choose between help and terrorism. Chesnoff is skeptical at the government's belief that compromises can be made with this leader.

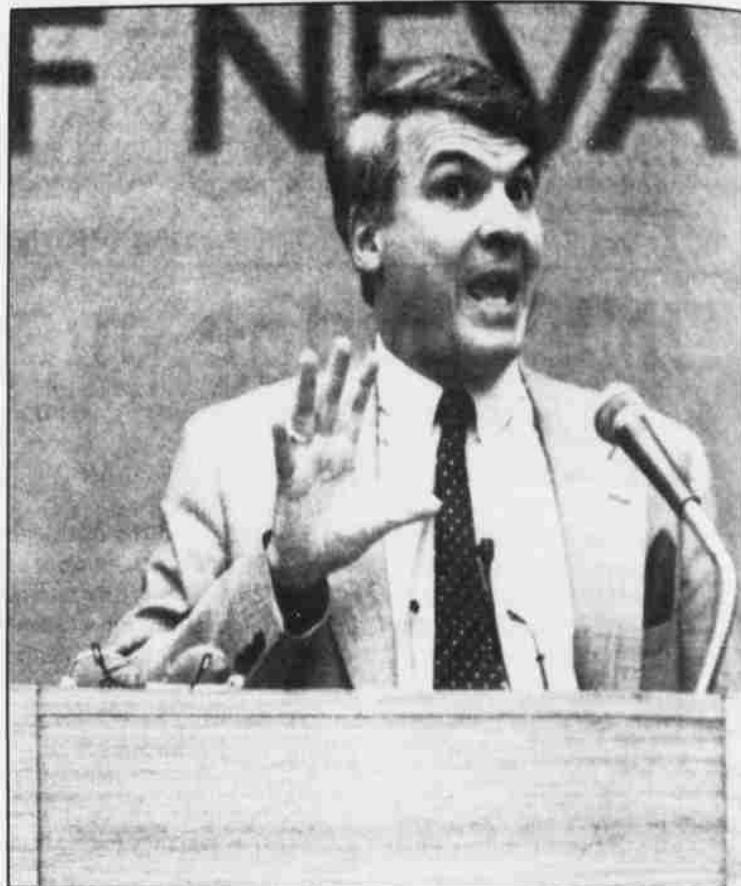
"(In Iran) we will see change, but it will be a slow change,"

Chesnoff said. "(We will see a change) in the moderate forces in charge but moderate only in relation to extremists. (We will see) a willingness to cooperate only because they need aid. They will not become open to United States' ideas. Things do not change and alter in the way we want to see them."

He also questions the actions of the Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti governments who promised to stand up and participate in the crusade against Hussein and have now changed their minds. "The United States must not allow this," he said.

Chesnoff was allowed to travel with the troops while in the Persian Gulf, but admitted that "the best stories came when we were on our own, past Iraqi lines into Kuwait."

Chesnoff said that he feels the press was censored too much during the Persian Gulf War. "The press was controlled," he said. "We must see that it never happens again."



Richard Chesnoff addresses students at UNLV concerning the U.S. role in the Middle East.

photo by Eileen Brady

## May is here and the time is right to graduate

Last May over 1,000 students walked through the graduation ceremony

by Robert Perea

May is here and for many students that means graduation. Unfortunately, the increasing number of graduates each year causes at least one major problem for UNLV.

According to Professor Donald E. Schmiedel of the Foreign Language department and chairman of the Commencement Committee, the problem is time.

"We never want commencement to last over three hours," Schmiedel said. "Last year it went two hours and fifty minutes." This year it could run even longer.

Last May, 1,028 graduates walked through the ceremony. So far this year, 800 students have applied for graduation, but this number includes only bachelor's degree applicants. According to figures from the Registrar's office, as many as 1,300 students could be included in commencement on May 19.

One option many people support to reduce the time of the ceremony would be to hold a commencement ceremony in December for summer and fall graduates. This idea, however, could cause as many problems as it solves, Schmiedel said.

Even though the Thomas and Mack Center is on campus, the university must pay to use it. This means UNLV would have to pay twice as much as it does now to hold the extra ceremony. Schmiedel said this op-

tion has been discussed but not seriously considered.

Schmiedel said two other possibilities are under consideration. The first would be to have the colleges have their own degree ceremonies following the main ceremony. However, questions to be resolved include whether people would come back for another ceremony after the first one? If so, where would that many ceremonies be held? It would be an even bigger hassle to hold ceremonies on separate days.

Some university people say the other possible solution is far more reasonable. Simply have the graduates stand and be recognized when their name is called, as opposed to actually walking across the stage.

In an attempt to find a solution that holds down the time and also benefits the graduates, Schmiedel said the Commencement Committee is contacting other universities with the same size and setting of degrees as UNLV to get ideas. Wichita State, for example, has been happy with the results of having their graduates stand when called.

With Commencement only 12 days away, no changes are expected this year but Schmiedel said the committee hopes to find a workable solution soon, because graduating classes are expected to keep getting larger.

## Speech team rocks nationals

"We were on the edge!" said Tony Zuiker, senior competitor for the UNLV Speech Team. "Crushing Bradley, Illinois State, Eastern Michigan and all the other forensic favorites."

Indeed, UNLV was the underdog at the 1991 National Forensic Association Speech Championships in Huntington, West Virginia and for good reason. Three of the four competitors, Cynthia Sylinias, Cathy Planchard and Dustin Abraham had never competed on the national level before.

Tony Zuiker, veteran competitor, was the only member who had experience in both national competition and elimination rounds. Also, Sarah Love, the individual events coach for the Rebels, was making her coaching debut on the national level for the first time. Against all odds, the speech Rebels stepped on the campus of Marshall University and earned instant respect.

Abraham and Zuiker took eight straight 1s from eight judges in the preliminary rounds and thus seeding the duo first for the elimination rounds. Zuiker's prose

interpretation, *They Call You Anglo, But They Call Me Sambo* received seven straight 1s and a 2 from eight judges, thus seeding the prose first for the elimination rounds.

"We were so hot in prelims that everyone was talking about it," Zuiker said. "We knocked competitors out of the race early and it gave us the upper hand for elimination rounds."

The tournament ended in respectable fashion for the Rebels. Zuiker reached the quarter-final in After Dinner Speaker, the semi-final of Duo Interpretation with Dustin Abraham and took third in the country in Prose Interpretation out of 312 competitors. "It felt good to get in the final," Zuiker said. "The winner could have gone to anyone. I just wanted to be the best I could be."

As a team, the Rebels took third in small school sweepstakes. The honor marks Love's debut as an extremely successful one, and the squad will have three of the four returning next year.

This article was contributed by Tony Zuiker.



Tony Zuiker, senior competitor for UNLV Speech Team, takes third in the country in Prose Interpretation.

photo by Morgan Fisher

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## PLAZA

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merous benches have been placed around the plaza, creating areas for students to study or to socialize between classes.

As Pida spoke to a crowd of approximately 100, she thanked the university and the students, but gave special thanks to her sorority Delta Zeta. "My sisters gave me support and make me feel truly

loved and very special," Pida said.

Pida has about one year left in school if all goes well but she said that she plays her life day by day. Valerie Pida has the support of a whole university and a family of close sorority sisters. Her true family will always be there for her support with evidence of this at today's ceremony.