



The Rebel Yell

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PHOTO BY NICK HALEY

Dexter Boney brings it home against Georgetown. UNLV crushed the Hoyas 96-80 Saturday increasing the Rebels' home win streak to 57.

Swimmers attempt to deal with tragedy

BY MARY ALICE TORGERSON
STAFF WRITER

Swimmers at UNLV are still in shock over the death of teammate Brian Fischer.

"Anyone who knew Brian knew he was a wonderful young man," head swimming coach Jim Reitz said. "He was a caring individual and a fine student."

"He was really determined and knew what he wanted in life," said Eric Peterson, a teammate who had known Fischer for 12 years. "He was ready to go after it and was highly motivated from within."

Fischer, 22, died after two explosions ripped through his condominium Thursday at approximately 8:40 p.m. He was pronounced dead at 9:30 p.m. by the Clark County coroner's office. A coroner's spokesperson said Fischer died from carbon monoxide and soot poisoning.

Investigators told members of the swim team they believe the incident resulted from an accumulation of methane gas which exploded when Fischer turned on a light switch.

The team has met several times to discuss the situation. Team members decided to try and do what Fischer would have wanted.

"We're going to pull together, get through this, and be here for his family," said Tara Clark, the women's team captain.

Currently, the team is making plans for a memorial in honor of Fischer.

The accident that occurred at the Chalet Vegas condominiums at 4600 Swenson St. is still under investigation.

"We have no motive, no threats and no reason to suspect foul play, but it's still wide open," said Bob Leinbach of the county fire department.

Apparently, this was not the first fire in Fischer's condominium. Teammate Mike Rowland recalled Fischer telling him of a fire that occurred prior to the explosion which killed him.

Rowland said he took Fischer home a week before the fatal accident and when he asked to use his bathroom

Fischer told him not to turn on the light.

Fischer told Rowland he was waiting for maintenance to come and fix a leak which caused the fire. He had lived in the condominium for only two weeks.

Fischer was a hard-working distance freestyler. He was a four-time All-American at Laguna Hills High School. After high school, he left Southern California to attend Syracuse University.

The summer before his freshman year at Syracuse, he was in a jet skiing accident that seriously injured his knee. The accident was supposed to prevent him from ever swimming again.

He transferred to UNLV in the fall of 1990 to swim and pursue an education as a hotel management major.

Teammates attribute his recovery and successful return to the pool to his extraordinary work ethic and positive attitude.

Fischer finished fourth in the 1,650-yard freestyle at the 1992 Big West Conference Championships. He placed fourth in the 500-yard freestyle in 1991.

A moment of silence was observed Saturday in honor of Fischer before the UNLV-

Georgetown basketball game. His teammates formed a circle on the court and bowed their heads in Fischer's memory.

Memorial services are planned Wednesday at Mount of the Olive Church in Mission Viejo, Calif.

Fischer is survived by his parents, Dale and Ruth Fischer, as well as four brothers.

His family requests donations be made to the UNLV Athletic Department.

Stanton Peay contributed to this article.



Fischer

"Anyone who knew Brian, knew he was a wonderful young man. He was a caring individual and a fine student."

Jim Reitz,
UNLV swim team coach

Flurry of resignations mark first Student Senate meeting

A director, chair and two senators resign their posts at the semester's first meeting of the Student Senate.

BY PAUL STUHFF
STAFF WRITER

Organizations Board Director Nick Whitstone, Sen. business and mathematics, a hold-over from the Colebrook administration and who had served for a year and a half in the post, made official the resignation of his Senate seat at the first meeting of the Student Senate Wednesday.

"It was a tough decision," Whitstone said. "It's a crucial time in school for me. I'm kind of sorry I'm making the move. My life's taking a little turn."

Until Whitstone's successor is appoint-

ed, Student Body President Joel Kostman will distribute athletic tickets and Senate President Bud Benneman will oversee the the Organizations Board.

Sen. Paula Bennett also resigned from her post as senator for the engineering department. She said she resigned to prevent any conflict of interest springing up between her role as senator and her employment by the Thomas & Mack Center.

Sen. Lynn Wilson, business and economics, also resigned Wednesday due to a change of major.

Additionally, Hobreigh Fischer, liberal arts, resigned his post as the Chair of the Rules Committee. Fischer faces the task of overseeing the writing of the Jackson-Nalder decision.

The Senate approved \$4,900 for Phillip

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Homage is paid to King in event seeking racial equality

BY TONYA LOMEQ
STAFF WRITER

The struggle for complete racial equality will come from courage, involvement and commitment by everyone according to A. Gourrier, the principal at Lois Craig Elementary school, who spoke at an event in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Homage was paid to King

Thursday in a presentation sponsored by Multicultural Student Affairs in the Moyer Student Union.

President Robert Maxson also spoke at the event. Maxson said he grew up in the segregated South and said that even as a child he knew "that culturally, socially and morally things were not right." He also spoke of how he and his wife participated in

civil rights activities during the 60's.

Maxson said he would like to see more done to make UNLV culturally diverse and free of discrimination.

"This is not only a celebration of his (King's) memory, but a celebration of this campus," Maxson said.

He added that according to Velicia Haron, interim director

for Multicultural Affairs, the biggest problem on this campus is accessibility.

Haron explained some of the complaints coming from students are the result of a lack of cultural material in the campus library. In addition, she said she would like to see more faculty from different ethnic origins hired to serve as role models for the students.

Poet Hektor Muñoz, a member of the Student Organization of Latinos, read some of his original work. Sylvia Archuleta of the Native American Student Association read King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

An open forum for students addressed a number of topics such as race relations on campus and campus resources for minority groups.