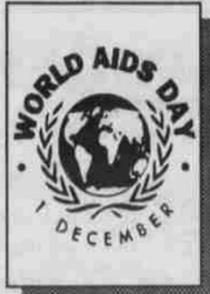




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A WINNING SEASON!



photo by Wray Halterman
Henry Bailey and Demond Thompkins celebrate the Rebels' 33-16 victory over Cal State Fullerton Saturday at the Silver Bowl. The win gave the Rebels a 6-5 record, their first winning season since 1986. Bailey broke the UNLV single-season record for all-purpose yards, finishing with 1,883. Thompkins caught nine passes for 212 yards (a UNLV record) in the win.

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Student drug problem estimate 10 percent

by Tricia Ciaravino

About 10 percent of the students on campus have a drug problem, according to Rex Perkins, drug and alcohol counselor at the Student Development Center.

"We've got to be realistic," he said. "We're like every campus across the country. There's always going to be a certain percentage of students who are problem drinkers and drug users."

"Illegal drug use exists on campus," said Detective Sgt. Lonnie Barrett. "It does not appear to be widespread and it's not blatantly out in the open usually. I know it happens but it seems it's not happening in quite the numbers on this campus as 20 years ago. Students are more aware of the negative effects."

Perkins was hired in response to the Drug Free Community Acts of 1989 which states all institutes of higher education which receive federal funds must have an effective drug and alcohol policy on campus.

As a result, he has instituted a 24-hour hotline which provides information on controlled substances, alcohol and depression for students. It's an anonymous and confidential way for students to secure information. It also records the number of calls for each substance so Perkins knows what students are interested in. He distributes information around campus about those subjects so they know their questions are being addressed.

"Each month the area of interest generally seems to change," he said. "This month it is depression. Holidays are coming up, and finals. Some students take finals stressing and they start depressing."

Perkins said there is also a high interest in cocaine and marijuana.

Students who feel they have a problem are invited to come in and talk.

"The program is very informal, very supportive," he added. "It's designed to be very non-judgemental. Just about everybody goes through difficulties, espe-

cially at this time."

Perkins said there are many self-help groups on campus students can join. The Student Development Center also has a referral system and matches students with programs according to their insurance, available funds and degree of their problem.

Barrett said most drug problems occur at the Thomas & Mack Center during events.

"We've got our work cut out for us at the Thomas & Mack Center events," he said. "Drug use is controlled somewhat by special ushers but people are going to figure out how to smuggle them in. To my knowledge, however, there haven't been any drug-related deaths at a concert, and that includes the Grateful Dead where there are heavy drug users."

Barrett said University Police don't usually come in contact with illegal drug use on campus—but when they do, they're not very lenient.

"It's rare for us to let somebody go on a drug offense," he added. "And students also face disciplinary charges as well."

The state of Nevada isn't very lenient either.

Possession of illegal controlled substances is a felony offense. First time offenders face imprisonment for six months to one year in a state prison and a fine of not more than \$5,000. Second-time offenders face up to 10 years in a state prison and a fine of \$10,000. Third-time offenders may spend up to 20 years in a state prison and a fine of up to \$20,000.

Punishments for possession with intent to sell are similar but stronger.

Once convicted, the subject may be required to register as a convicted felon. Felons are considered second class citizens and are denied civil rights such as the right to vote or bear arms for at least five years.

Alcohol is also a drug and it's not any less of a problem on campus.

"Alcohol is certainly a more prevalent

see DRUG USE page 6

Athletes must submit to strict drug testing

by Tricia Ciaravino

UNLV athletes have been tested for drugs in compliance with the NCAA's post-season testing program since 1986.

Athletic trainer Gerard Koloskie said the program gives athletes a "fair advantage."

"It's necessary to educate athletes due to drug use, abuse and misuse—to tell them what we're testing for and why," he said. "If they test positive on an NCAA test for a banned drug they are suspended from competition for one year from that time."

The NCAA doesn't just test for illegal drugs. Athletes can be banned from competition for

using certain over-the-counter cold medications or consuming too much caffeine. Koloskie said the list is long and athletes must be constantly educated on what they can or can't use.

"Education is the most important part of the program," he said. "Most athletes know a lot about drugs but not about drug testing."

The NCAA program exists on a year-round basis. For example, track and football athletes can be tested anytime during the school year, not just during their active seasons.

The university program tests athletes a minimum of two times per year. Basketball players are tested seven or eight

times per year depending on how far they advance into the NCAA championships.

Koloskie said about 1 per-

cent of UNLV athletes tested positive in the 1991-92 school year. But he said the percentage has gone down since testing first

Steroids: a part of the past

Steroids are a thing of the past for college students, said Gerard Koloskie, athletic trainer.

The human growth hormone, which was once only obtained from the pituitary gland, is now synthetically manufactured and has replaced steroids.

"It's very popular," Koloskie said. "It doesn't neces-

sarily have a lot of side effects. It's more expensive, but it's not detectable on a drug test.

"Out of 3,400 high school kids, 7 percent use steroids. Once they get to college, most student athletes have used or experimented with steroids or protein supplements or amino acids."

— Tricia Ciaravino

started six years ago.

He also said the percentage is consistent with the rest of the student population on campus.

Koloskie said the athletic department is able to take care of any problems in a more expedient manner due to testing and a controlled environment.

"Student athletes are still going to have fun and do things normal students do," he said. "But they know what's expected of them as athletes."

Koloskie said drug testing is more useful as a tool to identify students with drug problems rather than solving those problems.

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