

Professor pens new mystery novel

BY S.T. SUTHERLAND
OPINION EDITOR

Framed in a drifting cloud of cool bluesmoke, Bill "Sticks" Moody's grizzled face shines when he talks about his latest book, *Death Of A Tenor Man*.

A fictional work based on a real-world mystery, the story continues the investigative adventures of amateur detective Evan Horne, who first appeared in Moody's second book, *Solo Hand*.

His first published work was *The Jazz Exiles*, a collection of interviews with jazz performers, documenting the migration of talented musicians from the United States to Europe beginning in the '20s, continuing through the current decade.

Moody and *Death Of A Tenor Man* began showing up in book stores nationwide last week with the advent of a hec-



Bill Moody

tic book-signing schedule. "I don't mind the tour so much," he says as he stubs out his cigarette, "it gives me a chance

to concentrate on the writing aspect of my career, in addition to teaching. And I enjoy the chance to read selections of my stuff to an audience."

Moody holds a master's degree in English from UNLV, teaching would-be writers the skills of the trade. "Students interested in pursuing careers as authors should immerse themselves in a writing environment. Read a lot of whatever genre you're interested in, so you'll know what's out there. Get to know other writers, either published or still struggling. But realize that in the end, writing is a lonely process. When all else is said and done, you still have to get in there and do it on your own."

As a jazz musician for more than 25 years, Moody has much experience to draw on

for his fiction. His drumming career began in 1967 when he went on the road with pianist Junior Mance. "I thought it was great, but on my first night I remember looking at Junior Mance, who had played with Dizzy Gillespie and other jazz greats, and thinking 'What am I doing here?'"

In music as well as writing, Moody finds common elements between his art and his craft. "For me, writing mysteries is much like jazz, since both give me a bare framework to work with. I enjoy filling in the details to see what comes out. When I sit down to write I have a premise and I like to see where it will go."

Writing about the world of jazz also gives Moody a chance to increase understanding and appreciation of the musical

form. "Readers like to learn new things. I get to expose people to experiences they might not have otherwise."

Death Of A Tenor Man documents the mysterious death of Wardell Gray, an up-and-coming tenor saxophone player working at the Moulin Rouge on the second night of its opening in 1955. Unsolved to this day, Moody's book follows a fictional investigation of the murder, offering a possible solution.

The promotional book-signing tour offers fans a chance to meet Moody, and includes an appearance here in Las Vegas Friday at 7 p.m. at Borders Books, on the corner of Sahara and Decatur. *Death Of A Tenor Man* is the second in a continuing series.

'Horizons' opens to rave reviews

BY JAN WILLIAMS
A & E EDITOR

It didn't take the audience too long to get caught up in Joseph Zeccola Jr.'s new two-act play, *Horizons*, which opened at UNLV's Black Box Theatre last Thursday.

From the grungy, old linoleum floors to the ancient computers, director David Castro and set designer Katrina Hertfelder did a superb job recreating a realistic college newsroom.

Casting choices were superb, from Anthony Vallano, brilliantly played by Michael Bunin; his side-kicks, the whimsical Christopher Keefe as William Tobler and the equally entertaining Damon Newman as Christopher Costa; to the shy but steady Jamie Wilkes, pleasantly portrayed by Dawn Morgan.

The play opens with an Arizona college newspaper staff going for a story about dangerous pesticides that are infiltrating the campus. As with many scandals, the administration is aware of the danger.

Although the storyline deals with how the staff made the decision to expose the school of possible wrongdoings, it is an underlying current for a different issue.

Take, for instance, Tony, the *Horizons* editor. Although there to pursue an engineering degree, his writing keeps him at "a place he loves," even though it "makes him sick." He goes in circles through the two acts, trying to decide whether to quit or stay. This is also Bill's dilemma.

Chris provides comic relief and gives both Tony and Bill a sounding board for decision-making.

Typical of young men is the quest of young women. Morgan gives a solid performance as Wilkes, the paper's photographer and only female. Bill yearns and pants for her, but methinks Wilkes only has eyes

for Tony.

Miscommunication is addressed in the form of Russ (Edward Adams) and Arrin Williams (Mark McCoy). Russ wants the paper to run an article for his club, but he identifies himself as Russ "from the dean's office." Vallano misunderstands the reason for the visit and instigates a game of cat-and-mouse to avoid negative feedback about the pesticide article from the dean.

Williams, on the other hand, comes to the office to join the newspaper staff. The first encounter leaves him thinking he "didn't pick such a good day to join to the newspaper." McCoy's acting was really special, and he was a delight to watch. The scene where he runs interference for Tony is positively hilarious.

The characters of Jim and Hawk, played by Gregory Gaskill and Walter Wykes, respectively, are also worth mentioning. While on the one hand many editors have wanted to kill green reporters like Jim, his resourcefulness and innocence remind us that experience is not always everything. Ironically, although it is Hawk who delights delivering bad news, it is his humble thanks to the news staff for printing the pesticide story that casts a warmer glow on the end of the play.

The entire cast does a great job of delivering a quality theatrical production. It was so close to real, I had to wonder if any of the actors had been in that environment before.

Go see *Horizons*. It has great drama. It has great comedy. It has great everything.

The show runs tonight, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., with the final performance at 2 p.m. on Sunday. Don't forget, students get a free ticket by showing their ID at the box office. For general admission, don't worry, the \$5 ticket price is definitely worth it.

KUNV's changes hit the airwaves

BY BRIAN KUCHAR
STAFF WRITER

UNLV's radio station, KUNV91.5, has undergone many changes to make the station more community-oriented.

"In 1994, we started program changes to better serve the existing community," said KUNV general manager, Don Fuller. He added that with the many new residents moving into the Las Vegas area, the station needed to keep up with the growing populations' interests. The latest round of program changes occurred on Oct. 1.

During the 1994 Marathon fundraiser, listeners were polled on what kind of programs they most wanted to hear. KUNV responded to listener's requests by programming a more diverse playlist.

Fuller noted that the station is one of the most diverse college radio stations on the West Coast. "We have a little bit of everything, from African music to Chinese music." Fuller added that KUNV is also "looking for people to come on board here at KUNV to truly make this a community radio station."

In fact, Fuller welcomes all programming suggestions to the station. This, he feels, is the only way the station can get to know what their audience wants.

From the beginning, KUNV's foundation has been "Rock Avenue," which airs 9 p.m.-10 a.m., Monday-Thursday; midnight-8 a.m. Saturday, and midnight-9 a.m. Sunday. The station added two hours of "Rock Avenue" programming in October.

"Rock Avenue" is like cockroaches; it will survive anything," Rock Avenue DJ "Poison Ivy" pointed out. The programming is unlike other local stations, such



Don Fuller

as KEDG 103.5, which mainly plays popular singles by popular artists.

"Rock Avenue" is more prone to play album tracks which normally don't get played on the radio, noted Kevin Kew, also a "Rock Avenue" DJ. "The programming changes are better for jazz people than for rock in that 'Rock' started at 7 p.m. before the change and now we start at 9 p.m."

The other major priority at KUNV is the addition of more jazz programming. "Jazz Progressions," which airs many new local artists, runs from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday. "Jazz Traditions," airing many classic jazz artists, runs from 4-9 p.m., Monday-Friday, except for Thursdays when it starts at 5 p.m.

Kim Linzy, jazz director, feels good about the beefing-up of the jazz air-time. "I think that it's good that the community has been requesting more hours of jazz. Lots of other listeners come from other states which have jazz stations, we are here to better serve them."

Linzy also noted other stations in town average jazz only one hour a week, while KUNV programs about 10 hours a day.

KUNV also offers community programming, which airs between the "Rock Avenue" and jazz programs. Local environmental issues are featured on the show "Naturally Nevada," which airs at 10:45 a.m. on Thursdays.

"Spotlight," deals with local arts and politics, hosted by Barbara Robinson from 5-5:30 p.m. Thursdays.

"UNLV Focus" and "Library Focus," which airs 10-11 a.m. Wednesdays, deals strictly with UNLV.

"We did cut the national programming," he said. "Our intent is to air more local programming affairs instead of the national scene."

The radio station has also aired the Barrick Lecture Series, and is getting more involved with the UNLV Fine and Performing Arts Center.

On the weekends, the variety flows from blues to folk to salsa music.

Many students around campus weren't aware of the changes. However, some offered further suggestions.

"I think there should be more country music to widen the variety," suggested sophomore Ryan Brock. Junior Jason Tonn felt KUNV "should add some more alternative music to mix it up."

KUNV is currently looking toward the future in all different directions. In addition to new studio space, the station would like to have satellite and uplink capabilities. The station would also like to pick up some syndicated programs, including the syndication of some of their own shows.

Fuller would also like to work with the Greenspun School of Communication. "KUNV could be a training lab for those who want a career for communicating in radio. This will broaden our purpose and scope."