



## LGAU marches for recognition

by Kellie J. Adan

They marched from UNLV's flashlight down the length of the campus, amidst their posters that other individuals attempted to tear down. They proudly carried on, undaunted by remarks of cruelty. They wore pink and lavender, a representation of the pink triangles Hitler made homosexuals wear before he eventually killed them in concentration camps. They chanted "Hey hey! Ho ho! Homophobia's got to go!"

They are UNLV's Lesbian and Gay Academic Union.

This is LGAU's fourth year of "being visual" and showing people that there "is nothing to fear." "We're regular people with just a different sexual orientation," said Tyrone Smith, co-director of LGAU.

The march is held in honor of another march led by Rob Eichburg on October 11, 1987 in Washington D.C. It is meant to help homosexuals and heterosexuals alike "to take the first step"—going public

and becoming open about sexual orientation. Having the rest of the world deal with this new openness is the next challenge.

There are approximately 78,000 homosexuals in Las Vegas, and about 10 percent of the population of the United States is homosexual. Marches are needed to make others aware of this.

"We don't expect people to accept us," said Jay, a marcher, "just to recognize us. We here, we're not going away."

Many who marched were taking their own first step in accepting themselves.

Dave, another marcher, said, "You have to break the silence and live with it. You have to tell your friends and families."

"The gay community needs to get active," said Josh, a marcher. "The gay youth are not coming out, because they have nowhere to go and no one to turn to when they do."

Mark Gary, another marcher, explained that "it's very important to promote understanding and to put forth varying images". Gary

said he hopes the march will show others that "we are viable people, meaningful people — we serve a purpose."

Smith said he wants other homosexuals to be aware that they have a choice, "to live in fear or to live powerfully—telling the truth and being more loving." By coming out of the closet, he said, gays and lesbians show that they have nothing to hide from themselves, friends and family, the people they work with, or the local and national media.

National media is important to the gay and lesbian cause because, Smith explained, "We are the last civil rights issue to be addressed. Other civil rights groups don't understand that discrimination against homosexuals means that others can still discriminate against them."

The members of LGAU encourage others to face their fear of homosexuals and overcome it.

"Questions don't hurt; ignorance does," they said.

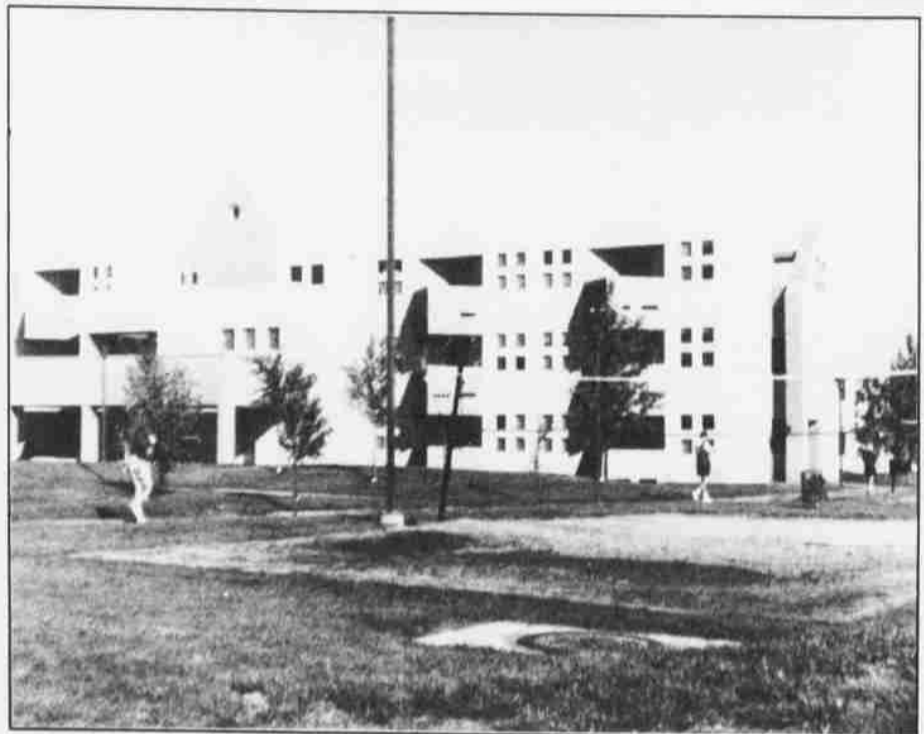


photo by Morgan Fisher

Terry Piper, director of Residential Life at UNLV: "Students develop the skills necessary to negotiate in life."

## Life in the dorms is a lesson for living

by Kellie J. Adan

Terry Piper, director of residential life at UNLV, said living in the dorms is an experience full of "life's lessons."

"Students develop the skills necessary to negotiate in life," Piper said.

In the residence halls one is not completely alone in learning these skills. Support and counseling are available for a number of problems, from homesickness to alcohol abuse.

The adjustment period for a new dorm resident may present difficulties.

"Different people have different experiences," Piper said. "Transfer students and more independent people find it easier to make friends and get involved."

Other groups tend to "have unrealistic expectations," Piper said. One of these is the assumption that in a scholastically-run environment, quiet prevails.

"A major complaint from new students is that it's noisy but of course, they're on a floor with 40 people, something which they have never before experienced," Piper said.

Many students find complaining about a noisy, drunken or particularly ob-

noxious fellow resident synonymous with that dreaded grade school felony, being a "tattle-tale."

Piper said that he wants these students to know "they have rights that they can assert. They have choices, options and should try to change matters from a bad to a good situation."

Many students think this means moving in with a new roommate or out of the dorms completely.

"Escaping should not be the first solution," Piper said. "It's viable, but problems can be solved without an escapist attitude."

Most students are used to having things "taken care of for them, but here they must express themselves and think about other people," Piper said.

Even with safety precautions in force at residence halls, students are advised to exert a few of their own. Room doors should be locked to prevent what Piper refers to as "crimes of opportunity" where one resident may sneak into another's room and take personal belongings.

When asked about what he thought of the dorms and regulations, Mike, a resident, said, "I enjoy it. The resident assistants are

helpful and it's easy to entertain."

He said he feels the security is "very" sufficient. However, "sufficient" does not seem to apply to the matching of room-mates.

"When filling out an application for a room, you answer about 10 questions about personality and how cold or hot you like your room...if you are a night or morning person, that type of thing for compatibility purposes," Mike said. "For me, it was a big problem. My room-mate is my exact opposite. I don't even think they looked at the applications."

He did note, however, that the people across the hall are perfectly matched. "They're both night people, so I just go over there when he (my roommate) is sleeping," he said.

Students interested in living in the dorms should go to the Department of Residential Life, near the new dorms toward Tropicana, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to pick up an application. Dorm living includes three different meal plans to choose from. Students should turn in applications early for a guaranteed room and a better chance of sharing a room with the roommate of their choice.

## There's no place like home

by Jennifer Farrar

With a rapidly growing student body and Greek population, UNLV awaits the addition of "fraternity row."

According to Jay De Leonard, assistant director of student activities, ground was broken on Aug. 15 for the first three houses. The fraternities that are ready to move onto campus are Alpha Tau Omega, Kappa Sigma and Tau Kappa Epsilon.

The construction, located in the northwest area of campus by the track, is ahead of schedule. The site preparation, which includes preparing the sewer lines and the grounds, was supposed to be finished today. It is already completed, Leonard said.

A meeting will be held Oct. 24, with the three fraternities, a contractor, an architect and UNLV faculty. The meeting will give the

fraternities a chance to explain how they will operate their houses, Leonard said. Specifics such as finances, house leases and individual leases for residents will be discussed.

Bids will go out to contractors in December, with construction beginning in February. The houses are expected to be complete by July 1. Leonard said that he hopes the houses will not be finished until Aug. 1, so they do not sit empty for a month.

Regarding a second phase of housing, Leonard said they will wait and see how things go before committing to anything because of the large financial obligations that these houses create for the fraternities. Leonard estimates that the payback on one of the first houses, with interest over 30 years, will be approximately \$700,000. Future houses would be over the \$1 million mark.

Some of the older chap-

ters, with a good alumni backing, would have no problem. However, being a relatively young Greek system, not everyone could manage.

A possible less expensive solution would be Greek residence halls. A model from the Northern Arizona University is being considered. At NAU, one residence hall houses around 600 students. The hall is divided up between fraternities and sororities. Each chapter has its own chapter meeting room and there are two larger rooms for social events or large meetings. This idea is being considered for the next phase of Greek housing.

The first three houses will house 36 to 40 students. One will have room for a maximum of 60. The cost per fraternity member to live in the house will be around \$300 per month, including utilities.