

# Students and faculty honored at convocation

**Keynote speaker Ethelbert Miller tells audience a college education means more responsibility to understand ethnic mixes.**

BY CAROLYN ROSE  
STAFF WRITER

Outstanding UNLV students and faculty members were recognized for excellence and achievement recently at the 27th annual Honors Convocation in Artemus Ham Hall.

Families and friends of honorees watched as 24 faculty awards and hundreds of student awards were presented. Richard Wiley, associate professor of English, won three Distinguished Faculty Awards. These were the Nevada Regents Award for Creative Activity, the Barrick Scholar Award and the Charles Vanda Award.

Early in the program, audience members were asked to hold their applause as podium guests including administrators and regents were introduced by Donald Carns, president of the UNLV chapter of Phi Kappa Phi

National Honor Society, sponsor of the event. However, enthusiastic applause followed the introduction of President Robert Maxson.

During Maxson's welcoming remarks, he called the honors convocation "the most special academic day" in the lives of students. "Everything else is peripheral," he said.

"In a perfect world, this auditorium would be filled," Maxson told a two-thirds capacity audience.

Maxson concluded his speech with words of encouragement to honor students.

"You are UNLV. You represent what this university is," Maxson said. "More importantly, you represent the future of this university."

"I congratulate you. I respect you. You are my heroes," Maxson said.

The program's keynote speaker was poet Ethelbert Miller of Howard University, a visiting professor in the UNLV Department of English. In his speech, titled "The Poet as Witness, a

Multicultural Society," Miller referred to the problems and promises relating to America's ethnic mix.

Miller, who has spent four months at UNLV, listed riots, wars, violence, poverty and unemployment as the causes of homelessness worldwide.

"Often, in our homes is where dreams begin," Miller said. "We are dream people. Our dreams are deeply rooted within the American Dream."

"Many of us are still searching to find ourselves, making it difficult to understand the concerns of other people."

People need to have pride in their roots, and not in some "mysterious mainstream," he said.

Pointing to the 48 current ethnic wars globally, Miller said students must understand literature, religion and values of different cultures through college education in order to understand the world situation.

"With education comes responsibility," he said. "Because we know more, we must do more."

# Author to speak on cultural barriers

BY DONNA BATES  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Author Henry Louis Gates will speak about how to get past cultural barriers in the Holbert Hendrix Education Auditorium Monday.

Gates, the W.E.B. DuBois Professor of Humanities at Harvard University, will speak on the topic "Beyond the Culture Wars."

Chris Hudgins, English department chair, said the department has been trying to get Gates to speak at UNLV for a long time and that this semester is good timing for his speech.

"It was particularly appropriate that Gates is coming, because Ethelbert Miller (this year's honor convocation speaker) is here and we are featuring a course on Afro-American literature this se-

mester," Hudgins said.

"He has the reputation of being one of the most brilliant speakers in the country."

Gates was originally scheduled to speak in April but the engagement was postponed because he was chosen to receive a national award. He is the author of, *Loose Canons: Notes on the Culture Wars* and *The Signifying Monkey: A Theory of Afro-American Literary Criticism*.

In addition to his speech at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Gates will informally meet with students and faculty at 2:30 p.m. on the same day, in the Frank and Estella Beam Hall, Room 242.

The lecture and the informal discussion are free and open to the public.

## DRI sponsors speech today

Anyone interested in the ecology and old growth forests should plan on being should quickly get over to the Green Room at Artemus Ham Hall.

Today at 10 a.m., the Desert Research Institute will be sponsoring a speech by their 1993 Nevada Medal winner Margaret Bryan Davis.

Davis proved many of the forests are younger than previously thought.

— Thomas Moore

## Maxson

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"Indoctrination of the students, I think that's what's going on in this university."

Yohe said there were problems in the history department. Specifically, he blamed Lawrence Klein for making politically correct decisions about professors' tenure.

"He went out of bounds, far beyond normal intervention in choosing a professor for a tenure track," Yohe said.



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