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THE REBEL YELL

The Student Newspaper of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas

SPORTS



The Hustlin' Rebels trotted to another weekend sweep

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FEATURES



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Coffin announces congressional candidacy

Husband of UNLV assistant professor challenges John Ensign

BY TERESA HINDS
 EDITOR

As blustery winds blew through the Las Vegas Valley, State Sen. Bob Coffin, husband of Mary Hausch, UNLV communication assistant professor, announced Monday on the front steps of their home his candidacy for the U.S. Congress.



Sen. Bob Coffin

Speaking to a crowd of nearly 200 supporters, Coffin attacked the record of his opponent, freshman Congressman John Ensign, on issues ranging from education to the environment, to Medicare.

"Just looking at the voting record of Congressman Ensign, you can see that he sold

the students out. Congress has gutted the student loan program...and made it impossible to go to college and get government loans and grants for higher education," Coffin said.

"His posturing on tax cuts is mirrored in his votes on the

environment, education, women's rights and his shutting down of the government," Coffin said. "He follows the leadership of the extremist Newt Gingrich, and hasn't exercised the independence that we expect from politicians in Nevada."

Among the supporters, heavy hitters from the Democratic party were in attendance, including Gary Gray, representing President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore.

County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson-Gates served as master of ceremonies for the event, and U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, U.S. Sen. Richard Bryan, and State Sen. Dina Titus, a UNLV political science professor, spoke in support of Coffin's candidacy.

"Today the winds of change are blowing through the valley," Bryan said, "It is a strong wind that will take Bob Coffin to Washington."

Bryan called the upcoming congressional election a "ref-

erendum on values and America's future," in particular the future of young people whose opportunity at a college education is being threatened by the current Congress.

Pointing out Coffin's college supporters in the audience, Reid acknowledged UNLV students Tod Story, president of UNLV's College Democrats, and Benjamin Contine, president of Rebel Green Vote.

"If ever there was a time in the history of our country we should be concerned with our environment, it's now. These young people have every reason to be concerned," Reid said.

Contine said he supports Coffin in his bid for the congressional seat because of Coffin's track record of education-related support.

"Bob is traditionally a strong supporter of students. His opponent has said one thing and done another," Contine said. "I think Bob can get student loans back on track, he's there to give people the opportunity to get higher education access

on all levels."

Story agreed with Contine and added, "The access to higher education has been stifled by the current Congress, and we need a Congressional representative that cares about students and their future. He has indicated that he supports education and funding for education, and that funding should remain the same or be increased, not be decreased."

Titus pledged her support of Coffin partly because of the support she has received from Coffin throughout her political career, and the strong stance he has taken on education-related issues.

"In 1988, when I first ran for office, Bob went with me not only for moral support, but he also paid my filing fee, and he has been there for me ever since...I will be with him all the way to the steps of the U.S. House of Representatives," Titus said.

"Bob's always been a strong

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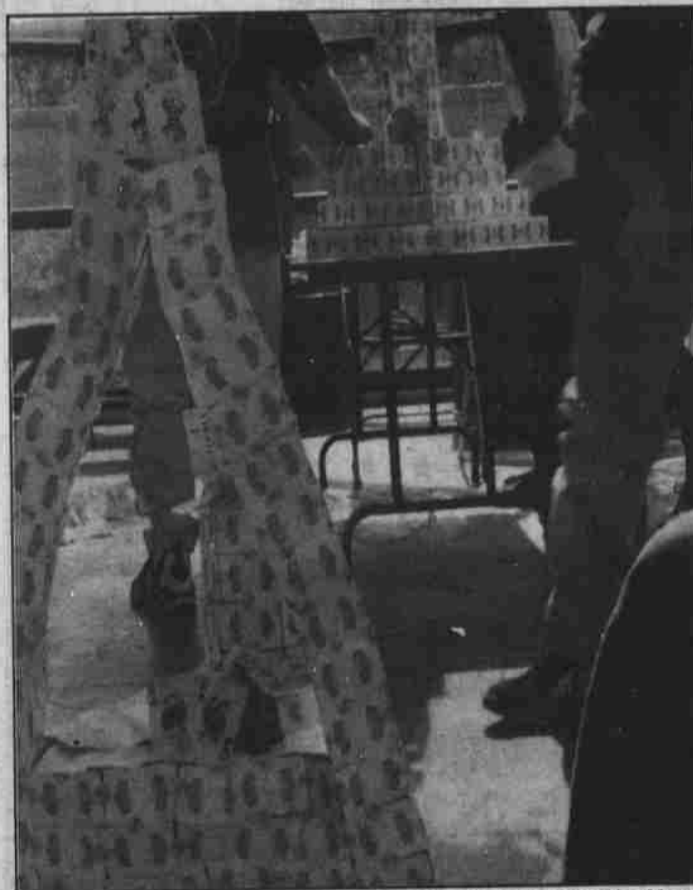


PHOTO BY HYUN-HO HAN

Local high school students test their engineering skills.

'House of Cards' kicks off engineering week

BY TREVOR HAYES
 STAFF NEWS WRITER

Students and faculty from the Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering hosted the "House of Cards" competition Saturday, to kick off the first day of National Engineering Week. The event was intended to spark high school students' interest in the field.

"This is a good event because it shows the students that engineering can be fun," said Herbert Wells, a UNLV civil engineering professor since 1957. Wells had two children competing in the event.

Participants were given cards, which they could cut, fold or bend, drafting dots and adhesive circles to build the houses.

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National Engineering Week Schedule

All Week Exhibits at the East Flamingo branch of the Clark County Library.

Feb. 20 NSPE Paper Airplane: Great Hall at 10:15 a.m.

Feb. 21 West Charleston Library "asphalt cookies" activity for 6-8 year olds 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 22 High School Tours of Howard R. Hughes Engineering Complex 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Sumo Tech Wrestling at the Howard R. Hughes Engineering Complex.

ASCE Egg Drop: Great Hall at 10:15 a.m.

Rainbow Library - bridge building activity for kids

Flamingo Library - "asphalt cookie" activity for kids

Feb. 23 High school tours of Howard R. Hughes Engineering Complex from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

SWE Penny Float: Great Hall at 10:15 a.m.

Feb. 24 Engineering Week Finale Dinner, Gold Coast Hotel & Casino Ballroom. Cocktails 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:30 p.m.

Minority Engineering Program holds second annual day for teens

In conjunction with National Engineers Week, the Minority Engineering Program held their second annual MEP Day for area high school students.

"The purpose of the event is to introduce students to the College of Engineering and MEP," said Gene Mc-

Gaugh, associate professor of electrical engineering. "MEP's mission is to increase the retention and graduation rates of under-represented minorities in the fields of engineering and science."

MEP defines African Americans, Native Americans, Pacific Islanders and native Alas-

kans as under-represented minorities, according to McGaugh, a member since the club's second semester of operation in the fall of 1989. That semester there were 25 members. Today, its membership is over 120 students.

MEP assists minority students in their studies. Servic-

es offered are support, advising, tutoring, employment assistance and mentor programs.

However, the program does not represent the most under-represented group in engineering: women.

"In three of my classes, I'm the only woman," said Andrea

Pulgar, a senior mechanical engineering major. "(A woman in engineering) has to be very secure and sure of her capabilities because there are a lot of people who will say you can't do something until you've

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