

Health Awareness Day Pull-out  
Section ☞ Vegetarianism ☞ How  
to eat well on the run ☞ Exercise  
as part of the diet

# Lifestyles

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THE REBEL YELL

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## Hispanic students passionate about education

by Georgia West

"In dreams begin responsibility." — Yeats.

Although many Hispanic students at UNLV may not have grown up hearing these exact words, it is evident that this message rooted itself in their minds and hearts, carrying them beyond language barriers, gang pressures, drugs, and numerous other obstacles that sometimes threatened their very existence. Ask Ignacio Aviles or Christopher Kypuros, members of UNHA, University of Nevada Hispanic Association.

Growing up in a barrio neighborhood, the son of a migrant worker, Christopher Kypuros, a freshman from San Antonio, Texas, modestly stated, "I'm lucky just to be here because I'm the first person in my mother's family to set foot on a college campus."

Ignacio Aviles, former president of UNHA came to the United States when he was in the fifth grade. At the time he was undocumented. In 1985, he graduated Valedictorian from Rancho High School. Aviles spoke passionately about the image of Hispanics in the United States.

"So many times all you hear are the negative of Latinos:

pregnancy rates, drop out rates, etc. Through UNHA, we can create a positive image. Even our club letters, UNHA, spells number one to us, because in Spanish, the H is silent, leaving UNA," Aviles said.

Ricardo Reyna agreed with his friends. "UNHA can help unite all Latinos here at UNLV, (including) Mexican, Cuban and Argentine. As one, we can make more things possible for others." The "others" Ricardo spoke of are the Hispanic high school students from surrounding schools.

"Hispanics have the highest drop-out rate of any group. To be a senior in high school is a major accomplishment. And in college, the real struggle is just to stay in school. We want high school students to see us as their role models."

Like steps on a mentor ladder, Admissions Director Larry Mason, and Admissions Counselor Pat Zozaya, provide support and encouragement as faculty advisors. They help students in the adjustment process, which can sometimes include prejudice from others.

When asked if either of them had experienced this at UNLV, Mason replied, "Yes, not overtly, but more in the form of a condescending or patronizing tone. It started when I first got here, when they said, 'The only



University of Nevada Hispanic Association gathers to discuss ways to improve the image of their culture. photo by Rob Weidenfeld

reason you got the job was because you're Hispanic."

Zozaya agreed that prejudice at UNLV is, "not blatant, just there." She knows her advisor role is important.

"This is not a choice," she said. "It's a must. If we are not here for these students, then what is their future?"

And, while overall enrollment at UNLV has almost doubled since 1984, the Hispanic student population comprises only 6 percent of it.

Sandra Ledesma, president of UNHA, would like to see that 6 percent become more active and visible on campus. She encourages club members to bring in new people and, in planning the club's direction, asks them to think about the impact they would like to have at UNLV. Emphasizing that the group should not die out after each semester's end, Ledesma is taking steps that will insure its continuity. One of these steps will include attending the upcoming 20th annual conference

of the National Association for Chicano Studies.

"This conference will give us a deeper understanding and reason why we exist," Ledesma said. "UNHA is not a club, but an organization with a purpose and it's important to know the issues."

A Gran Fandango celebration is planned for April to give students the opportunity to "come together and experience the Latin culture in all its beauty and diversity."

## Let's talk about sex

by Dennis Monokroussos

On Friday, March 13, the second of three Intersvarsity Rebel Christian Fellowship (RCF) open forum meetings took place. This meeting was on the provocative topic of sex.

About 100 students attended, including members and visitors.

Among the visitors were peer sex educators (PSEs) Michelle Oh and Christine Butler. Before the discussion, conducted by RCF staff worker Larry Thiel, Oh said that she hoped "to see misconceptions broken down" and wanted "to see how different people handle the subject."

Thiel emphasized that sex is a powerful experience, and for those who have had sex with other partners prior to marriage, regret is often experienced.

Thiel also warned about the risks of unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

Thiel emphasized that sex is only part of a relationship, and rather than being the be all

and end all, it should grow as the emotional part grows. This growth occurs through commitment, and a "commitment" that stops short of marriage is almost surely not a complete one.

Frequently, Thiel used statistics to reinforce his claims. For instance, half of all engagements break up, and about half of all marriages end in divorce, although (according to Thiel) in Christian households, where the partners pray every day, the divorce rate was only one in 500.

Most questions toward the end of the evening were on homosexuality. Thiel denied that AIDS was a punishment sent from God, and decried the fact that homosexuality has been frequently portrayed by Christians as though it were an unforgivable sin.

Thiel made a distinction between the practice of homosexual behavior and homosexual orientation. While the Bible does oppose the behavior, according to Thiel, homosexuals are still people whom Jesus loved and died for.

One question that came up

concerned the reliability of the Bible—particularly as historical documents of the life of Jesus. Thiel mentioned several tests used by scholars in the evaluation of ancient manuscripts: the number of ancient manuscripts, the age of the oldest one and how close the oldest one is to the original events. By all three tests, the New Testament is overwhelmingly the most reliable document of antiquity, according to Thiel.

Thiel's challenge is, for those who haven't read the *New Testament*, to do so, and thereby make "an intelligent, informed decision for or against Christ," rather than simply accepting what one has been told.

The third session will take place on April 3, at 6 p.m., in MSU Room 203. That meeting will feature Dr. Frank Beckwith on the question, "Is there evidence for Jesus' resurrection?"

Students interested in finding out more about Christianity and the Christian life are invited to come to the weekly meetings at the time and place given above.

### THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IS ANONYMOUS

Please answer honestly.

1. Are you a UNLV student?  
Yes  No
2. What age group are you in?  
18-22  23-27  27+
3. Have you ever been tested for HIV or AIDS? Yes  No
4. Are you sexually active? (If no, proceed to question 7.)  
Yes  No
5. Are you involved in a monogamous relationship? Yes  No
6. How regularly do you use condoms?  
Often  Sometimes  Never
7. Has your partner been tested for HIV or AIDS? Yes  No   
Do you feel that you are educated on AIDS? Yes  No
8. Can:  
A. a woman get AIDS from another woman? Yes  No   
B. you get AIDS from oral sex? Yes  No   
C. you get AIDS from kissing? Yes  No   
D. Spermicide non-Oxynol 9 kill the AIDS virus? Yes  No
9. Based on your past and present experiences, what is your level of risk for contracting AIDS?  
High  Moderately High   
Low  No risk
10. Would you get tested for HIV? Yes  No   
Why or why not?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please drop your response in the box located near *The Rebel Yell* newsstand at the entrance to the Moyer Student Union.

