

## Multimedia supervisor teaches life lessons

By Mike Proctor  
Staff Features Writer

Wint Dillon has spent his adult life helping people become stronger, physically and emotionally. From working as a Marine drill sergeant to his current job in UNLV's multimedia department, he has shaped lives.

Dillon, 63, grew up in Coalwood, Pa., a mining town, during the Great Depression. There he and his four older siblings learned about community and cooperation.

"You didn't compare what you had to the Joneses, because the Joneses didn't have anything either," Dillon recalled.

After high school, Dillon joined the Marines, giving up scholarship offers to Duke, Morris Harvey and Western University.

"The biggest reason that I went into the service was that I felt kind of an obligation to help defend our country," he said. "The climate was much different than it is now. People were prouder of going into the military than going on to school."

Soon after joining, he was sent to Korea for 18 months. He garnered several medals, which he downplays.

"Those and 75 cents will get

you a cup of coffee somewhere," said Dillon.

"I never did care to talk about that. We taught our son to gear himself toward what he wanted to do and not what his dad had done."

After Korea, Dillon was stationed in Parrisland, N.C., where he applied some of the lessons he learned in childhood. He taught general military subjects, such as leadership and speech, and worked as a drill sergeant.

"It was a rugged duty but a pretty proud one," Dillon recalled. "We got 20 recruits from different walks of life."

"When they graduated there was pride in it. They had changed from skinny boys to hard-charging young men."

About two years later, Dillon was sent to Camp Legune, where he worked as a brig warden and requested training in the electronics field.

"I saw a chance of educating myself," he said. Dillon received training equivalent to that of a civil engineer.

Dillon was stationed in Hawai'i in 1963 when his brigade became the first group of marines to enter Vietnam, where he spent 15 months. After six years at Andrews Airforce Base in Washington, D.C., he returned to Vietnam for



Photo: Staff photographer

Ex-marine Wint Dillon makes a difference at UNLV.

10 months.

Three years later, after 22 years in the military, Dillon retired.

"The military was undergoing a change. I thought it was a good time to get out into civilian life before I got too old," Dillon said.

He went into management in the aerospace industry and then decided to finish his degree. Dillon, his wife and their two children all attended Orange Coast College.

"It was a kind of joke at the time with my son and me," Dillon laughed. "Since we both have the same name he was concerned that our grades would get mixed up."

"His mother named him after me before I could get to the hos-

pital and stop her," he joked.

With the associate degree he earned in liberal arts, Dillon taught management at Coastline Community College.

"I enjoy helping people better themselves in life and become stronger individuals," Dillon said.

While teaching, Dillon continued his work in management for the aerospace companies Parker Hanofin and Smith International.

After 13 years, he and his wife attempted retirement again, this time in Las Vegas.

But things didn't go as planned. "We got here and we had intentions of retiring. Once we got here we decided we had to get to work," Dillon said.

"I haven't been afraid of many things in life but retirement scares me the most," he added.

So the couple sought opportunities at UNLV.

Dillon became supervisor to the associate engineer, a position which he said allows him to pursue his interest in helping people improve themselves. "It's kind of like having a second family," he said.

Besides teaching others, Dillon contends that he has learned much from the young.

When his son, Wint Jr., was just 12, he taught his father a lesson Dillon remembers to this day. "My son came to me and asked, 'Dad, can I ever let my hair grow like the others?'"

"I told him, 'No son of mine is going to be a long-haired hippie.'"

"He said, 'Did it ever occur to you that your short hair is just as silly to us as our long hair is to you?'"

"I told him he could grow his hair as long as he wanted, as long as it was well-groomed."

"I've learned over the years that behind some of these big beards and long hair were some brilliant individuals," Dillon concluded.

## Blind rapper responds to women, college life

*Brett Silver raps on relationships and experiences*

By Heather Subran  
Staff Features Writer

Brett Silver mixes music, politics and campus involvement in his life as "B-Sick," a shock rap artist.

Silver, 21, blind since birth, raps little about his handicap and a great deal about his views on women in his albums "Too Blind, Too Sick" and "Hazzadous to Da Hoes."

"(The music) is directed to women who claim to be feminists but sleep around or to women who play games with men," Silver said.

Silver's love of music began with other forms. "I didn't grow up around rap," he said. His first experience with rap was an L.L. Cool J album his mother bought him. She didn't like it but he did.

"She said, 'You like this?' But it was something different, something other than a love song."

"I liked rap but I never thought I could do it," Silver continued. "(It was) a hidden talent."

Silver said he discovered this talent after meeting another

blind rapper at a camp for the visually impaired. He began learning about the art of rapping and decided to try it.

Silver became known as "B-Ski-Love," his first stage name, which he soon replaced with "E-Z-B."

Silver used the name "Pimp'n-B" for a while but said he felt that it limited the scope of his subject material. So in 1993 "B-Sick" was born.

While some of Silver's lyrics deal with his disability, most do not. He hopes to avoid becoming stereotyped, he said. Still, his blindness affects his music in other ways.

"I don't talk about shooting cops or running from cops...obviously something I couldn't do," Silver said.

He also avoids using his blindness for humor. "I want to be taken seriously," Silver said.

*"(The music) is directed to women who claim to be feminists but sleep around or to women who play games with men."*

—Brett Silver,  
rap artist

According to Silver, he occasionally uses his blindness to his advantage. He reports a "gift to see through people" resulting from his condition.

Women are Silver's usual target, as the names of his songs reveal. "Just another Hookah," "You Get What You

Deserve" and "Gettin' Sick on a Trick," are among his songs.

"Art is a representation of reality, good and bad," Silver said.



Rapper Brett Silver

Photo: Heather Subran

"Art is a representation of everything."

Student response to Silver's music is mixed. "It's great that he's all these things at such a young age, and being blind," Douglas Roper, a 24-year-old marketing major said.

"It's all right actually," said Carlos Purdy, 22, a management major. "(Silver's) clowning a bunch of girls from the dorms, but he's got flow."

Tamara Archibald, 21, disagrees. "It's how he talks about

women in his songs and that diminishes his accomplishments."

Silver said he raps out of anger but denies accusations of misogyny. "I use rap as a tool to get things off my chest," he said. "If it (angers me) then I write some lyrics about it. Basically I've dealt with those types of girls a lot and I see how they act in the dorms. I'm not angry at all women because I know all women aren't like that."

"Dissing," a frequent practice of rappers, according to Silver, also plays a role in his music. "Gettin'

Sick on a Trick," was written with Silver's former producer Alec Sanchez and his wife in mind.

Despite his preference for rap, Silver still enjoys other forms of music. He listens to country, metal, some alternative, disco and funk, but contends that rap, which he calls "urban country western," is similar to other musical forms.

Silver, a communications major with an emphasis in broadcasting, said he first aspired to become a radio disc jockey until he met other blind kids and realized that it was a common dream.

"If every blind kid wants to be a DJ, I don't," Silver said.

Today, he looks forward to a career in his minor field, criminal justice. He hopes to become a parole officer, a court reporter or a police dispatcher.

Much of his attention is dedicated to starting a criminal justice fraternity at UNLV, Silver said. He and his roommate are trying to recruit the 15 students necessary to be recognized by CSUN.

Silver's decision to attend UNLV is attributed to his blindness, because, he said, many other universities do not offer UNLV's quality of accommodations to people with disabilities.

He was accepted at Cal State Northridge and the University of Arizona, but turned them down because their facilities for disabled students were inferior.

Currently, Silver is working with the Disability Resource Center, located on campus, where he received audiotaped textbooks and tests.

"I'm letting 'em know what I can do," said Silver.