

# Drug testing—Is it a violation of students' privacy?

by Tricia Ciaravino

Drug testing of all college students moved a big political step forward April 2 when Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder, a possible presidential candidate in 1992, said he would "not object at all" to mandatory drug testing of all state students.

While a handful of small, private schools already have general testing programs, no state currently has an all-inclusive effort like the one Wilder endorsed.

If it approved the effort, Virginia would be the first state to regularly test all its non-athlete students.

National drug policy Director Bob Martinez didn't like the idea, however.

"My own view is that too many college administrators have not been sufficiently aggressive against drug use they already know they've got on their hands, and that there are any number of things they should think about doing before anyone begins discussing random drug testing," Martinez said.

Wilder remained insistent.

"Rather than offering a proactive policy to stamp out illegal drug activity on our nation's college campuses, Mr. Martinez criticizes our forceful efforts in Virginia," Wilder said.

Wilder made his original an-

nouncement at a press conference after he met with administrators, and appointed a special task force to examine how state colleges can crack down on drug and alcohol abuse and sexual assault on their campuses. —College Press Service

No such plans have been made for UNLV, however.

"There are no plans for drug testing on this campus," said Ray

**The university system is based on teaching people, not forcibly interfering in their lives. They teach you smart and safe sex but they're not going to intervene in your bedroom.**

Rodriguez, health educator at student health services center. "It will probably not get off the ground in Virginia. Martinez is anti-drug testing and it's too controversial."

Martinez is not the only one in opposition. Several students at UNLV are also opposed to random drug testing.

"I don't see a valid purpose in testing a student for drugs," said Don Nevis, a senior majoring in engineering.

Alan Kuester, a pre-med major graduating this year, said "I do

not support drug use. (But) I don't agree with random drug testing for students. First of all, because it's too expensive to catch such a small number (who are abusing drugs). Also, because of inaccuracies they will be catching people who are not taking drugs who will be unfairly punished."

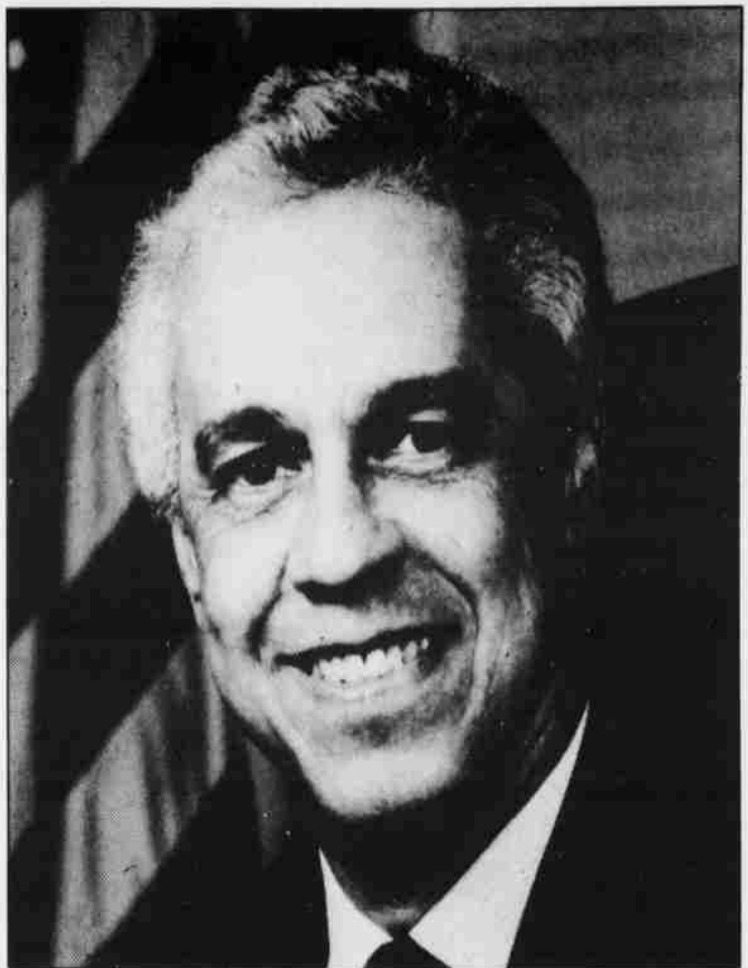
Jim Zuccaro, a senior majoring in political science, said that he feels random drug testing is clearly a violation of one's right to privacy. "I don't see how it's the university's business," Zuccaro said. "The university system is based on teaching people, not forcibly interfering in their lives. They teach you smart and safe sex but they're not going to intervene in your bedroom."

Dr. Doug Imig, assistant professor of political science at UNLV, said that he feels a strong argument could be made for both sides.

"The current Supreme Court has seemed amenable to expansions of the search and seizure rules, including sobriety rules, so that by extension they plausibly would find the university's decisions to be constitutional," Imig said.

Imig stressed that "it all depends on the way the court interprets it."

While random drug testing could be considered a violation of Fourth Amendment rights, the courts may allow it like they did



Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder came out in favor of a mandatory drug testing program that would apply to all state students.

the sobriety rules because it is a major public concern. "We do a lot of things in this country that aren't technically legal," Imig said. Imig used the restrictive voting and drinking laws as an example saying that these laws are a "selective infringement on the rights of certain citizens."

Rick Fortin, a freshman and education major, said that students should not be tested. How-

ever, he feels a different approach should be taken with athletes. "Athletes shouldn't take any drugs that enhance their performance and make the university money." He said he feels that athletes should be tested, by the university, for these drugs only.

"Our goal, however, is to actually deal with drug use in the university, since we'd like to cure it," Imig said.

## Faculty Focus: Dr. Russell Hurlburt

By Thomas Hurly

He started out as an aeronautical engineer at Sandia Laboratories in Albuquerque, N.M. He then decided that he would rather be a professional trumpet player.

That wasn't his calling either. Psychology was the answer.

Meet Dr. Russell Hurlburt, professor of psychology at UNLV.

"I was interested in finding out what makes people tick," Hurlburt said. "I hadn't found anybody who had figured people out."

"Understanding individuals seemed like a fundamental step toward solving any important social problems," Hurlburt said. "There were, and still are, a lot of crazy people out there, and I guess I thought I could help those people."

The road to this realization was a long one for Hurlburt. After graduating from Princeton he took a job with Sandia Laboratories. There he solved the problems of other scientists.

"I answered questions like, 'If a bomb landed in a particular kind of soil, how far into the ground would it penetrate?'" Hurlburt remembered.

He decided to leave Sandia and try to become a classical trumpet player. He joined the U.S. Army to play in the military orchestra. He was in the military for three years. For the final year and a half of his enlistment, he played Taps for funerals at Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

This was a time when he became interested in psychology. "I would only work for about two minutes a day playing Taps so I had a lot of free time," Hurlburt

said. "I would go to the library and check out books about things I didn't have a chance to read about in college like history, poetry, sociology, psychology. Gradually I began reading more and more psychology."

His military service was up and he applied to graduate school to continue his study of psychology, but he was not accepted.

"That could have something to do with the fact that I had only



one psych in college—that I hated," he said.

It was back to Sandia. This time he was in charge of designing a safety monitoring system that may be still in use at the test site here in Nevada. "I lost my security clearance when I left Sandia so I don't know if it was installed," Hurlburt said.

He left Sandia a second time because he had been finally accepted to graduate school by the University of South Dakota.

In South Dakota he pursued

an idea he had been thinking about since Sandia. He had come up with a new method on how to figure out people.

It was called random thought sampling. This idea would play a major role in his psychology career.

The idea calls for a person to wear a beeper at all times. At random times the beeper sounds and the person writes down the precise feelings he/she is experiencing at the beep. At the end of the day, which consists of six to eight beeps, the person and Dr. Hurlburt get together and discuss the experiences the person has written down.

After about a week of this, Hurlburt writes a description of what the person's life is like. "When the person reads my description they say, 'That is exactly me,'" Hurlburt said.

Last year Hurlburt published *Sampling Normal and Schizophrenic Inner Experience*. He hopes this book and his continuing research convince people that his method can help people in need.

"I want to convince the world of psychology that other people should be using my method," Hurlburt said.

Hurlburt continues his research with the same goal he had when he started out in psychology. "I want to be able to help people who are seriously disturbed."

Hurlburt received this year's William Morris award for excellence in research. Earlier in his career he received the William Morris award for excellence in teaching. He is one of two professors on campus to have been honored with both awards.

## Faculty Focus: Richard M. Wiley

By Tony Stefanelli

Many hidden treasures exist at UNLV and Richard M. Wiley happens to be one of them.

Wiley, an English professor, decided in his late teens to study English. He earned his bachelor's degree at The University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Wash. and two master's degrees, one from Sophia University in Japan and the other from Iowa University.

A published author and winner of the 1986 Faulkner/Penn award for the best American novel, *Soldiers in Hiding*, he teaches minority, American and world literature and a writing workshop. Wiley said he rates the English department as "terrific."

In previous years some artists have claimed that

they have been able to increase their creativity while under the influence of LSD and marijuana. Wiley said he thought it was a preposterous idea.

"Although it might be good fun, drugs used to inspire such things is silly," he said.

For aspiring writers, Wiley advised that the person "Work hard, develop writing habits and keep them." He equated the formula of successful writing to be 90 percent hard work, thus exposing the "foolishness" of the idea that drug use could be used as an aid in writing.

Wiley just released a new book entitled, *Festival For Three Thousand Maidens*.

The story is set in Korea, dealing with the Peace Corps. The book can be found at commercial bookstores as well as the UNLV bookstore.

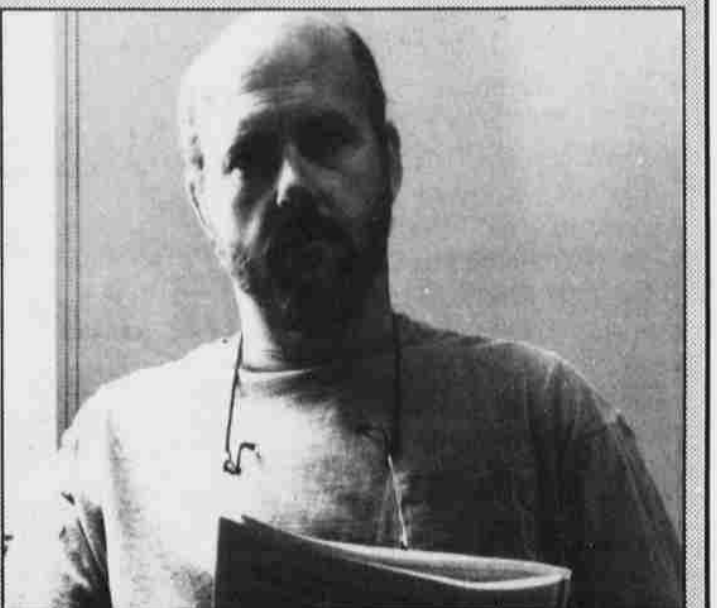


photo by Morgan Fisher

Richard Wiley says successful writing is 90% hard work.