

# BRESLIN

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"just be there" because hanging around can result in a great story, he said. "The early bird catches the worm."

The persistent will always find a job, Breslin added. "Don't listen to anybody when they tell you it's hopeless," he said. "There's always somebody walking out the door as you walk in."

The columnist, whose gritty style made him famous, said he was "thrilled" to see that the university had a student newspaper. He described his job as "catastrophe, mayhem and anything to scare the public."

Breslin was introduced by communications studies department Chairman Gage Chapel as "someone (late Sun publisher) Hank Greenspun could identify with so much."

The gruff and controversial newspaperman, known as a champion of the unfortunate, was in Las Vegas to promote his latest book, *Damon Runyon: A Life*.

Breslin's career has

been a full one. He started at age 16, as a copy boy, and later handled the police beat for the *Boston Globe*.

He also wrote for the defunct New York *Herald Tribune* and the New York *Daily News*, where he won the coveted Pulitzer Prize for Criticism or Commentary in 1986.

**"Editors have short attention spans and can't write. They attach themselves to the shirt sleeves of someone going to the top. People read the stories, not the editors."**

— Jimmy Breslin

Breslin has authored several acclaimed books, including *Can't Anybody Here Play This Game?*, *Table Money* and *The Gang That Couldn't Shoot Straight*.

No matter how the world changes, Breslin reassured newspapers are here to stay. "Newspapers that have lasted this long can last through anything."

He cited the New York *Daily News*, troubled by strikes and financial problems, as an example. "The New York *Daily News* can't be killed," he said.

However, the news profession is being damaged by consulting firms, Breslin said. "Consultants have eliminated all common sense. They think the public isn't so smart."

"Editors have short attention spans and can't write," he said. "They attach themselves to the shirt sleeves of someone whose going to the top. People read the stories, not the editors. There

seems to be a belief that people have such a short attention span. A five-second segment can be very long. A 500-page novel can leave you feeling disappointed."

Audiences will follow a story, no matter how long, if its interesting, Breslin said.

"(Writers are told) to tell the story as short as possible, but sometimes

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# Admission requirements may be raised

by Julie Stainer

The admission requirement for incoming high school students to UNLV mandates a 2.3 grade point on a 4.0 scale in addition to the completion of four units of English, three units of mathematics, three units of social sciences, three units of natural sciences and one-half unit in computer literacy. However, up to four percent of freshmen may be admitted on a probationary status if they are Nevada high school graduates and have a 2.0 or C average. But a change might occur in the near future.

There is a commission now debating the issue of raising university admission standards. This commission is made up of regents Dan Klaich, Jim Eardly, Joe Foley, President Ronald Remington (of Northern Nevada Community College), Vice President Henry Beebles (of Community College of Southern Nevada) and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost for UNLV John Unrue.

All plans are still in the

formative stages at this time and proposals have not yet gone before the board to be voted on. One idea being put forth is to raise the GPA to 2.5 for out-of-state students and 2.3 for in-state.

In response to the proposed raising of the GPA and the prospect of losing state funding because of a possible decline in student enrollment, Carolyn Sparks, vice chair on the Board of Regents, said, "The state funds just about 50 percent of our budget. All the rest of the money comes from student fees. That money goes to pay the balance which is about \$162 million to run UNLV. I don't think that there will be any drop at all. The freshmen class that came in are very bright and have a much higher GPA."

According to Regent Joseph Foley, stricter entrance requirements may contribute to the retention of students.

"There are an amazing number of students who drop out after the first year," said Foley. Instead of raising standards, Foley stressed making the community col-

leges more attractive.

"The object is to provide a campus life and experience similar to that of the University, which is an important part of higher education," Foley said.

Special committees and additional assistance for those who are having problems have also been proposed.

According to UNLV President Robert Maxson, "Admission standards should never be determined on financial considerations. You should always look at it in the light of what is best for the student and what is best for the University."

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# The library can be a versatile tool for researchers

by Barbara E. Minden

Many students are unaware that the library can actually do research for them.

There are several specific areas that do the work for the student or help the student get work done faster.

The reserve reading room of the library is located on the first floor, near the entry way. In this room, instructors deposit sample tests, research papers, books or extra reading material for students to check out and read in the library.

The central computer system has a registry reserve that allows a search by professor name or class. It will tell you what materials are available.

"Professors can put a time limit on the check-out period, but students may use the materials anywhere in the library," said Maria White, director of the reserve area.

Students are required to present a validated library card when they receive the materials.

Once a subject is decided upon, the reference desk on

the second floor of the round building is the next stop. This is the heart of the research area of the library.

"First, try the automated systems located at the reference desk. We own those so there is no charge," said Mary Harrison, head reference librarian.

If you still need help, talk with a reference librarian about a source search on the dial-in index system which will conduct an extensive search.

"A reference librarian will be able to help construct a search strategy that will minimize the time required for the search," Harrison said.

A solid search strategy is imperative because there are fees associated with this service. Based on the subject, prices can range from \$30 to \$220 an hour. There is also a \$1 charge for each document pulled. But remember that it may only take a few minutes to get everything the system has to offer.

When searching for sources, don't forget the non-

book center on the second floor of the rectangle build-

ing. They have a catalog of materials that pertain to all subjects.

The inter-library loan system allows students and faculty to order special books from other libraries. Undergraduate students fill out a form from the inter-library office, near the front desk, and get an instructor's signature. In some cases, documents can be copied for a fee.

The copy center will pull documents and make copies for you. Of course, with every convenience there is a price. The cost is \$1 for locating each source and 8 cents for each page copied. Ten sources, with 18 pages, would cost \$11.44.

If you are on a budget and have plenty of time, there is a way to save money on copying costs. Near the library entrance is a Venda-Card machine. This machine may save you money and hassles caused by the change machine. It dispenses a plastic card, just like a credit card, with any amount of money (up to \$20) encoded.

To make copies, just insert the Venda-Card into the

copier and make copies for 7 instead of 10 cents. You can re-code money onto the card after the credit runs out.

The library is a support system with shortcuts. Using the library is supposed to make you wise. It speeds up the process if you use it wisely.

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