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Novelist Tom Wolfe speaks at UNLV

Author addresses packed house at Artemus Ham Concert Hall

by Gary Puckett

Distinguished author and journalist Tom Wolfe spoke yesterday evening at UNLV as part of the Barrick Lecture Series. His address began at 7:30 p.m. in the Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall. Like all lectures in the Barrick series, the event was free.

Early in his address Wolfe quoted Thomas Mann from his novel *The Magic Mountain* as stating, "There is something different in the epoch we are in now." This idea of the importance of the epoch was central to Wolfe's delivery. He also noted such writers as Sinclair Lewis and John Steinbeck as writers who concentrated their gifts on the importance of their epochs.

Other philosophers and thinkers such as Marx and Nietzsche were also referred to. Wolfe pointed to the end of the 19th century as the end of the feudal order.

"After the second world war, for the first time prominent writers and artists started to pull back the veneer of American society and show the rot underneath," said Wolfe. He specifically noted Sinclair Lewis

in this country, in our own period, the 90's. He said that these are economic success and intellectual force. He stressed that his book *The Bonfire of the Vanities* was largely concerned with these forces in

will be compelled to memorize the date Nov. 9, 1990, the date of the breaching of the Berlin wall," said Wolfe. He then pointed out how important American culture was in this. He noted that those doing the breaching were clothed in Levis and Nike shoes and looked "like they just came from a Sting concert in Ohio."

"If we would have bombed Haiphong with blue jeans and compact discs and rock n' roll we probably would have won that war," said Wolfe.

In conclusion, Wolfe pointed to the greatness of our culture to be so looked up to by the rest of the world. However, he deliberately would not comment as to what good this could lead to.

Wolfe is extremely well known for such novels as *The*



Tom Wolfe, the author *The Right Stuff* and *The Bonfire of the Vanities*, spoke at UNLV Monday night.

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— Tom Wolfe

and H. L. Mencken as artists who endeavored to do this.

"We now have an affluence that reaches down to the tradesman to the point that it would make the 'sun king' himself blink in panic," said Wolfe.

Wolfe emphasized that there are now two main forces that come together,

American culture.

More emphatically though, Wolfe emphasized the importance of these forces to the world. He stressed how these forces shape American culture and how this culture is looked to as the leader to the entire world.

"I believe that in the next century school children

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Breslin tells it like it is about journalism

by Karen Splawn

Being a good reporter requires plenty of energy, said Pulitzer Prize-winning New York *Newsday* columnist Jimmy Breslin Sept. 26.

Speaking to a Flora Dungan Humanities classroom, he said there's no difference between writing news for broadcast or print "except you have to wear a tie for television."

Unlike newspaper reporters, he pointed out, television news anchors can't have hangovers, he pointed out.

"You're still trying to do the same thing," Breslin explained. "It's still 'two dead, three hurt' and names and addresses" for a story.

How reporters use words matter, too. "Your main weapon is your verb," Breslin told the students. "You're gonna make it with a verb no matter what the field."

Erstwhile reporters who want to succeed should



photo by Arthur Chvis

Jimmy Breslin (here with his wife) spoke at UNLV Thursday.

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Budget cuts might leave UNLV buildings in disrepair

by William Holt

The University Board of Regents has approved, as recommended by Governor Bob Miller, a tentative plan to cut spending by \$7.7 million, mainly by not repairing campus buildings.

The necessity in cutting spending is a result of Miller's response to the 5.5 percent decline in sales taxes from last year. State officials project sales taxes will increase by 7.25 percent this year. Most of our state revenue comes from sales and gaming taxes.

"We are not voluntarily agreeing to anything," said Carolyn Sparks, a board chair.

Regent Shelley Berkeley added that reductions, if implemented, will "impact the quality of higher education in Nevada. It is nothing short of a travesty to cut these budgets."

John H. Irsfeld, vice president and deputy to the president of UNLV said that the budget cut

will affect programs less than anything else. UNLV doesn't want to cut back on enrollment or faculty and staff.

President Robert Maxson vowed, "We are going to give up everything before instruction."

John Amend, director of Facilities Management, provided a list of buildings on campus that need to be renovated. The \$2 million in campus improvements designated by this list, represents less than half of the total needs that have been catalogued and presented to the state through the board of regents.

The Lily Fong Geoscience building needs \$500,000 in renovation, the William D. Carlson Education building needs \$350,000 and the Herman Westfall Business Services building needs \$315,000.

Three buildings need to improve handicap accessibility: the Thomas Beam Engineering Complex needs \$12,000 in

renovation, the Paul D. McDermott Physical Education Center needs \$8,000 and the Flora Dungan Humanities building needs \$45,000.

Two buildings need to replace fire alarm panels. The James R. Dickinson Library needs \$20,000 and Majorie Barrick Museum of Natural History needs \$10,000 in repairs.

Seven buildings need new roofs. The Technology Building needs \$56,000, Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall needs \$40,000, University Hall needs \$30,000, John S. Wright Hall needs \$50,000, Archie C. Grant Hall needs \$90,000, the Herman Westfall Business Services building needs \$85,000 and the William D. Carlson Education building needs \$100,000.

Wright Hall needs a \$30,000 elevator renovation.

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