

# Desert Research Institute dedicates Science Center

by Donna Bates

The new Southern Nevada Science Center at Swensen Street and Flamingo Road, will be formally dedicated March 19, by the Desert Research Institute (DRI). DRI is an environmental research group affiliated with the University of Nevada System. The president of DRI reports directly to the Board of Regents.

John Doherty, DRI's director of public affairs in Reno, said the new Las Vegas building is the result of 25 years of persistence on the behalf of DRI.

"It is like a campus but there are no students," Doherty said. DRI hires graduate students from UNLV and UNR, allowing them to apply their education to practical research experience.

The annual budget for DRI is \$20 million, 10 percent

of which is state funded. The remainder of its income comes from various research grants and contracts from all over the world. DRI has done several different research projects worldwide, but their work is concentrated in the southwestern United States.

This institute competes with a handful of institutes to participate in the joint study program. This means DRI's vast resources and technicians are combined with financial backing from companies such as IBM, to conduct research in the hope of improving the natural world.

Some DRI research projects, cited in the quarterly DRI newsletter, include the assessment of environmental damage in the Sacramento River pesticide spill, the testing of road de-icing agents and water resource management and air pollution transport patterns in

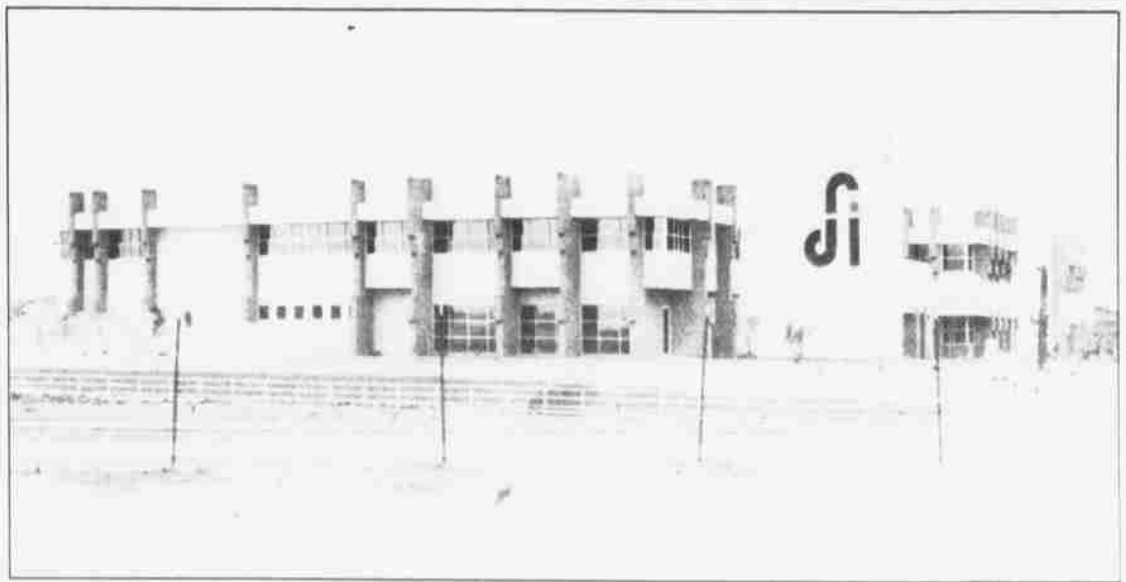


photo by Wray Halterman

The new Southern Nevada Science Center will allow graduate students to apply their education.

the southwestern United States.

Approximately 350 people are employed by DRI. Of these, about 70 have doctorate degrees in different scientific areas.

Even though DRI's dedication to protecting the earth has been around since 1959, it fits right in with recent efforts to save the environment.

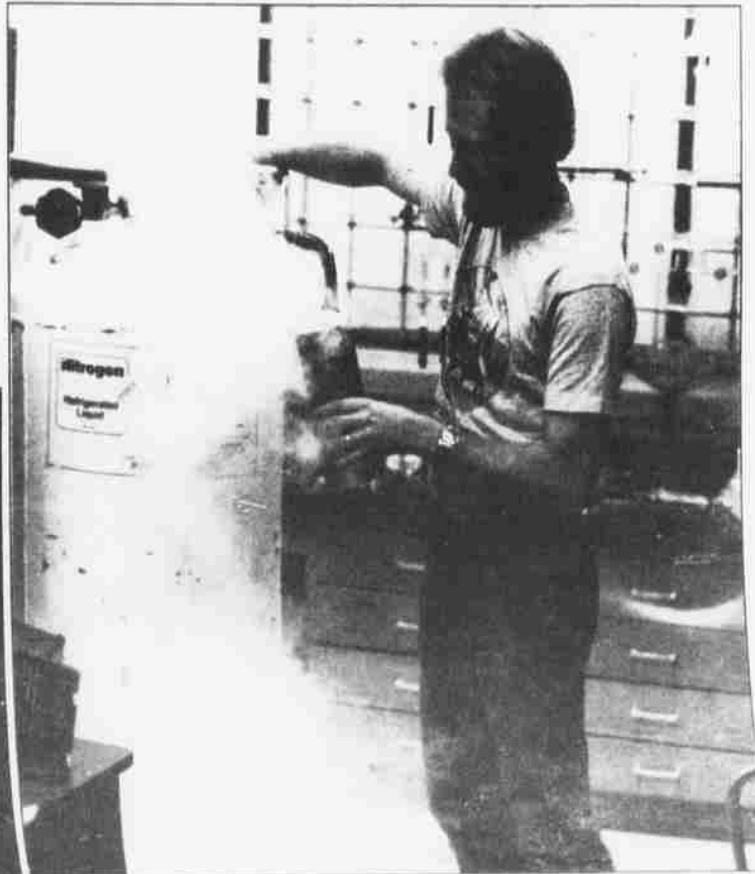


photo by Wray Halterman

Craig Shadel of DRI plays with liquid nitrogen.

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## SPARKS

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overstating statistics to aid in enrollment and academic reputation.

"Basically the whole report is false," Sparks said. "The Independent Alumni—Citizen Association is about 10 people and not one person listed there is an alumni."

According to Sparks, the information the group used was not valid.

"It was old self studies the university did itself," she said.

"When (taken) out of context, they are really false," she said.

Sparks said the group "called a person they knew at Money magazine and asked them to write the article."

Sparks went on to say the group that provided the article are the same people behind the regent recall committee. She said a recall would be an incredible waste of money and described it as "frivolous."

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