

Barrick Museum of Natural History is four museums in one

by La Rae Bringham

The Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History is actually four museums in one. The museum contains a botanical garden, a miniature zoo, an art gallery and an exhibit of archaeology, geology and biology fossils.

The Botanical garden is one of the first of its kind. Started in 1988, the museum contains drought tolerant plants from every desert in the world. There are very few cacti. The garden contains mostly flowering plants and trees which make beautiful yards, without a lot of water. Each plant is labeled with its city of origin.

The miniature zoo contains a variety of mojavite desert animals, complete with a flora and fauna display. The Mojave Desert is not the dry, desolate place that most people think it is. In fact, there is a lot of life in the Mojave.

The animals are mostly snakes. There are also tortoises, squirrels, cockroaches and Black Widow Spiders.

The museum also contains one of the largest and finest art gallery spaces in

the Las Vegas valley.

"No other museum can compare to these displays and exhibits," said Donald Baepler, director of the museum.

The museum contains permanent exhibits and traveling exhibits. The displays are changed at least 10 times a year. Currently, John Running, a Native American photographer is on exhibit.

Also on display are artifacts most people associate with a museum: fossils, archeology, geology and biology exhibits. There are also mounted animals, Indian collections and minerals of the world.

The fossil collection is a small, but effective display of fossils found in southern Nevada. A large display of masks and the Virgin Kayenta Anazasi, found in the Lost City in Moapa, are part of the museum.

The display of Zuni and Hopi Kachina dolls are from the Pueblo Indians who used the dolls to teach children about the Kachinas, spirits who inhabit their world.

"The Ichthyosaur exhibit was recently removed because it was not being displayed effectively," said

Baepler. "It would cost \$80,000 to display it right. We don't have the funds right now."

The Ichthyosaur should be mounted at an angle, with a panorama in the background. The people who come to the museum were not able to enjoy the display because it was too technical. The exhibit is now in the basement waiting for the money to display it properly.

About 10,000 school children go through the museum each month. Their favorite display is the desert animals.

The Barrick Museum is located immediately to the west of Wright Hall.



photos by Rick Nielsen

Creatures range from small to large at the Barrick Natural History Museum.

BUDGET

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"We are going to give up everything before instruction."

— UNLV President Robert Maxson

The campus also needs a computerized irrigation system worth \$60,000, a gas line replacement at Judy Bayley Theatre for \$15,900 and Maude Frazier Hall needs new rest room features for \$25,000.

The James R. Dickinson Library needs rest rooms renovated on three floors, valued at \$60,000. Two buildings need new floor coverings; the Flora Dungan Humanities at \$18,000 and Frank and Estella Beam Hall at \$19,000.

The campus signage system needs implementation valued at \$60,000.

But, "Reno is suffering even worse than we are," said Irsfeld.

In the *U.S. News & World Report* in the Oct. 16, 1989 issue, a reputation survey listed UNLV as one

of three universities in the West most often named as "up-and-comers" by presidents, deans and admissions officers.

"We've been funded very generously by the state," said Irsfeld. This is one reason for UNLV's increasing success.

It now costs about \$140 million to run UNLV. Approximately 55 percent of the funding comes from the state government. The rest comes from student fees and even more comes from private donations.

"Last year the UNLV Foundation raised \$13.5 million," he said.

With regard to the possible rejection of building repairs in the budget, Irsfeld said, "We may not even have to do this. This is not a desirable state of affairs."

BRESLIN from page 2

you can't do that," he said. Racial tension is the dominant story in New York City and "how are you gonna sit down and talk about that in three paragraphs?"

Breslin emphasized that journalists must cover the underclass and racial strife, even though it's a hard topic. "There's very little to be gained in life from running from something."

WOLFE

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Bonfire of the Vanities, *The Right Stuff* (both of which were also films), *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*, and *The Kandy-Kolored Tangerine Flake Streamline Baby*. He received his undergraduate degree from Washington & Lee University and a doctorate degree from Yale University.

Wolfe's writing career began in journalism. While working in journalism he

reported for the *Springfield Union* (Mass.), *The Washington Post* and *The New York Herald Tribune*. While working at *The New York Herald Tribune* in the early 60's Wolfe worked with such luminaries as Jimmy Breslin.

His work has also been featured in such publications as *New York Magazine*, *Rolling Stone* and *Harper's*.

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are scheduled on the first and third

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