

### Native American awareness



Members of the Native American Student's Association, Eric Running Path and Erick Wallace, were on campus Wednesday to demonstrate native dances. UNLV has designated October as Native American Awareness Month. Dancers performed in the Valerie Pida Plaza in front of the MSU Wednesday to promote "cultural awareness and to help Native Americans motivationally to keep the culture alive."

# **Religious cult distracts** students on campus

# **Berkley voted down by student panel**

#### by Debra D. Bass

In a surprise decision, Regent Shelley Berkley was not recommended for reelection by a student panel organized by Student Body President Joel Kostman.

The panel was formed to provide the Las Vegas community with a perspective of who will best serve students' needs as regent after the Nov. 3 election.

"I was thoroughly surprised by the vote," Kostman said. "I thought she did a good job in the interview, but the students may have discovered something in their background checks of the candidates that led to their decision."

The five-member panel was composed of students handpicked by Kostman, who served as moderator during the panel sessions.

Each candidate delivered a brief introductory statement to the panel which was followed by a 45-minute questionand-answer period.

Berkley is the only incumbent running for re-election and despite her experience she received the minority vote from the panel and lost the recommendation.

She was appointed to the regent seat in 1990 by Gov. Bob Miller and was elected by her constituents the following year.

William Shields, her opponent in Sub-district C, served as a naval officer for 24 years and spent 16 years teaching at a Las Vegas high school. He is currently retired.

Shields criticized the current regent board in a statement submitted to the panel prior to the interviews.

In the document he stated, "I feel raising the tuition and at the same time voting to expend funds for unnecessary projects or bonuses is not in the best

Regent Elections Student Panel Recommendations	
Sub-District C	
Shelley Berkley	
William "Bill" Shields	Ľ
Sub-District G	
Madison B. Graves	
Jean Wright	
Sub-District F	
Kenneth Koester	
Nancy Price	

However, during Berkley's interview she said she will not, and has not, voted to raise fees and stated her position in favor of freezing student fees for an additional year.

Kostman opted for individual sessions with candidates in order to guard against what he called "politicking." "We want to know why these people

"We want to know why these people think that they deserve to represent us," Kostman said. "I didn't want this to turn into a debate or a show between the candidates."

The sessions were billed as closed to the public despite the Nevada open meeting law.

"We wanted straight answers," said Kostman.

After all six interviews were completed, each panel member reviewed their notes and participated in a secret ballot vote. Kostman tabulated the ballots and the results were announced in a press release.

Recommendations for the upcoming

#### by Teri Helfrich

There have been complaints recently that alleged cult members have been bothering students on campus. Apparently students have been approached by individuals inviting them to church services at the Thomas & Mack Center.

According to Ron, a UNLV sophomore who asked that his full name be withheld, was near the Moyer Student Union when he was approached by two students.

"At first they came on totally nice," he said, and invited him to a Sunday church service at the T&M, and to a picnic afterward.

Ron had heard before the Las Vegas Metropolitan Church of Christ (LVM-COC), an alleged cult, held its services at the T&M.

He declined the invitation, but then a few more people appeared and began talking about how much fun the picnic would be. Ron said "they just wouldn't take no for an answer.

"They wouldn't let me go," Ron said. "They made a circle around me."

He said he questioned one of the members about the church which triggered an onslaught of defensive comments.

"They were hounding me and I was

trying to inch my way out but they got closer and closer," he said.

The event left him shaken and upset. A friend advised him to voice a complaint to Robert Ackerman, vice president of Student Services.

Ackerman con-

firmed that the LVMCOC has been in the area for about a year, and it has caused problems on other campuses.

"It is not a very highly regarded organization," Ackerman said.

He said its reputation comes from its intrusive recruiting methods.

In response to the allegations, James Hamann, pastor of LVMCOC, said, "My only repsonse is that we live in the United States of America and we have freedom of speech. I would assume that a university isa place where people are open. And it's what Jesus did."

Ackerman said that the situation at UNLV is not getting any better.

"It sounds to me like this group is

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interest of the university system or the students."

## **Ex-football player slain**

#### by Donna Bates

Former UNLV football starter and offensive lineman, Timothy Lyons, died Saturday at University Medical Center after suffering a gunshot wound to the back of the head.

Lyons, a 23-year-old UNLV graduate who majored in Criminal Justice, was shot while eating dinner Friday at Brinks Crazy Cantina, a local Rebel football hangout. He died the next day.

"Is there any place that is safe in our society?" said football coach Jim Strong.

"He was an outstanding player, an excellent student, a generous person and he conducted himself in a professional manner," Strong said. "He cared about people.

"He was doing the things that he should have been doing with his life. It was such a waste. He was even in a management training program at JC Penny's and was going to be transferred to L.A."

John Horvath, assistant professor of criminal justice, spoke of Lyons.

"Tim was a B student, he was always in class. He did his work and he did it on time," Horvath said.

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"It was a tragic loss for his family, friends and the university. He was a fine young man, he worked hard and diligently at ev-

erything he did. He kept to himself and he was never out to bother anybody," said Kevin Sweeney, academic advisor for football.

Services for Lyons were held Tuesday in Paso Robles, Calif., his hometown.

The suspect in the shooting was described as a tall thin black man in his late 20s. Anyone with information regarding the shooting is urged to call Secret Witness at 385-5555.



Tim Lyons

