

Nevada poets present 'Desert Wood'

by Gary Puckett

When first presented with the idea of a collection of poems arranged together with a common bond based on geographical location of the writers, some observers might be skeptical. Those in attendance at the presentation of *Desert Wood* last Tuesday evening watched as any skeptical thoughts disappeared.

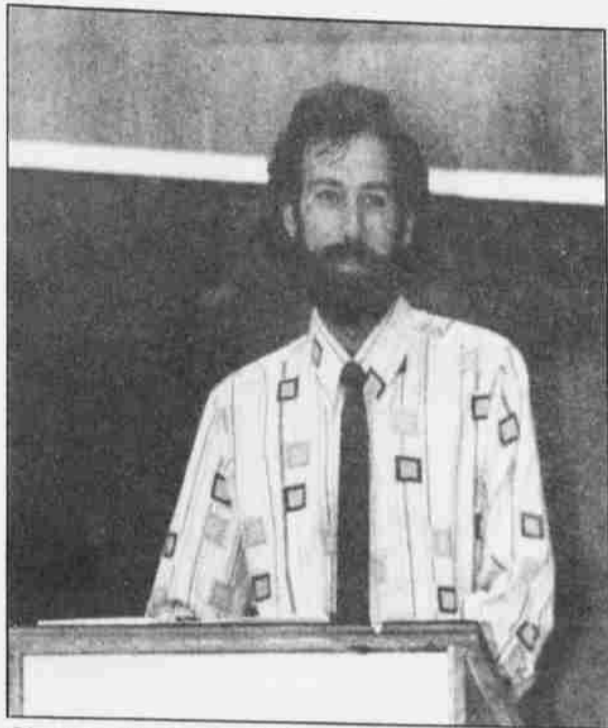
"*Desert Wood* is an anthology of poems by people who live in Nevada," said Robert Dodge, one of the poets represented. "Shaun Griffin, who put it together, has done a real good job of selecting poems from some fine Nevada poets."

The anthology is the first of its type to be published by the University of Nevada press.

"This is an historical first for Nevada," said Shaun Griffin, the editor of the anthology. "We now have a literary record to look back on."

If poetry's purpose is to transmit "a concentrated imaginative awareness of experience" as defined by Webster's, then this anthology and its presentation was a success.

Many of the poems, such as Billie Jean James' "The Big Bloom," Stephen Liu's "An Invitation from the Chicken Ranch," Joan



Shaun Griffin, editor of *Desert Wood*, presents his work

Cutuly's "Keyhole Canyon, Nevada," and Shaun Griffin's "A Place of Stone," made reference to locations or experiences which are unique to Nevada. Because of this reference, the awareness of experience is shared by poet and audience, as well as the reader.

Other poems presented, focus on experiences which can be shared universally. James Hazen's "Let Me Know How You Feel" was sensitive and humorous while Robert Dodge's "Weight Watchers" had the audience in stitches.

In contrast, Cutuly's "Brandon," a poignant testimony about a youthful suicide, elicited only silence from the audience. A Wilber Stevens' "And One Other Thing" also treated death as its subject, but from the point of view of one who is already dead, musing on how he "should have died."

The poets and poems presented Tuesday night were only a small sample of what is put together in this anthology. For those interested, copies of *Desert Wood* are available in the UNLV bookstore.

A night of North Indian classical music to be held

The Kaleidoscope Music Series will be presenting an evening of North Indian classical music featuring Amiya Dasgupta on sitar and John J. Bergamo on tabla, 8 p.m., tonight in Room 132 of the Alta Ham Fine Arts building.

The distinguished sitar player, Dasgupta, is presently teaching North Indian music at the California Institute for the Arts. As a student at the Ravi Shankar Kinnara School in Bombay, India for six years, Dasgupta has assisted Ravi Shankar as an instructor of the history of Indian music at New York City College and wrote the manual of Shankar's book, *My Music, My Life*. He has performed on numerous recordings including

the EMI recording, *West Meets East* with Ravi Shankar and Yehudi Menuhin.

John J. Bergamo is a master of both Western percussion and that of India. In the Western world, he has studied with Percy Heath and Max Roach and was awarded a Fromm Fellowship to Tanglewood as well as a Rockefeller Foundation grant. In Indian music, he has studied tabla with Mahpurush Mishra and Ustad Allah Rakha and has accompanied many noted North Indian classical artists.

Tickets for the concert are \$5 each and are available at the Performing Arts box office. For more information call 739-3801.

INVITATIONAL

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around the nation will judge the units on the basis of musical and visual performance and effectiveness.

The president's trophy will be given to the highest scoring band and the Nevada Cup will be given to the highest scoring band from Nevada.

The UNLV Star of Nevada Marching Band, under the direction of Leslie, will present a special exhibition at the invitational. The band will perform "NBC Chimes Festival," "A Night in Tunisia," "Festival de Ritmo" and "Spanish Fantasy."

Admission is \$3 for preliminaries and finals. A ticket packet may be purchased for \$5, which allows entrance into both contests. Call 739-3734 for more information.

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