Phillips

very humble. At times, and unnecessarily so, he was like the guest, not the boss. He treated the players as professionals, the same as he. His approach to the rehearsals was always humble and respectful to the music and the students. Kids just really liked him."

UNLV English instructor and jazz muscian/author Bill Moody knows all about Phillips' professionalism. The two performed together numerous times, and Moody says the most memorable was when Phillips participated in the "Jazz and the Word" program, a throwback to the beat generation days, that Moody coordinated last fall.

"When I saw that one of the pieces in the program was going to be a poem about Chet Baker, Herbie was the first one I thought of," Moody said.

"When I told him what it was about, he said he was intrigued by the idea of improvising to a poem as it was being read, and he did an outstanding job of capturing the mood of the piece.

Dick McGhee, artistic director for CCSN's performing arts center, said he took comfort in knowing that Phillips was among friends when he col-lapsed at the college. "His last moments were happy, he was with his friends, doing his music.'

Perhaps the person who knew him best is UNLV transcript adviser Barbara Russo, who had been Phillips' companion for 20 years.

"Herbie was a sweet and wonderful person," she said. "He was so sweet, you had to help the bugs out of his house." Russo paused and chuckled at the memory. "You know, I never heard him say a bad word about anybody. I never even saw him angry.'

Silver

from page 5 working together. The two soon produced Silver's first demo tape, "Too Blind Too Sick," consisting of four hardcore rap songs.

His fascination with "nasty rap" has shocked many of his listeners. He cautions, "Don't underestimate me cause I'm blind and I'm white. And don't patronize me either. I hate people who pity me-That's one of my main pet peeves. I hate when people talk to me like I'm retarded."

Silver's dream is still soaring. Although he is no longer working with Sanchez, Silver writes and produces his own songs at Digital Insight. "I'm my own record label," he says with pride.

His dedication has paid off. Last summer, Silver promoted his tape by doing consignments with several local record stores. The tape is available at Tower Records, The Wherehouse, and Odyssey Records.

His most recent song, "You Get What You Deserve," can be heard on the "Air Tracks 8" cassette," featuring various artists. It can also be heard on KUNV's "Word Up," which airs Fridays from 8-10 p.m.

So what is in the future of this hard-core lyrical poet? Don't be surprised if you hear more from this fresh-faced musician.

"Just 'cause I'm blind, don't take me light."

It was Phillips' sense of humor that Russo said will be one of the things she will miss the most about him. "Herbie just had an absolutely terrific sense of humor, he used to make me laugh all the time," Russo remembered. "He saw the humor in almost every-

Russo said she will always

be grateful to Phillips for the example he set for her daughter, Tere. "He was a good influence on my daughter. She got to know what a gentleman should behave like, and how they should conduct themselves."

Even though Phillips was at the top of his game, Russo said he put in eight hours of practice every day. "He didn't do much else but write or practice. He would say to me, 'It's a compulsion, I have to do it.' He was consumed by music. I don't even think he even thought in words. He thought in music.'

Whether he thought in words or music, Phillips expressed himself eloquently in

both forms. Says Judy Tarte, a longtime friend and fellow instructor in CCSN's fine arts department, "Herbie took the time to do the things that we all wish we could do: He took the time to tell people how he felt, he took the time to compliment people.

"We could all learn something from Herbie."



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