

## Environmentalism addresses consumption as 'a societal addiction'

by Rick Nielsen

The Environmental Studies Seminar Series presented John E. Carroll, professor of Environmental Conservation at the University of New Hampshire, on March 16, in Frank and Estella Beam Hall. The lecture was titled "Environmental Ethics: Values and Moral Choices."

Professor James Deacon, head of the Environmental Studies Program, introduced Carroll as an expert on international environmental diplomacy who has extensive experience in the acid rain issue, particularly in relations between the United States and Canada.

"The environmental question is not fundamentally a question of science or technology, of biology, ecology, physics or any other scientific or technological area, even though all those things play a part in the resolution of it," Carroll said. "It's not economics, politics, government or international diplomacy, even though they play a role in it. The environmental / natural resource question is a matter of values, ethics and what the Europeans like to call moral choice, and therefore, it is a philosophical question."

It is fundamentally related to how we see ourselves and our relationship to other human beings and, specifically, our interconnection to the planetary

ecosystem.

Carroll briefly praised the UNLV Environmental Studies Program description which contains two frank, if not bold, statements about its direction and goals.

The first, a quote from Aldo Leopold states, "a thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." The second states, "life and life support systems" are "so complex that they can seldom be predictably managed. We learn we must instead manage ourselves, our consumption habits, our economies, politics and community."

"It is very rare in a brochure advertising an environmental studies program because there is a real suggestion that we are indeed failing to manage ourselves and certainly not managing our consumption habits," Carroll said.

He stressed that in his 20 odd years of experience in environmental issues and their causes, he has observed that any attempt to solve them through conventional methods and "piecemeal" approaches would not only not solve the problem, but in many cases, bring with it a whole host of new problems.

Through semantics and negative or positive connotations attached to words like primitive, productive, civilized and underdeveloped, we have

falsified our reality and developed natural inbred self-biases toward the world around us, he said.

A prime example of this is a comparison of energy consumption between the Third World (which he perhaps more accurately dubbed "Two-thirds World") and the United States. The United States has only 5 percent of the world population, yet consumes 25 percent of the energy worldwide.

Attacking the claim that the United States is the most productive and efficient agricultural system in the world, Carroll said, "That assertion completely ignores the tremendous input of energy, of calories, mainly fossil fuels, fertilizers, insecticides and mechanized equipment that increasingly goes in but with less and less output every year."

Carroll also poked fun at the recent wave of Japan and import bashers, questioning why there was no public outcry over imported gas and oil to fuel American autos.

Our modern day faith in "the religion of science and technology" has created a paradox where claimed and real values clash, he said.

"Consumption is a societal addiction and until we face the denial, the cost of withdrawal continues to mount," Carroll added.

Carroll left UNLV headed for the University of Nevada, Reno, where he will also speak.



photo by Jay P. Morgan

Student body President Roderick Colebrook presents Warren McNab with the Faculty Excellence Award at Wednesday's senate meeting.

## Student Senate chooses faculty member of the year

by Donna Bates

The Faculty Excellence Award was presented to Warren McNab, professor of Health Education, by the Student Government at the senate meeting Wednesday.

McNab was chosen by students for his creative teaching techniques which include role playing and case studies in the forms of music, literature and puppet shows.

"He uses humor and enthusiasm to help relate to students and make sure they understand what he is teaching," said Marc Baruch, a Faculty Excellence Award committee member.

Heidi Smith, committee member, quoted McNab's phi-

losophy on teaching before presenting the award to him.

"A key to my effective teaching is the ability to relate to students. There is a mutual respect between students and myself; we learn from each other. They know I am interested in them as a person and care about them as a student."

Smith said when McNab was nominated for the award, he exclaimed, "This is a great award! There are a lot of awards that are given out on campus, but this means the most to me because it comes from the students."

Eight other members were nominated for the award. They were: Eugene McGaugh; College of Engineering, Diane Barone; College of Education, M.L. Smith; College of Hotel Administration, Mehran Tamadonfar; College of Liberal Arts, Richard Titus; College of Science and Mathematics, Sandra Williams; associate director of the Student Development Center and Hans-Herman Hoppe; College of Business and Economics.

In other senate business the senate:

— Approved Nevada Fine as Vice President Pro Tempore, and approved the following board members: Sabrina Grindell and Mischa Stuhff, Student Services Board and John Hanechek and Ken Tomorrow, Student Health Advisory Committee

— Approved the nominations of new student senators: Matt Hall, Engineering; Caprice Houston, Education and Kerry Brown, Health Sciences

— Approved a \$150 per month stipend for the Vice President Pro Tempore

— Approved \$3,750 for rental charges of the Thomas & Mack Center for the Springfest Carnival.

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