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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



LV Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

UNLV instructor Rainier Spencer discusses adding multicultural courses at Monday's Spring Lecture Series held on the UNLV campus.

## Faculty still undecided on multicultural classes

Catisha Marsh  
Sentinel-Voice

On Jan. 26, the UNLV Faculty Senate debated and deliberated over whether to add a three credit requirement: one in multicultural studies, another in international studies and a final colloquium course to the general education core curriculum.

Obvious during the three hour discourse was that the professors weren't on the same page when it came to what making the curriculum multicultural would mean.

If only they had all

attended a discussion with Dr. Rainier Spencer, an assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology, on the previous day.

The forum, entitled "Those Easy Multicultural Courses", aimed to counter much of the erroneous information that surrounds multicultural classes.

"There is a myth surrounding these types of classes," said Spencer. "that they're not 'real' history, not hard courses. That's false.

Multicultural classes expose the rich history, culture and contributions of

different peoples.... It counters the notion that anything good had to be created by a European."

The multicultural curriculum movement has gained steam for the past 20 years. Many proponents of it in higher education seem to feel that a set of classes that teach about ethnicities, races and gender issues outside of mainstream Western culture will at the very least bring to light that other people exist besides white men. Some hope that the assorted classes will somehow produce (See *Multicultural*, Page 12)

## Black legislators cool to Guinn's speech

Catisha Marsh  
Sentinel-Voice

On Jan. 18 Nevada politicians gathered from far and wide to hear Gov. Kenny Guinn deliver his State of the State address, and for the larger part of 61 minutes, Guinn focused on the \$3.2 billion budget.

District 6 assemblyman, Wendell Williams, was not impressed.

"The whole thing sounded like a campaign speech to me," he said.

Local politicians Williams and Sen. Joe Neal both attended the event and took issue with quite a few of the new governor's ideas.

"Miller dealt Kenny Guinn a bad hand. When Miller came into office, he had a huge budget surplus at his disposal. He squandered away the money, leaving a \$145 million deficit."

Sen. Neal recommended placing more financial responsibility on the gaming industry to make up for lost budget dollars.

"Rather than firing state employees, who were earning on the average 17% below Clark County workers and 9% below in the top jobs, he should have gone after the individuals and companies that make the money. Make the casinos and such pay their fare share," Neal said.

"State employees worked with no pay raises, no collective bargaining. Our employees shouldn't have the weight of balancing the budget on their shoulders," Williams said.

### Education

Williams, who heads the education committee for the Nevada assembly, was also very vocal on education measures suggested by Guinn.

"Our current formula is to spend \$3,600 per year for every student in school and \$41,000 annually for juveniles in prison. Our priorities are backwards," said Williams. "We need to reverse that equation."

Although both the senator and the assemblyman liked the idea of having "millenium scholarships" for students, they questioned where the money would come from, saying that Guinn's proposal to use monies garnered from tobacco

lawsuit settlements would be impossible.

"It's always good when you encourage kids who want to go to college, especially disadvantaged students," said Neal. "But the judge restricted how that money is to be used." Neal suggested that the money be raised by increasing gaming taxes.

"The money from those lawsuits is supposed to be used for health-related problems. If he had done his homework, he would've known that using the money for education may not be legally feasible," said Williams.

In response to Guinn's plan to increase charter schools, Williams said, "Why the big push to remove caps? We only have one charter school anyway. I see it as a trend toward privatization, and poor, public schools will suffer. Remember, charter schools are public and will be competing for dollars."

Neal feels that sparking the creation of numerous charter schools is irrational.

"It only makes sense if you want to destroy the public school system," Neal said. "Critical dollars that would go to schools that need help would go to wealthy schools that can afford to engage power in their interests."

Neal said that charter schools are actually very experimental and there is no proof that they better educate students. He wants to caution Guinn from throwing his weight behind them.

### The Prison System

Another of Guinn's notions that rubbed the statesmen the wrong way was his stance on prisons.

"Moving out local prisoners in Jean is questionable and suspect," said Williams. "I am against it totally. You'll be separating people from their families. Not a whole lot of folks can afford to travel all the way up North or to Arizona to see their loved ones—many of whom are imprisoned unjustly."

Neal thinks that there should be a new operating agreement between judges and prosecutors to have some type of proportionality in the crime and the subsequent sentence. He said, "The way the system works now, we end

(See *State of the State*, Page 6)



Sentinel-Voice file photo

Firefighters Vergus Porter (left) and Benny Scott question the merit of the promotions of six of their co-workers.

## Promotions raise questions on merit

Catisha Marsh  
Sentinel-Voice

Of the six Clark County Fire Department firefighters recently given promotions, none were Blacks. That rankles some black firefighters.

"It just doesn't make sense, especially after we supported him through his rise in the fire department." Benny Scott, a 25-year firefighter and outgoing president of the Professional

Black Firefighters of Clark County, said of fire chief Earl Greene, who is black and made the appointments.

"I did not intentionally not appoint blacks," said Greene, who considers his record of promoting minorities to be "pretty good." Of 560 department employees, 60 are black. Two of the recent appointments went to non-black minorities. "I wouldn't do this to slight blacks. I'm (See *Firefighters*, Page 4)