

# Sexual problems are another effect of substance abuse

by William Holt

The United States is commonly known as the richest country in the world. Unfortunately, it is also called the most drug-abusing industrial nation in the world, according to information provided by Abbott Laboratories to the Student Health Center here on campus.

Among the many harmful effects of drug use is sexual dysfunction.

Dr. Rex Purkins is the UNLV counselor/coordinator of the Alcohol and Drug Awareness Program from the Student Development Center. He said that the United States is socially based on the idea of drug use.

Alcohol, the most commonly used drug, is thought of as a "social lubricant," said Purkins, meaning that people use the drug alcohol as a means of meeting each other and starting relationships.

Other drugs can serve this purpose. Twenty million smoke marijuana, 6 million use cocaine, 500,000 are addicted to heroin and 10.5 million are alcoholics, according to Abbot Laboratories. In addition to these statistics, information provided by DIN Publications to the Student Health Center confirms that 47 million Americans are still smoking. Although it is seldom discussed, sexual problems are included on the list of those resulting from drug use.

"Over a long period of time, any abuse of mood-altering drugs will eventually result in severe physical deterioration, muscular dystrophy and glandular problems, which in turn will lead to sexual dysfunction," Purkins said.

Hossam E. Fadel and Hamid A. Hadi, authors of *Alcohol Effects on the Reproductive Function*, indicate that acute ethanol consumption may lead to sterility or to defective offspring.

Also, Fadel and Hamid indicate that chronic use of alcohol in women has been related to menstrual disorders, infertility and repeated miscarriages.

Marijuana creates infertility in males, Purkins said.

"Moderate to heavy marijuana use, especially between the ages of 12 through 17, causes deficiency in testosterone production and can result in production of no sperm, too little sperm or abnormal sperm," according to a report by Health Edco, Inc.

This study also found that, on the contrary, marijuana increases testosterone levels in females.

Steroids, a drug used by over 1 million American athletes without supervision, according to the Datafax Information Series, can also distort the reproductive system.

The Wisconsin Clearinghouse determined that anabolic steroids cause "... shrinking of testicles, sterility (inability to produce sperm for up to seven months after ending use), impotence (inability to get an erection), cancer of the prostate (the gland that makes semen) and enlargement of the prostate, causing difficulties in urinating."

The American College Health Association reports stated, "Increasing your alcohol intake decreases your ability to function sexually."

Patricia J. Bush, author of *Drugs, Alcohol and Sex*, found that a moderate dose of alcohol in women causes



"fewer or no orgasms, decreased quality of orgasm, longer foreplay and decreased lubrication."

Bush wrote that, in men, alcohol causes "... longer foreplay, increased time to erection, difficulty in maintaining an erection, uncertain orgasm and decreased penile tumescence."

Chronic alcoholism, the author stated, in women causes "loss of libido, loss of menstruation, frigidity and infertility," and in men causes "loss of libido, loss of sexual satisfaction, erectile impotence, decreased testosterone, infertility, breast development, decreased body hair and shriveled testicles."

Purkins indicates that one reason for alcohol misuse is that usually people first become acquainted with sex through alcohol.

"Society thinks that sex can't happen without alcohol," he said.

After impotence has occurred, Purkins said that a man can get his potency back, but only after long-term abstinence.

However, "long-term

recovery therapy is usually required in order to obtain and maintain acceptable sexual functioning," Purkins said.

Lori Winchell, director of Student Health Services, said: "You have to consider the reasons why a person uses a drug. They could be psychological, neurological, related to the circulatory system or it could be situational."

"Seventy percent of all people in hospitals are there because of medical problems caused by [drug] dependencies. All drugs affect the central nervous system and can prevent an erection."

In dealing with students at the health center, Winchell said, "We don't usually get a person who first says he has a chemical addiction and then a problem with impotence. They usually come in with a problem with impotence, then we have to work down to the problem. I've seen people come in bleeding from the mouth from an ulcer, but they're still denying a drug problem."

## Attention Gays and Lesbians

Come join the fun in UNLV's Lesbian and Gay Academic Union. LGAU is a social group offering anonymity, support, and friendship to both students and persons in the community. Meetings and workshops are scheduled on the first and third Mondays of each month at 6 pm.

For more information call 594-GAYS.

# Tony LaBounty conducts UNLV bands

Talented, handsome and busy are all words that could describe Tony LaBounty, UNLV's assistant director of bands.

LaBounty, 28, is now in his fourth year at UNLV. He conducts the UNLV Community Concert Band, UNLV Pep Band and the University Symphonic Band.

Originally from Los Angeles and then Phoenix, he attended the

the Athletic Department and from the university. He said, "The Athletic Department has been very good to the band. At some other schools, the team stays in a four-star

hotel and the band stays at the Motel 6. But at UNLV, they're good to us."

"President Maxson has also been a big supporter of the bands at UNLV," he said.



University of Arizona to receive a bachelor's degree in music. He taught high school music in Texas and then returned to school for a graduate degree in music from the University of Illinois.

When asked if he planned to stay at UNLV, he said, "Sure. I like UNLV and I like Las Vegas. I have family here and I plan on sticking around to see the Music Department grow."

LaBounty seems happy with the treatment his band members have received from

said that he wanted the students, faculty and staff of UNLV to be aware of the band program and how much it adds to the university and to the community.

On weekends, he sometimes travels to New York or San Francisco "just for the fun of it."

When asked what other profession he might choose if he had to, he said, "I'd probably be in the restaurant business. ... It would probably be Italian or American cuisine. I think I would like that."

# Strippin' away the competition

by Tricia Ciaravino

With the ban against alcohol at rush parties, some fraternities have become desperate in their attempt to lure prospective members away from the competition. At the University of Nevada, Reno, the local chapter of Alpha Tau Omega has scheduled a stripper show for their rush party Tuesday night. Three other fraternities at UNR, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Nu and Lambda Chi, have canceled similar plans.

The fraternities have been advised by both their national chapters and the university that hiring strippers to perform at rush parties will violate their national policies. However, the university has no jurisdiction over the fraternities because they are off-campus, private organizations.

Kyle Kannenberg, a

brother in the Sigma Chi fraternity at UNLV, finds this idea distasteful.

"Sigma Chi would not think of having such an event at a rush party because that's not what rush is for," he said.

"Instead, our rushes are designed to attract quality men to our international brotherhood."

Robert Snyder, president of Phi Delta Theta and treasurer of the Intrafraternity Council at UNLV, said that he would not consider the idea to recruit new members.

"Every fraternity (complaints) that they can't get quality people involved," Snyder said. "If you do that you'll never get quality people. If my fraternity threw an event like that, would I really want the guys that showed up to be my fraternity brothers? If that's what is drawing them to the group they're joining for the wrong reasons."



# Student Employment Service offers jobs

by Tamia L. Dow

Student Employment Services (SES) is an on-campus agency that can help place available college students and available jobs together in order to benefit one another. On-campus, local, intra-state and out of state agencies contact SES in search of student workers.

Only students taking a minimum of six credits or special students may use the SES.

Employment seekers can select up to four job referrals a day, yet due to staff and time constraints, they must return the next day for

a computer printout of their referral request.

The jobs available range from manual labor and babysitting to computer programming and hotel/engineering placement. There are both temporary and permanent positions.

The staff of SES recommends persistence. A student who comes to the office once a day for two weeks is more likely to get a position than someone who comes once a week.

"The only way to get anywhere in this world is by being in the right place at the right time with the right attitude," said Susan Sand-

ers, office manager.

Once the student receives referral information, it is up to him or her to call or apply in person, whichever the referral stipulates. Students who are hired should notify the SES.

Graduating seniors can be assisted by a joint effort between SES and the Career Placement Center located in Beam Hall. Graduate students currently attending UNLV are also welcome.

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday; call 739-3446 for more details.