

# Lecture provides insights into gang violence

### Gang members could redirect their lives if a special effort was made, guest lecturer says.

BY LORI NOTARO FOR THE YELL

If given equal opportunity for social advancement, violent gangs would disappear, Lewis Yablonsky said Tuesday to a crowd of over 150.

His lecture, part of the University Forum Lecture Series, was titled "The Violent Gang: Structure and Treatment."

"A violent gang is not a family," said Yablonsky. "It is a structure that has emerged to fit the needs of individuals that have been blocked from upward mobility."

Yablonsky, a sociology and criminology professor from Cal State Northridge, said those who join violent gangs fall into one of three levels of membership: core, marginal or peripheral members.

"Core members have limited social abilities," said Yablonsky. "Their level of communication with each other is grunts and groans."

Core leaders, overtly macho and often angered by social barriers, form the heart of the core group. Yablonsky described them as "mainly sociopaths...who create a super-macho persona because they don't really feel like men deep down. They must constantly prove their masculinity."

Marginal members have more limited involvement in violent gangs. "They are more reachable by social programs than core members," said Yablonsky. But, he said, marginal members often have to act like core members in gang influenced neighborhoods to gain protection.

Least involved are peripheral members, who join and then quit

gangs regularly, often without telling other members.

Yablonsky said gang members often engage in violent behavior (rape, murder) to confirm their existence by affecting others. He calls this concept "existential validation." In his 1988 article on gangs "Violence is a lethal social narcotic," Yablonsky wrote, "extremist violence is one way of establishing identity and experiencing some feeling of existence."

Further, gang membership provides a "cloak of immunity" in which violent behavior is justified. "If somebody shoots somebody else in this auditorium, it is an example of psychotic behavior," said Yablonsky. "But if you are a member of a gang, you have a rationale for that kind of behavior."

In fact, violent behavior is not just rationalized in gangs, it is often honored.

*"The more a bizarre and senseless the violence is, the more status is attached to it."*

Lewis Yablonsky

"The more bizarre and senseless the violence is, the more status is attached to it," said Yablonsky.

Violent gangs, characterized by this preoccupation with violence, are just one of four categories of gangs Yablonsky discussed.

Another type, the "social gang," is a group of tough youths who join together because of similar social environments and goals. A "delinquent gang" uses criminal activity as a means of getting money. One of the most intelligent gang types is the "drug-dealing gang," which is highly organized and profit motivated.

According to Yablonsky, society needs to develop programs that will help gang members redirect their lives. In his article, Yablonsky wrote, "If we are to succeed in the 'war on gangs' we must reach these alienated youth consumers, reconnect them to society, and eliminate the attraction of this deadly social narcotic—the violent gang."

## Gays

from page 1

military's zeal in searching out and discharging gays.

"I've seen some of the things that the military does to go out of their way to seek out the gays in the military," Allen said. "You know the bright lights you see being used on people while they're being interrogated."

"That really exists. The Office of Special Investigation sent agents to look for military personnel in gay areas or bars. Two of my friends and I were in a gay bar while we were stationed in Korea. When we saw them we left. They didn't see me but they saw my friends and they interrogated about what they were doing there."

According to Griffith the search is a wasted effort because there is little for heterosexuals to worry about.

"We have to dispel the 'good ol' boy' myth about gay men," Griffith said. "The myth is that

all gay men are driven by their penises." Griffith said he never got an erection while showering.

Griffith said if there are any problems, regulations are in place to deal with them.

"Even if the ban is lifted I don't think all the gays in the military will go crazy and run around calling attention to their sexual orientation. I met men I was attracted to and I did not act on it."

Both Allen and Griffith think the change is simply part of the civil rights progression.

"If African Americans had not fought for civil rights we would not have seen things change, but they did," Allen said.

Griffith agreed. "This is the same thing that happened when whites and blacks were integrated into the military, and when women were allowed in the military," he said. "Everyone stood back and said the military was doing the wrong thing each time and that the military would fall apart. Well, it didn't and it's not going to even if gays are allowed in the military."

## Recall

from page 1

registrar of voters, and the secretary of state's office told them they had collected enough signatures.

"I don't think the recall procedure is that complex," Beko said.

Beko also said there were significant problems with the petitions—the pages were not numbered correctly and signatures were added after the petitions were verified.

The ruling could leave the recall groups especially frustrated because it means they would need to collect a larger number of signatures if they wish to continue their efforts.

# THE MOST IMPORTANT CAREER STEP YOU EVER TAKE MAY START IN SENEGAL



Or in any of over 70 developing countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, or Central Europe. Your first job after graduation should offer more than just a paycheck. In the Peace Corps, you'll broaden your world view and your horizons for the future. You'll learn a new language... live in a different culture... develop professional skills... and meet challenges far greater than those you might be offered in a starting position in the U.S.

Peace Corps is looking for people from many disciplines—education, health, the environment, agriculture, community

development, engineering, the sciences, and more. With a degree or experience in these fields, you may find that Peace Corps will be able to use your skills like no other employer you're considering. And equip you with the type of experience valued by international firms, government agencies, and private industry and graduate school programs.



PEACE CORPS RECRUITERS ON CAMPUS NEXT WEEK!!

Information Table: Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday, February 23, 24, & 25 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Moyers Student Union  
On Wednesday, February 24, Peace Corps recruiters will be tabling on campus at the Career Fair!!  
Evening Film/Slide Shows: Wednesday, February 24; 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Moyers Student Union, Fireside Lounge  
Thursday, February 25; 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Las Vegas Library, 833 N. Las Vegas Blvd.  
For an application or more information call Peace Corps at (800) 292-2461 x 141 SENIORS APPLY NOW!

## Correction

"Pepsi picked as the choice of the UNLV generation," a story in *The Rebel Yell* Tuesday incorrectly identified the former soft drink vendor at UNLV. It was Status, not Staffus.



# The Rebel Yell

The Rebel Yell is the student newspaper of UNLV. It is published by Southwest Printers, Inc. every Tuesday and Thursday during the school year except holidays.

Opinions expressed within these pages do not necessarily reflect those of the UNLV student body or faculty.

Comments, questions, complaints or letters to the editor may be sent to: The Rebel Yell - STS, 4505 S. Maryland Pkwy., Las Vegas NV 89154; or delivered to The Rebel Yell offices in Room 302 of the Moyers Student Union (third floor). Letters to the editor should be limited to 250 words. The Rebel Yell reserves the right to edit all submissions as necessary.

The Rebel Yell Offices: (702) 739-3478, 3479 and 3878.

Display Advertising: 739-3889.

- Ched Whitney Editor in Chief
- Steven Anderson Business Manager
- Daniel W. Duffy Managing Editor
- Mallory Rohach Advertising Manager
- Thomas Moore News Editor
- Tony Llanos Sports Editor
- Debra Bass Opinion Page Editor
- Kimberley McGee Tempest Editor
- Rob Weidenfeld Photography Editor
- M. Ray Carrigan Production Manager
- Stephanie Penner Copy Editor
- Gary Puckett Copy Editor
- Wray Halterman Photo Lab Assistant
- David Kanaan Production Assistant
- Jay Battle Distribution Manager

## THE COOK'S SHOP PIZZERIA

*Eat Real Pizza*

Hours: Mon-Thurs 11-10 • Fri-Sat 11-Mid • Sun 12-10

451-5888 • FREE DELIVERY

PECOS & RUSSELL RD. FAX 451-0600

Buy One Pizza Get One FREE!

ROUND OR SQUARE

•CHOOSE UP TO 4 TOPPINGS•

No Coupon Necessary For This Offer

2 SMALL PIZZAS • \$8.99

2 MEDIUM PIZZAS • \$10.99

2 LARGE PIZZAS • \$12.99

# FREE

Order of Breadsticks with this coupon. Must present coupon. Must Mention When Ordering

\$7 min. delivery Student Owned Business

• Chicken Wings/Fingers • Salads/Sandwiches • Mozzarella Sticks • Pizza by the Slice • Fat Free Pizza •