

# Truth or tolerance: Students discuss which is the higher value

BY ERIN NIEMEYER  
NEWS EDITOR

Approximately 130 students gathered in the Moyer Student Union Friday for a forum sponsored by the InterVarsity Rebel Christian Fellowship to discuss the issues of truth or tolerance.

The forum was lead by Shawn Young, a UNLV alumni and four-year member of the InterVarsity Rebel Christian Fellowship organization on campus.

"The purpose of this (forum) is to challenge students to think," said Young. "I want to promote discussion on our campus."

A half-hour discussion lead by Young regarding the importance of the pursuit of truth and knowledge resulted in an overwhelming audience response to Young's views.

Many students disagreed with Young's belief that truth is being distorted in an effort to promote tolerance. "No human being can dictate what's true or not true," said one participant.

"It all comes down to who you choose to believe," another student said.

Young argued that tolerance has become the "norm for people of the 90s," and that tolerance is being seen as the only way to create unity out of diversity.

"Tolerance unifies by assuming all things are equal," Young said. "Can we really assume that all values are equal? Shouldn't we assume that some ideas are wrong?" Young asked.

Other issues discussed in the forum included the differences among the various religions. Young challenged the assumption that all religions are the same.

"All religions can't possibly believe in the same God," Young said. He argued that the differences which distinguish the various religions are just as important as their similarities. "It shows a blatant disrespect for all religions to take away their distinctions," Young said.

Young argued that those who think tolerance is su-

preme have no regard for the truth. "Tolerance closes it's eyes to the facts and focuses on not offending anyone," Young said. "I encourage you to seek truth, to speak your mind," Young added.

Some students disagreed with Young's definition of tolerance, while others questioned the existence of Jesus. Students posed questions to each other regarding religious theories, the validity of the Bible, and compared definitions of truth and tolerance.

"It seemed like we hit a nerve

by picking tolerance as a topic," Young said. "I was expecting strong opinions, but this was the greatest response we've (InterVarsity Rebel Christian Fellowship) ever received," Young added.

Kathleen Doran, a senior majoring in English, said of the forum, "There was no resolution, but it (the forum) was a good idea because it brought together many different view points."

Bill Chuma, a Las Vegas resident, attended the forum

out of curiosity. "Knowledge is the first step, and people are learning everyday," said Chuma. "The seeds are being planted and that's a start."

Young was pleased with the number of people in attendance and even more so, with the overwhelming audience participation. "A lot of hard questions were asked and there was a lot of diverse response," Young said. "People who are searching for the truth had the freedom to ask questions," he added.

## First Interstate Bank donates \$25,000

BY ERIC FELDMAN  
STAFF WRITER

First Interstate Bank of Nevada recently donated \$25,000 to UNLV's International Gaming Institute to help erect a new building.

The institute is planning on a new 22,000 square-foot building to be built on the Southeast corner of Flamingo Road and Swenson Street

across from the Desert Research Institute. The building will include a library, a First Interstate Bank conference room, a multi-purpose room and a 5,000 square-foot gaming laboratory.

The UNLV Gaming Institute was created in July 1993 to provide education and training in the gaming field. It will do so by offering classes, seminars, and publications about gaming knowledge as well as doing gaming research.

First Interstate Bank of Nevada is one of the largest supporters of academic programs at UNLV. These pro-

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grams include First Interstate Bank scholarships and the First Interstate Bank of Business Leadership. First Interstate was inducted into the Palladium Society of million-dollar donors at the UNLV Foundation dinner in April.

The gift was accepted by David Christianson, dean of the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration, and Vince Eade, institute director.

"First Interstate Bank has participated in more than \$6 billion in loans to the Nevada Gaming industry in the past 10 years," said Jay Kornmayer, senior vice president and head of FIB gaming division. "This donation continues our tradition of supporting this vital industry. We want to assist the UNLV Gaming Institute in becoming a valuable state asset."

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