

# Nobel Prize Winner to Speak at UNLV Dedication

The Robert L. Bigelow Physics Building, one of three new structures recently opened on UNLV's campus, will be dedicated Friday at 3 p.m.

Nobel Prize winner Arthur Schawlow will deliver the keynote address. Schawlow, a Stanford University researcher, won the Nobel Prize in physics in 1981 for his work with Nicolaas Bloembergen on the development of laser spectroscopy, a field that uses laser beams as analytical tools. Laser spectroscopy plays an important role in the research of several scientists in UNLV's physics department.

Named for the father of Las Vegas businessman and UNLV donor Robert M. Bigelow, the 70,000-square-foot physics build-

ing was completed in 1994 at a cost of more than \$11 million. It was designed by Holmes Sabatini Associates Architects and built by Sletten Construction of Nevada.

Housing the teaching and research facilities for some 1,000 students and the 15 faculty members of UNLV's physics department, the structure itself offers symbolic representations of some of the scientific principles and legends of physics.

Because the study of physics—the physical properties of the universe—depends so heavily on mathematics, the architects incorporated a sine curve into the two-story undulating glass wall that faces the building's canyon-like courtyard.

Vaulted roofs above laboratories are reminiscent of the Quonset huts that served as research facilities at Los Alamos, NM, where the atomic bomb was born during World War II.

Ceilings of corridors and lobbies throughout the building are hung with vertical banners in red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet—the colors of the visible spectrum.

In the courtyard, palm trees march in mathematical progression, beginning at the intersection of the structure's two wings and leading out into an open plaza. They represent the expanding universe posited by the Big Bang theory.

Concentric, colored circles in the plaza concrete radiate like

the ripples from a pebble dropped into calm water. The first set of rings begins at the "Big Bang" palm trees. The second set starts at an apple tree—representing Sir Isaac Newton's theory of gravity—planted near the building's main entrance.

By intention, the building has an industrial, functional look about it. Conduit and wires are exposed at ceiling level—not just in labs, but in hallways, as well. They give the impression of a work in progress, which, in fact, is the case. As research projects change, communication and power lines can be changed to support them without tearing up the building.

Although the new facility has plenty of open, well-lighted pub-

lic areas, the labs are windowless, the air is highly filtered, possible sources of electrical interference are isolated, the room temperature is carefully controlled, and the floors are isolated from the walls, so as to protect sensitive lasers and other equipment from unwanted environmental influences.

"Mass is crucial in a building like this," says architect Jess Holmes. "Much of the instrumentation requires that there be no vibrations. They need as much stability as possible. So we designed the building to be made of solid concrete and concrete block."

The building houses 13 research, eight teaching, two astronomy, and two demonstration labs, plus administrative offices.

## Kick

**continued from 1** while. I also remember trying to climb on to some of the floats."

Neal's mother was at the parade and was horrified at what she saw and took him home. She later told him how scared she was for him and tried to explain to him that his drug use wasn't

normal. Looking back, Neal said he was at a stage in his addiction in which he was in complete denial. It was apparent to everyone but him that he had a serious drug problem.

His drug use continued to escalate and he became involved with downers (valium) in his twenties. Neal said that he eventually ended up injecting cocaine,

something he thought that he would never do.

"Many times I woke up and felt a lot of remorse," Neal said. "I would think to myself, 'this isn't normal.' Time and again I would tell myself that I was going to change. I would try to just smoke one joint or drink a beer and stay home, but in a very short time, I would be using just like I had been before."

Neal also witnessed the destruction that drugs and the disease of addiction has caused in others. "I had a step sister who committed suicide when I was younger," Neal said. At the time Neal attributed her suicide to

external causes.

Today he believes he understands better the true reason for her death. "I thought it was because she was recently divorced and that her job was not going well," Neal said. "But looking back, I remember how she used like I did. Unfortunately, she had this disease but she never found any help."

"I can look at her suicide and see it as a result of someone who has this disease and doesn't know there's a way out," Neal concluded.

While the program of NA is helping thousands of addicts recover from the disease of addic-

tion worldwide-25,000 meetings in 60 countries- Neal said that not all those who come through the doors remain clean.

"Since I've been clean, I have known people who have gone back out and relapsed," Neal said. "I've known some who have even committed suicide after going back out."

Neal said that when he was using, he often thought about suicide, but now that he is clean, he has been blessed with a fulfilling life and many rewards. "The most valuable changes for me since I got clean are the way I look at myself and the way I feel about myself," Neal said. "I like who I am today."

"When I was using, I was covering up so many feelings of fear and self-loathing, inadequacy, and self-hatred."

Neal learned in NA that he is not a "bad person." While attending NA, Neal discovered that he is a sick person who has done some bad things while he was in active addiction.

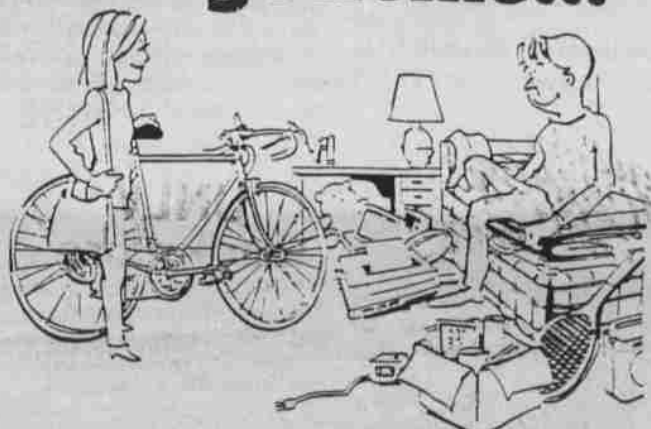
"The program (NA) allows me to face my feelings, and with the tools of the program I can change myself," Neal said. "I may have done some bad things when I was getting loaded, but I'm not a bad person."

Neal will graduate in May from UNLV. He said that although he is not sure exactly what the future holds for him, as long as he stays clean, things will work out.

The local NA started out with just six meetings per week in 1983, but has grown to more than 90 meetings weekly.

For more information about NA call the NA hot-line at 369-3362.

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