

Winter 1996

UNLV Magazine

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WINTER ♦ 1996

UNLV *Magazine*

FOR ALUMNI, FACULTY, AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS



Seeing the Beauty in the Beast

Komodo dragon
research at UNLV

The Rebel Ring



We'll Be Calling You!

Great universities don't just happen. The support of alumni and friends makes a critical difference for academic programs at UNLV. This spring, UNLV students will reach out to ask for your support. We hope you'll think about the difference UNLV made in your life and the impact your gift will have on current and future UNLV students. We look forward to talking to you!

For more information, contact the UNLV Foundation at (702) 895-3641.



on the cover:

One of the National Zoo's Komodo dragons. Photo by Jessie Cohen, National Zoological Park, Smithsonian Institution.

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UNLV Magazine

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features



5 The Ballad of Conni Emerson

The UNLV alumna is trying to break into the music business with her own unique blend of blues and folk styles, laced with a little country, a little alternative rock, and a lot of determination.

BY SUZAN DIBELLA



8 Seeing the Beauty in the Beast

Through his studies of the cardiovascular development of reptile embryos, UNLV biology professor Carl Reiber gets an eggs-trordinary research opportunity as he plays parent to the world's first Komodo dragons hatched in captivity.

BY BARBARA CLOUD



12 A Temporary Fix

UNLV sociologist Robert Parker warns of the dangers of corporate America's increasing reliance on temporary workers.

BY DIANE RUSSELL

16 Unconventional Therapies for An Unrelenting Disease

A UNLV study of alternative therapies used by HIV-infected patients offers health care practitioners insights on how and why these diverse approaches are being used to fight AIDS.

BY LAURIE FRUTH

departments

2-4
19-21
22-23

News
Calendar
Class Notes

Banners, Historical Photos to Enhance Campus Appearance

The UNLV Alumni Association is funding two projects that will enhance the appearance of the university campus.

Sixty colorful banners are now available for placement atop the lamp-posts along the academic mall on campus, and 54 framed historical photos of UNLV and its predecessor, Nevada Southern University, will soon be placed on the walls in the new Classroom Building Complex.

Both projects are the result of cooperative efforts by UNLV alumni, students, and staff, according to Carl Cook, assistant director of alumni relations.

The idea for the banners grew out of the efforts of Cook and UNLV Student Activities Director Becky Barnard, who arranged for several of them to be placed

along the academic mall to encourage greater student participation in homecoming activities. Hoping that the banners might promote extra interest in activities year-round, the two successfully pursued approval for them from the Campus Planning Commission and funding for them from the Alumni Association board of directors.

The banners will display the university's mascot, a number of education-oriented phrases, and/or holiday greetings.

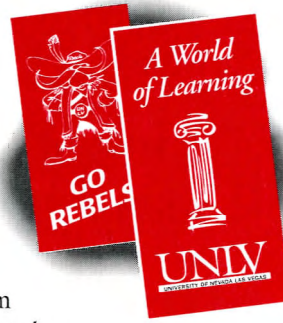
The 54 historical photos were

selected by an association-appointed committee of students and alumni who searched through thousands of photographs in the James R. Dickinson Library's special collections department, Cook said.

"Today's students should be made aware of important events in their alma mater's history to truly appreciate the efforts taken to make UNLV the great university that it is," Cook said. "What better

way than to display photographs of these events for them to see every day?"

Both the banners and the photographs will be installed and maintained by the UNLV operations and maintenance department at no charge. ■



Several Top UNLV Administrators Appointed, Reassigned

Norval Pohl, former dean of UNLV's College of Business and Economics, has been promoted to the post of vice president for finance and administration following a nationwide search.

Pohl's appointment was one of a number of personnel decisions made in recent months by UNLV President Carol C. Harter.

In announcing Pohl's selection, Harter said, "Dr. Pohl's unique combination of an academic background and real-world experience, coupled with his knowledge of UNLV, made him the best choice."

Pohl served eight years as dean before being appointed interim vice president for finance and administration in 1994.

In another personnel decision, Lyle Rivera was named vice president and assistant to the president for special projects. In that post he will head the university's planning and development efforts for a proposed law school and will coordinate fund raising for the UNLV International Gaming Institute.

Rivera, an attorney who has been at

UNLV since 1979, most recently had served as vice president for development and university relations. From 1987 until last year he also served as executive director of the UNLV Foundation and led its successful effort to raise millions of dollars in support of university programs.

In August, Harter selected longtime faculty member Joseph A. "Andy" Fry to serve as her executive assistant.

In that position, Fry's duties will include liaison work for the president's office on academic and faculty issues.

Fry, a history professor, has been a member of the UNLV faculty since 1975 and has served in a variety of campus administrative posts, including chair of the history department, chair of the Faculty Senate, and associate dean of the College of Arts and Letters.

On Aug. 1, Charlie W. Cavagnaro became UNLV's new director of intercollegiate athletics.

Cavagnaro came to UNLV from the University of Memphis, where he had served as director of athletics since 1982.

"Charlie brings vast and highly

successful collegiate athletic administrative experience, a profound commitment to academic integrity and the well-being of athletes, demonstrated expertise in marketing and generating new revenues, and an energetic, humane approach to the management of people," Harter said.

In another appointment, Fred Albrecht, who had served as director of alumni relations since 1973, was named executive director of alumni and community relations.

Albrecht, who has been at UNLV for 25 years, served as interim athletic director before Cavagnaro was appointed.

In addition to continuing his role in alumni relations and his work with the UNLV Alumni Association, Albrecht will be responsible for the university's government relations program, as well as internal and external communications. He will be assisted in the communications effort by Les Raschko as director of university publications and reprographics and Tom Flagg as director of UNLV news and public information. ■

900 Attend Inauguration of UNLV President Carol C. Harter

UNLV President Carol C. Harter was inaugurated as the university's seventh president on Oct. 21 in a ceremony staged on the steps of the Performing Arts Center at the north end of the academic mall.

Attended by more than 900 guests, the ceremony featured introductory remarks by University of Nevada, Reno, President Joseph Crowley, an address by Harter, and music by UNLV music department ensembles.

Among the guests were representatives of universities across the country; state and local government officials; representatives of the University and Community College System of Nevada and the Board of Regents; representatives of the UNLV Alumni Association and the UNLV Foundation; faculty, staff, and students; and local business and community leaders. The public was also invited.

"One of the purposes of a presidential inauguration in the university setting is to reinforce the values of the academic community," said Leonard Goodall, former UNLV president and chair of the inauguration committee. "It is a symbolic act that brings people together — members of the university community, as well as friends from the community at



UNLV President Carol C. Harter addressed about 900 faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the university at her inauguration Oct. 21 on the steps of the Performing Arts Center.

large — at a time of institutional change."

A colorful event, the inauguration included a procession on the mall of visiting representatives and members of the UNLV faculty dressed in formal academic robes.

Welcoming remarks were offered by representatives of the UNLV Foundation and the UNLV Alumni Association, the CSUN student government, and the Faculty Senate. UCCSN Chancellor Richard Jarvis presided over

the ceremony.

The official investiture of Harter was performed by Jill Derby, vice chair of the UCCSN Board of Regents.

Immediately following the ceremony, a reception was held on Pida Plaza in front of the Moyer Student Union, and that evening world-renowned evolutionary biologist Stephen Jay Gould spoke in Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall as a Barrick Distinguished Scholar Lecturer. ■

More Than 600 Alumni Elect New Board of Directors

More than 600 UNLV alumni voted in September to elect one newcomer and five incumbent members to the Alumni Association's board of directors.

Each fall six of the 18 board members are elected by dues-paying members of the association.

The new member of the board, Dr. Tony Alamo, graduated from UNLV in 1986. While attending the university, he was a founding member of the student ambassador program and served as the undergraduate representative on the academic standards committee.

Currently, he practices internal medicine at the Alamo Medical Clinic in Las Vegas.

Jim Kirkwood, a 1983 graduate of UNLV, was elected to the office of treasurer. The casino controller at Harrah's Las Vegas, Kirkwood formerly served as member-at-large on the board.

Ray Tuntland, a member of the classes of '89 and '91, has been re-elected as the association's secretary. He currently works for Becker Realty in real estate marketing and investment.

Former association second vice

president Rafael Villanueva, who graduated from UNLV in 1984 and 1991, was elected as member-at-large. He serves as sales and promotion director at KLAS-TV 8.

Both Bruce Ford and Russ Petersen were re-elected as members of the board of directors. Ford, a 1986 graduate of UNLV, is vice president and manager of the lending center for Pioneer Citizens Bank. Petersen, class of '76, is the senior vice president and director of sales and marketing for First Security Bank of Nevada. ■

Phone-a-thon to Help UNLV Foundation Raise Funds

Voices from UNLV will ring out through living rooms across the country this spring when student callers will be contacting alumni, past donors, and parents during "The Rebel Ring," the university's new telephone fund-raising campaign.

UNLV President Carol C. Harter endorsed the phone-a-thon as a major step forward in the university's efforts to increase the private donations that supplement the financial assistance provided by the Nevada Legislature.

"Together we can make UNLV a quality university," she said. "The difference between UNLV and others — the difference between a struggling young public university and a thriving university — is you. We depend on you and rely on you to help us achieve academic excellence."

This year's phone-a-thon goal is \$85,000 in pledges — a major challenge

for those in the UNLV Foundation conducting the campaign.

"We set the target high as a challenge to ourselves, the student callers, and our donors," said Lara Kolberg, director of annual giving for the UNLV Foundation.

"Everyone is revved up and ready to kick off this exciting new venture. Nothing will be a bigger boost to morale than hearing hundreds of donors say 'yes' this spring."

Phone-a-thons are the backbone of most university annual giving programs. They are the most effective way to raise private funds and maintain contact with alumni as their careers develop, Kolberg said, adding that increasing alumni participation and the number of alumni financial gift pledges are two important objectives of the campaign.

The UNLV Foundation is the university's academic fund-raising organization. The non-profit education corporation's mission is to raise funds for

academic programs and manage all private funds donated to UNLV. Annual fund-raising activities are planned to achieve the goals and priorities set by the university faculty and administration. A total of more than \$6.5 million was raised by the foundation during the 1994-95 academic year.

Donations received during the phone-a-thon will benefit the university's annual fund. Unrestricted gifts to the annual fund support student scholarships, faculty development, special projects, facilities, equipment, and fund-raising administration. More than \$826,000 was contributed to the annual fund during the 1994-95 academic year.

According to UNLV Foundation Executive Director John Gallagher, the time is right "to increase the pace to meet the rising costs of high quality academic programs."

"This year our goal for the annual fund is \$1 million. We hope that our alumni and friends will take the time to talk to our student callers, catch up on university news, and make a pledge to support UNLV." ■



International Gaming Institute Receives Grant, Donation

UNLV's International Gaming Institute has received a \$100,000 grant from ACE Denken Co. of Japan to compile a training manual for the gaming industry, according to Vincent Eade, director of the institute.

ACE Denken Co., a manufacturer of gaming equipment for the pachinko industry, has been a strong supporter of UNLV's William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration. A \$2 million endowment created by the company and its president, Takatoshi Takemoto, in 1992 enabled the college to launch its Ph.D. program in hospitality administration and a research journal.

The \$100,000 grant will be used to collect and publish the material from a series of seminars that the UNLV

International Gaming Institute has presented to ACE Denken employees over the past two and a half years, Eade said. The material includes lectures, related information, and numerous case studies.

The book will cover such topics as casino marketing, human resources management, computerization and technology in the gaming industry, customer service, security and crisis management, financial issues, regulatory and legal issues, internal control procedures, and trends analysis.

A \$25,000 donation from First Interstate Bank of Nevada will enable the institute to move one step closer in its quest for a new building. In recognition of the gift, the new building

will feature a First Interstate Bank conference room.

The institute is developing plans to erect a new 22,000-square-foot building on the southeast corner of Flamingo Road and Swenson Street across from the Desert Research Institute. Features will include the IGT Library, First Interstate Bank conference room, a multi-purpose room, and a 5,000-square-foot gaming laboratory.

The UNLV International Gaming Institute was created in July 1993 to provide information and training for the gaming industry. Its mission is to provide educational programs, conduct gaming research, and disseminate gaming knowledge through seminars, classes, and publications. ■

The Ballad of Conni Emerson

The UNLV alumna is trying to break into the music business with her own unique blend of blues and folk styles, infused with a little country, a little alternative rock, and a lot of determination.

BY SUZAN DIBELLA

THE STORY OF HOW SINGER/SONGWRITER CONNI Emerson started out is a little like the plot of one of those "struggling-young-musician-tries-to-break-into-the-business" movies.

She was playing small gigs in 1994 when she entered a local country western talent contest and took first place, winning two tickets to Nashville, some cash, and a pair of cowboy boots.

Though a bit uncertain of her commitment to that particular sound, she set out for the home of the Grand Ole Opry with her guitar in one hand and her demo tape in the other. She was accompanied by her close friend and manager, Libby Edsen, who happened to have a 3-month-old baby they took along on the trip.

Once there, the threesome did their best at promotion during the day, making cold calls at radio stations to



Photo by Sampsel & Preston Photography

distribute tapes. At night, Emerson grabbed every chance she could to do an "open mike" — the opportunity small clubs provide new talent "to come up on stage and show 'em everything you've got in two songs."

"I froze every single time until we started going to two open mikes every night, one on top of the other," Emerson says. "But the last night I was there, I sang in the most famous writers' night in the world, which is at the Bluebird Cafe, and it went great. I finally wasn't freezing up anymore."

But, as many a country western star has crooned, the path to fame is littered with broken dreams. "Nashville was sewn up tight," she says, recalling that they left without a bite.

Though that might have made a poignant ending for a movie, Emerson was by no means ready to call it quits after her disappointing foray into the country western music big time.

**"My head was so full of my own dreams
Never took the time to think about you and me"
— from Emerson's ballad
"No Longer Blue"**

She now reflects on the irony of the fact that she never sent in the paperwork to collect the cowboy boots she won in the talent contest. Whether it was an indication of her ambivalence toward the country style or just an unwillingness to deal with the paperwork, she isn't certain. But after Nashville, she knew one thing for sure: Pure country western wasn't in the cards for her. The experience, she says, enabled her to come to a clearer understanding of what her music is really about and how she wanted to pursue it.

"Well, I found out that I wasn't strictly country, and I wasn't going to try

to fit into that mold anymore. And I decided to quit my day job," she says.

Since then, Emerson, a UNLV alumna, has been performing her original folk and blues tunes for audiences in local venues ranging from the Summerlin Hills Park to Green Valley coffee houses. She has also done short tours in Arizona, Texas, and California and has opened for the fusion band The Yellowjackets, singer/songwriter Walter Hyatt, and New Age musicians R. Carlos Nakai and Will Eaton.

Though she acknowledges that a bit of country still lingers in her sound, she's now pouring all of her energy into creating a unique blues and folk style, laced with a bit of alternative rock.

"I really lean in my heart and soul toward blues and folk," she says, adding that she was calling herself a female Lyle Lovitt for a time. "He's got so much gospel in him, and he's got that country thing goin' on. He's so mixed up,"

Emerson says, acknowledging that she knows the feeling. She would be the first to admit that she, too, has always been a little uncertain about which path to take.

At UNLV, she studied drawing and painting, obtaining her bachelor of fine arts degree in 1987. While in school, she played in both a bluegrass and a top-40 band, but took only one music class: voice training. After graduating, she took a job as a graphic artist with the city of Las Vegas for five years to earn a living.

"I've always floated back and forth between music and art," she says, adding that the connection between the two most probably emanated from the

interdisciplinary leanings of her mother, UNLV music professor Isabelle Emerson. Both subjects were valued during her upbringing.

"I had piano and fiddle lessons when I was little," she says, adding that she wishes she had kept up with them. "But I wanted a guitar. When I was 13, my mother's friend, who was an art historian, was writing a book and asked me to take notes for her during a visit to the Met in New York. As my payment for that, we went to a little guitar store, and she bought me a \$30 guitar. I had been wanting one for a very, very long time."

Emerson began writing songs at 16 out of loneliness more than anything else; she went to three different high schools in as many years, the result of moving around with her mother, who was pursuing her education and various academic positions.

"I was pretty much a loner," she recalls of her early songwriting days. "It's taken me a long time to get comfortable with people. I guess you learn how to be around people, and it just takes some longer than others to do that."

But she doesn't particularly want to forget her painful experiences; she notes that, like most artists, she draws on them for material for her work.

She writes her songs alone, usually picking out a melody on the guitar that evokes an image in her mind, which she tries to capture with words. She says that learning to draw and paint contributed to her ability to write music.

"I think I learned the discipline from art. It taught me the grueling part, the thinking part of creativity. It taught me to find a form for my thoughts."

Fiercely committed to performing her own works, Emerson says that on the rare occasions when she does perform material by other musicians, she chooses songs that are not especially recognizable, such as early Bonnie Raitt, Bruce Springsteen, and John Prine.

"If you're not already famous, it's definitely harder to perform your own music. It's harder to get an audience for it. But it's really a thrill when you start to play a song, and the audience recognizes the song that you're playing and it's yours."

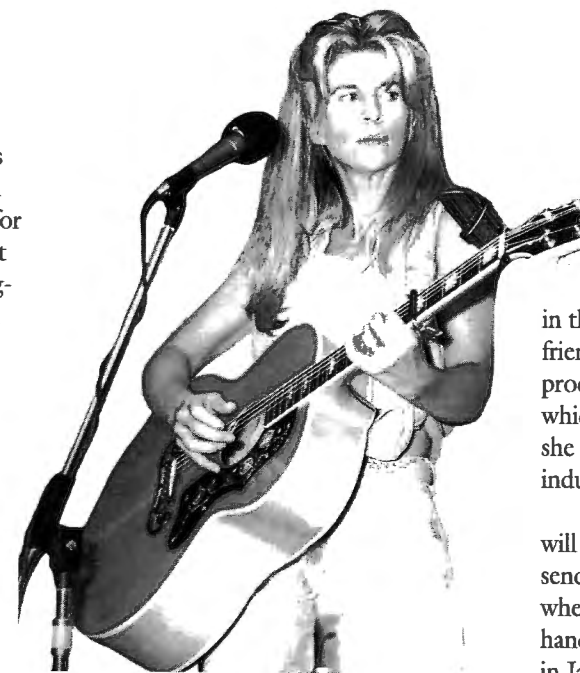
Like most songwriters, she tends to write about romantic relationships and love.

"It's the strongest emotion anybody has. But I believe in diversity. I wrote a song about the fact that I had an addiction to my TV for a while after I quit my job," she says, laughing. "And I've written about father/daughter relationships and about apathy."

She says she is driven to write, but enjoys performing.

"I thought when I first started out that I wouldn't like the performing part of it, but I really do," she says, adding that she recently played to a crowd of more than 700 people. "I love it. I really feed off the audience."

"It's great to be able to unleash that. I had that naturally as a kid, but something happened, and it just totally went into this loner thing. It was hard. It was like I was ashamed of that part of myself. I think it's healthy though; if that's what you are, that's what you are. You can be a



UNLV alumna Conni Emerson regularly plays coffee houses and clubs in Las Vegas, Phoenix, Monterey, and Flagstaff.

more often, but has found Las Vegas to be a tough town.

"I'd love to work every weekend, but it's really hard. I can't do it here yet. It's strange; most towns I visit and play in have specific venues for original stuff. I think Las Vegas is just starting to get into it, but the clubs here haven't tapped into

original acoustic scene; they embrace a beer and listening to a vocalist."

So she travels at least once a month to those towns and others in the region, usually staying with friends to keep costs down. And she is producing her first CD and a video, which she describes as "necessities" if she is to be taken seriously in the music industry.

"Then I can start marketing myself. It will be like a breath of fresh air. I can send the CD to radio stations and push it wherever I go. I'll have a product in hand," she says, adding that it will be out in January.

She also plans to get on the festival circuit to showcase her material and to network with other musicians who are starting out.

While she waits for her break to come, she keeps a journal to maintain perspective.

"It's a fickle business," she says. "There are a lot of peaks and valleys. I keep a journal so I can see them coming. When things are slow, and it's getting really scary, I can look into my journal, and say, 'Oh yeah, I remember. I was happy that day. I had all the gigs in the world.'"

She says she also relies on her husband, local attorney James Chrisman, to help her stay focused. "I know it's cliché, but he's my rock. I couldn't do it without him."

Above all, she says, she has to keep believing in herself and her music.

"I think I've finally chosen my way. I think I'm going to do this for the rest of my life. I'm just bound and determined to get a record deal, and I believe that determination is more than 50 percent of it."

"I don't even want to think about burning out. I need to be able to walk in somewhere and say, 'I'm going to make it. You're going to hop on now or you're going to hop on later. It's your choice.'"

And with that kind of attitude, who needs cowboy boots anyway? ■

**"Oh, my brain cells I can feel them leavin' one by one
They say adios amiga we need exercise and we ain't
gettin' none"
— from "I Love My TV"**

ham and still have humility and care about people.... Yeah, that's the neatest thing about watching little kids — if they're running around, full of themselves, overflowing with it."

She would like to perform locally

the market yet. But that will change as time goes on.

"Other cities are completely different. For instance, I'm starting to get a following in towns like Phoenix, Monterey, and Flagstaff. They're into the

Seeing the Beauty in the Beast

Through his studies of the cardiovascular development of reptile embryos, UNLV physiologist Carl Reiber gets an eggs-trordinary research opportunity as he plays parent to the world's first Komodo dragons hatched in captivity.

BY BARBARA CLOUD

IN MYTHIC LORE, THE DRAGON IS A huge, ferocious, terrifying creature. In real life, the dragon is a huge, ferocious, terrifying creature.

And if you didn't believe there was a real-life dragon, you haven't met *Varanus komodoensis*, the Komodo dragon, a beast that may not actually breathe fire, but that otherwise lives up to its "dragonian" reputation.

"Komodo dragons thoroughly enjoy eating people," says Carl Reiber, a physiologist in UNLV's department of biological sciences who studies the world's largest lizards. "They are predators, bar none. They tend not to be able to eat full-grown adults, but there are numerous occasions reported when these animals have attacked children."

Komodos, which are found in nature on the hilly island of Komodo in Indonesia, stalk and ambush their prey — usually goats, sheep, and other small animals, but sometimes humans.

"They don't usually take them down immediately; it's not like a lion that stalks his prey and grabs it by the throat, suffocating it or destroying blood vessels

so that it bleeds to death. Komodos bite their victims, and these animals have foul mouths. They have a bacterial and fungal population in their mouths that is absolutely horrible." So when a Komodo bites its prey, it infects the animal, rendering it greatly weakened within 24 hours.

"All this time the animal has been running around, and the Komodo is following, tracking him, ready to move in when he drops."

Despite the dragon's colorful — albeit anti-social — style, Reiber, who has been studying the endangered reptile for the past three years, is more interested in its eggs than its predatory behavior.

Now in his third year at UNLV, Reiber formerly taught part time at George Mason University in Virginia, where he began a collaborative study of the dragons with another physiologist, Geoffrey Birchard. The two scientists have been

working with the National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C., since 1992 in its effort to produce healthy offspring from the only two Komodos to have been bred in captivity — Friendly, a male, and Sobat, a female, both given to the zoo by Indonesia in 1988.

Since 1934 the National Zoo has exhibited seven Komodo dragons. The captured reptiles never lived more than a few years, even though in the wild they are thought to live as long as 100 years.

Early specimens were the largest animals that collectors could capture. (Komodos have been recorded at just over 10 feet and more than 350 pounds.) However, modern zoo curators realized



Thirteen healthy baby Komodo dragons, each weighing about three and a half ounces, hatched from their leathery eggs under the care of UNLV physiologist Carl Reiber and his colleagues. Komodo dragon photos by Jessie Cohen of the National Zoo.

that the very large, old dragons were stressed by capture, travel, and their new surroundings and that this undoubtedly hastened their demise. Hence, curators began seeking younger and smaller specimens, such as Friendly and Sobat, who have grown since arriving at the National Zoo, but still measure only about 6-7 feet and weigh 50-115 pounds. They have already lived longer than any previous Komodo in captivity.

Modern zoos also offer animals more natural surroundings than were common 60 years ago, and the National Zoo's Komodos have warm conditions and deep soil in which they can burrow as they do in the wild. Their diet, too, has been improved. In 1934, one specialist advised feeding

the Komodos chicken, beef, lobster, pheasants, and pigs three times a day; Friendly and Sobat get a more austere, yet realistic, diet: a feast of rats once a week.

As the zoo staff continued to improve the dragons' living — and breeding — conditions, they began to wonder what might happen if their efforts at matchmaking paid off. What if the Komodos did breed and the female laid a clutch of eggs? What could they do to increase the likelihood that the eggs would hatch?

That's when Reiber and his colleague entered the picture. As experts on the cardiovascular development of reptile eggs, they were called in to help.

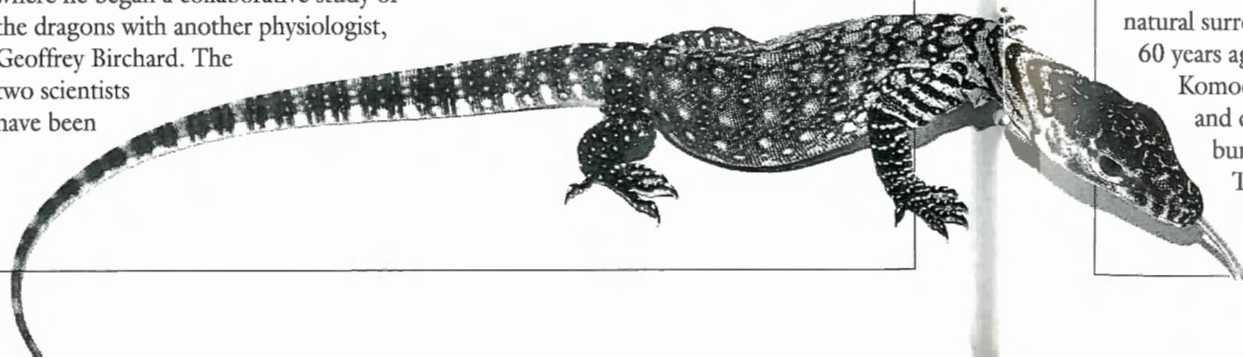
"The zoo decided it didn't want to put all of its eggs in one basket," Reiber says with a straight face. "So when 26

eggs were discovered in the female's burrow, the zoo gave 10 of them to us for hatching and for study."

The first problem for the physiologists was to determine optimum hatching conditions. Because Komodo dragons are not the kind of creatures that invite scientists to poke around in their burrows, little was known about conditions in their nests. And since the climate in the Komodo's natural habitat can vary greatly, Reiber and Birchard faced added uncertainty in determining the right incubation temperatures.

"In the wild these animals can be exposed to temperatures of 100 degrees plus, and it doesn't rain for long periods of time. Then they are inundated with monsoon rains," Reiber says.

The limited previous observations of





In his research on the Komodo eggs, Reiber, above, had to start from scratch in determining optimum hatching conditions because, not surprisingly, little was known about the dragons' nests.

the eggs absorbed too much water on that combination. "They looked like they were going to burst, just like water balloons," Reiber recalls, "so we had to dehydrate them back down and let them lose weight." However, once the researchers controlled for excessive water absorption, Reiber says, "it didn't seem to matter which of the lower moisture levels was used for incubation." From their study of the 10 eggs from the

first clutch and eight more the next year, they found no significant difference in weight or incubation time for the hatchlings if the incubation material was dry as a desert or as damp as a rainforest. That finding was one in a series that would perplex the researchers. "With other reptile eggs, you usually see a much heavier animal if it has more water," he says.

Another area they studied intensively was the length of incubation of the Komodo eggs. More specifically, they examined what they call the "cost of development" — the total amount of energy required to go from one point in development to the next.

Komodo dragons have an unusually long incubation period — about eight months, which is not only longer than

.....
Temperature and moisture content of the soil surrounding the incubating eggs were critical concerns for Reiber and his colleagues. One of Reiber's eggs was the first to hatch.

any other reptile, but also longer than one would expect for the size of their eggs.

Reiber points out that the long incubation time suggests a high cost of development, but by reptilian standards, the energy source — the yolk of the egg — is not large enough to provide enough food for such a lengthy period.

Because the zoo badly wanted the eggs to hatch, Reiber and his colleague could not break them open and analyze the yolk to see what it contained. So Reiber's skill in noninvasive measurement, honed in his study of invertebrates, provided the solution.

He explains that one of the ways they measure energy consumption of an embryo is to determine how much oxygen is being used by the egg in which it grows. So they put a Komodo egg in a closed jar with a substance that absorbs carbon dioxide. As the egg would "breathe," it would take up oxygen and give off CO₂. As the absorbent substance sucked in the CO₂, the pressure in the jar



decreased. Then, calculations based on the reduced pressure showed how much oxygen was being used.

Typically for reptiles, Reiber says, the larger the egg, the higher the oxygen consumption and metabolic rate. However, both the Komodos' oxygen consumption and metabolic rate were significantly lower than expected, Reiber says.

"The Komodos have a lower-than-predicted metabolic rate and a longer-than-predicted incubation time," Reiber says, "and we want to know why. Clearly, something is happening to the Komodo that doesn't fit typical reptile patterns."

Part of the explanation appears to lie in the gas exchange process, Reiber notes, explaining that like the chicken egg, the Komodo egg has a chorioallantoic membrane that lines the shell. "We just call it the 'cam,'" he says.

The cam develops blood vessels that expand as the animal grows, and these blood vessels provide the embryo's link to the outside world. The animal's heart pumps blood to the cam at the surface of the eggshell, the CO₂ is released, oxygen is absorbed, and the oxygen-rich blood is pumped back to the animal.

Late in the development of the Komodo embryo, its metabolism plateaus. One of Reiber's hypotheses is that for some reason the cam has gotten as large as it can and can no longer exchange gases efficiently. This may be what triggers hatching, Reiber says.

"This is analogous to what happens when a human baby goes beyond term. One of the reasons doctors will induce labor after a baby is a week or two overdue is that the placenta begins to break down, and the baby begins to become starved for oxygen. We see the same things happening here with the cam."

Why the cam breaks down remains something of a mystery, Reiber says, acknowledging that much of his work on the Komodos has presented more questions than answers.



The first two Komodo dragons to be bred in captivity, Sobat and Friendly, share an intimate moment.

But identifying the enigmas of Komodo development is only part of their work: Reiber proudly reports that their role as surrogate parents paid off when one of the eggs under their tender care was the first to hatch — even before those under the zoo's care. The zoo eventually had 13 healthy baby lizards, each approximately 16 inches long and weighing about 3½ ounces. The next year Sobat was successfully mated with a male in the Cincinnati Zoo and another clutch of eggs was hatched.

The success in getting Komodo dragon eggs to hatch has meant the scientists can use invasive procedures to study the reptile's embryo and perhaps find answers to more of the questions about its development. Eggs for such study are available because Sobat and her two partners are responsible for almost all of the Komodos now in the United States; as a result, they are no longer genetically viable. Further breeding is not desirable because of the lack of diversity

in the gene pool and the consequent dangers of inbreeding.

Reiber and his colleague are taking advantage of the fact that the zoo insists that the eggs not be allowed to hatch. The scientists are now able to peel back the leathery external layer of the shell, count the number of blood vessels present in the cam, and compare their findings with what is known about other reptiles. Reiber says the findings so far are surprising.

"We expected because of the metabolism of the animal that it would have looked much more like birds, that it would have had a lot more blood vessels than it has. [That was not the case] so there's obviously something else going on here." Analysis of the data is continuing.

The dragon egg studies have been conducted in a laboratory at George Mason University, and Reiber spends two or three months a year there. Meanwhile, continued on page 24

A TEMPORARY FIX

UNLV sociologist Robert Parker warns of the perils of corporate America's increasing reliance on temporary workers.

BY DIANE RUSSELL

TRUE OR FALSE?

The typical temporary employee in America is a woman who works such jobs by choice as a means of supplementing the family income while not tying herself down to a full-time job that would severely limit her time with her children.

If you guessed true, guess again.

The part about the typical temporary worker being a woman is true enough. But the prevalent notion that the majority of temporary workers — women or men — have opted for “temp” work because of scheduling flexibility is a myth, pure and simple, according to UNLV sociology professor Robert E. Parker.

While temporary employment is fine for those who truly choose it, Parker says they are in the minority. The truth is that the majority of employees in the temporary work force are there because they can't find permanent work.

Those workers suffer because they

often make less money than they would in full-time jobs, and — perhaps of even more value than actual income — they usually receive none of the benefits associated with full-time employment, such as group health insurance or paid sick leave, Parker says.

And, while company CEOs may be

patting themselves on the back for having saved the company money by shifting to an increased reliance on “temps,” Parker believes those supposed gains will prove fleeting. Eventually, problems caused by low morale and absence of loyalty to the company will take their toll, he predicts.

Parker, the author of *Flesh Peddlers*

and *Warm Bodies: The Temporary Help Industry and Its Workers* (Rutgers University Press, 1994), has been researching the temporary work industry since 1983 when, as a doctoral student at the University of Texas, he came across a government report citing the temporary work industry as one of the fastest growing industries in the nation.

Sensing great research potential in the subject, Parker began delving into it, only to discover that little study had been done on it.

Parker's creative approach to researching the temporary help industry was to hire out as a “temp” worker for five months to see for himself exactly

what the working conditions were like.

That experience, combined with on-the-job interviews of temporary employees and employers, provided Parker with the basis for his dissertation.

It also sparked his ongoing interest in the temporary work industry, which has resulted in both the publication of his book and an invitation to make a formal statement about the contingent work force to the U.S. Senate Labor Subcommittee. He presented that statement in 1994 at the request of the subcommittee's chairman, Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio.

Today, Parker, an associate professor in UNLV's sociology department, continues his research in that field and sometimes uses it as the source of lectures for courses he teaches on the sociology of work.

And when that happens, Parker tells his students about his stint as a “temp” worker in Texas, where he signed up with five agencies. He made sure he requested both clerical and industrial jobs, which he says make up the two dominant segments of the temporary work force.

The clerical jobs were unremarkable for the most part. He usually worked as a

data entry operator; other times he stuffed envelopes.

The industrial jobs were repetitive, too; they typically involved warehouse work. But one job he took that summer in Austin stands out in his mind.

It was more than 100 degrees and humid in the warehouse. The work he and the other “temps” were doing involved moving heavy appliances such as washing machines. Sometimes they used fork lifts. Other times the workers were up on two or three levels of scaffolding, moving items around.

“We were doing things that many companies wouldn't even allow you to do because they would be so afraid that you would slip and fall, and they would have a major lawsuit on their hands.”

Parker could see why those companies might worry. “I was afraid for my neck,” he recalls. “Doing sociology is great, and doing research is great, but I really don't want to break anything in the process.”

One thing the two types of temporary work had in common for Parker were that they both gave him entree to the “real” temporary employees he needed to interview.

Parker revealed to some of the agencies that he was a researcher collecting information for an article. In other instances, no one from the agency was told. But he told all of the temporary workers he interviewed about the nature of his research.

Surprisingly, the temporary agencies that were told of Parker's research intentions had no objections.

“They [the agency managers] thought they were showing me really uplifting organizations that benefitted the workers and the employers mutually and that there was no big advantage to either side,” he says. In order to help preserve that picture, he adds, “They would make sure that the only people I ever saw were happy temporary workers.”

But happy temporary workers, in Parker's view, are in the minority.

Again and again, when he asked temporary workers what they most



UNLV sociologist Robert Parker

wanted from their temporary jobs, the answer was "a permanent job."

In contrast to the popular public perception — which Parker says is supported by the temporary employment agencies — he did not find people who wanted sporadic, part-time work so that they could spend time with their families or pursue leisure activities.

What he found were people who wanted permanent, full-time jobs with benefits, but who couldn't find those positions.

The only people he interviewed who said they wanted only temporary employment were teachers who were working as "temps" during their summer vacations. All others, Parker said, reported that they wanted full-time work. Some had hoped to find it via the temporary work assignments, but that wasn't happening.

The reason it wasn't happening is understandable, Parker says, when you become aware of the fact that most temporary help agencies charge an employer a substantial fee — \$1,500 is typical — if that employer hires one of its "temps" as a permanent employee. The reason for the fee is sound, Parker says. Without it, temporary help agencies would find themselves acting as free employment agencies, which they are not.

But that distinction is not always clear to the temporary workers, Parker says.

"People go there and think the temporary work agency is there to help them find a job," Parker says. "But they're not there to help them find a job. They're there to help employers find workers on a temporary basis. That's where some of the resentment about the companies being 'flesh peddlers' comes from."

Parker points out that the notion that temporary work agencies help workers find permanent jobs is only one of many myths surrounding the temporary work industry.

Another is that women deliberately choose temporary work over full-time employment.

"This has been a big myth about temporary work for a long time — that women choose temporary work, that it's voluntary, that it allows them to be mothers and homemakers and workers all at the same time. [The myth is] that for them, it's definitely a win-win kind

of situation," Parker says.

That notion also has a patronizing aspect to it, according to Parker. He found literature from the 1970s that talked about "how women were afraid, had trepidations about entering the labor market and that temporary work would give them this sort of easing into the labor market — a way of seguing into the labor market where they wouldn't otherwise have a path to get there." In one article, temporary work was described as a "halfway house" for women afraid to get a full-time job, he says.

A third myth is that the temporary work industry provides a solution to hard-core unemployment, Parker says.

While temporary work may be better than no work, the truth is that many temporary workers cannot begin to get anything approaching a 40-hour work week and, therefore, cannot support themselves, he says. The fact that they often are paid less than full-time employees and that they typically receive no benefits only makes the situation worse.

Additionally, Parker notes, the hard-core unemployed are often people who lack basic work or social skills. Those people are no more likely to be hired by a temporary agency than by an employer, he says.

When people go into a temporary agency to sign up, what they often don't realize is that the agency personnel are sizing them up, just as prospective employers would, Parker says.

"They're smelling you, looking at you, and wondering if you would interact well with an employer, if you are the type to give somebody a hard time, or if you are a troublemaker."

Those who fail to pass that inspection are unlikely to be sent out on many jobs,



Parker's approach to researching the temporary employment industry was to hire out as a "temp" worker for five months to see for himself what the conditions were like.

even if they pass the skills tests, according to Parker.

Another misconception is that providing people with temporary work helps reduce social welfare expenditures, he says. That myth exists because most Americans don't know the basic facts about temporary employment and don't realize that many temporary workers are not able to earn enough money to stay off of all types of welfare programs, he says.

Yet another myth might be one the companies themselves are buying into, Parker says. That is the myth that companies benefit by reducing their permanent work force — either through layoffs or attrition — and switching to less costly temporary workers.

Though that practice may save money in the short term, Parker believes it has some negative long-term consequences for the companies.

Temporary workers tend not to feel the same loyalty toward the company that permanent workers do, Parker says, noting that this is particularly true for temporary workers who are resentful about being able to find only part-time work.

This lack of loyalty can translate into poor morale, which can lead to increased absenteeism, mediocre job performance, and even sabotage, Parker says.

A temporary employee might promise to return to work the next day but will quite likely jump at a better job offer if it comes along, thus leaving the company stranded. "You know in your mind there might be a better deal down the street. You've got no commitment to that company any more than it has a commitment to you," he notes.

As for sabotage, Parker witnessed a prime example of it firsthand in one of his warehouse jobs. "I saw people on forklifts just getting on them and driving as fast as they could into boxes containing appliances." Other temporary workers stood by and laughed. No one told.

However, Parker says, he believes that this is not typical behavior and that most American employees are hard-working

people who tend to be loyal to the companies that hire them.

If Parker's premise is accurate — that both workers and companies suffer as a result of the increasing reliance on temporary workers — why does the temporary work industry continue to flourish?

To answer that question, Parker says it's necessary to look at what happened to corporate America during the 1970s and 1980s.

"I think it's legitimate to look at things like international competition and say America has been kind of slow on its feet to catch up and stay on top of things," he says.

As American companies found themselves lagging behind international competitors, they often responded by laying off employees. In many cases, once those workers were laid off, Parker explains, companies were hesitant later to rehire permanent workers, even when the economy improved, for fear there would be another downturn, prompting another round of layoffs. So, when fortunes improved and they needed additional employees, they shifted to temporary workers.

"Now we're not laying off as many workers, but we're changing the way we hire them and retain them," Parker says.

But international competition was not the only problem. In the 1980s things were also dicey on the domestic front.

"It was the decade of the acquisition, of the hostile takeover, of the merger," he says. When two companies with eight vice presidents each merge, the new mega-company finds itself with 16 vice presidents. What does it do? It reorganizes and starts laying off, Parker explains. These developments affecting the job market have led to a profound change in the social compact between American employers and employees, he says.

For years American workers believed that if they worked hard for their employers and were productive, they

would be assured their jobs until they retired and would receive regular pay increases along the way, he says.

Many people still believe that is the case, especially as they watch their parents retiring after 30 or 40 years with the same employer.



But those workers are the last of their kind in America, Parker predicts, pointing to studies that show that a person entering the workforce in America today can expect to hold down six or seven jobs over the course of a lifetime.

It's entirely possible that by the turn of the century, as many as half of the workers in America may be on temporary or part-time schedules or may be working on a subcontractor basis, he says.

Parker adds that it's past time for Americans to begin thinking about what this change in the social compact means for American society.

"What's going to happen to all those people who used to have health insurance and all the other kinds of benefits?" Parker asks. "Where are all those people going to get that kind of

continued on page 24

Unconventional Therapies for An Unrelenting Disease

A UNLV study of alternative therapies used by HIV-infected patients offers health care practitioners insights on how and why these diverse approaches are being used to fight AIDS.

BY LAURIE FRUTH

SOME MEDITATE, SOME WEAR CRYSTAL PENDANTS, AND SOME pray. Some even crunch macrobiotic beans and grains while watching their favorite Lettermen reruns.

At first glance, the people described above might seem to have little in common based on the diversity of their behavior. But in reality, they share two critical qualities that have led them to choose different paths that they hope will lead to the same destination: They are all infected with the HIV virus, and they are all using unconventional therapies to fight the deadly disease.

It is their use of these therapies that has brought them to the attention of UNLV nursing professor Carolyn Sabo, who — along with two of her colleagues — conducted a study last year examining what is known in the health care field as alternative therapy.

According to Sabo, alternative therapy is a catch-all phrase that encompasses a number of diverse, nontraditional approaches to health care that can take such familiar forms as prayer, yoga, and meditation. But the term also refers to such esoteric practices as chakra balancing and aromatherapy.

For some patients, alternative therapy means watching funny movies to maintain one's sense of humor. Still others engage in more structured activities such as reflexology and massage to improve circulation and relieve stress.

Sabo's interest in the subject was kindled by the growing body of research on alternative therapy used by chronically ill patients. She was particularly intrigued by one major study that reported improved survival rates among women with breast cancer who participated in support groups.

She quickly discovered that alternative therapy as it's used by HIV-infected patients had not been studied extensively and, thus, decided to take a closer look. Specifically, she was interested in how and why HIV-infected patients use these unconventional therapies.

Building on prior research linking alternative therapy use to such chronic illnesses as diabetes and cancer, Sabo developed a seven-page survey asking patients to indicate which of 34 different alternative therapies they used and with what frequency.

Questionnaires were distributed at three sites: the local office of Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN), the HIV Wellness Clinic associated with the University Medical Center, and the office of a local physician who treats a number of HIV-infected patients.

"All of the 127 people who completed the survey are HIV-positive," Sabo says. "Some of the respondents have AIDS, some are battling opportunistic infections, and some are relatively healthy."

The majority of her respondents indicated that they use alternative therapies to improve the quality of their lives. Some indicated that they use the therapies to improve their spiritual lives, while others said alternative therapies are part of their "positive approach" to life.

Sabo explains that some patients with chronic illnesses search for ways to eliminate negative or stressful elements in life, and alternative therapies often help them achieve that objective.

"Although it is very difficult to point to an alternative therapy and say that that therapy increased a person's life for six months to a year, there is a perceived benefit to the use of such therapies," says Sabo, who currently serves as interim dean of the College of Health Sciences.

"Particularly when you're looking at the HIV disease process, which



UNLV nursing professor
Carolyn Sabo

Educating UNLV Students About AIDS

Educating an increasingly vulnerable population of young adults about AIDS and HIV infection is the challenge facing UNLV's Campus Committee on AIDS.

Organized in 1989 by Lori Winchell, the director of UNLV's Student Health Center, and Vicky Carwein, the former dean of the College of Health Sciences, the committee was initially charged with the task of developing an AIDS health and safety policy for the campus. That accomplished, the committee then set its sights on AIDS education.

Brad Manning, UNLV occupational safety director and chairman of the Campus Committee on AIDS since 1993, uses statistics to emphasize the important role UNLV must play in AIDS education.

"Nevada is ninth in the country in AIDS incidence, yet the state of Nevada spends only 23 to 30 cents per resident on AIDS education," Manning says. "Our population [at UNLV], the 18- to 24-year-old adult, has one of the fastest-rising infection rates. There must be some reason why this incidence rate is increasing in the face of overwhelming evidence concerning risk."

Denial is one problem AIDS educators face, according to committee member Ken Tomory.

"Teens don't think they are going to be infected," explains Tomory. "They think they can look at someone and tell if that person is HIV positive. Most students know how they could get infected, most know what AIDS is. The problem is getting them to change dangerous behavior."

According to Tomory, the student health center gives out 10,000 condoms each semester along with safer sex kits that talk about abstinence, HIV and AIDS, and sexually transmitted diseases. But, he argues, the face of AIDS is changing, affecting different

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populations. The university needs to tailor its programs for specific populations.

Manning agrees, adding that the committee is working to reach out to students in specific environments.

"We are particularly interested in working with graduate students, African-American students, Hispanic students, and students in residential life. A mandatory, campus-wide AIDS awareness class would help, but we need students to tell us how to develop programs and materials that will be meaningful to different subcultures."

One way the committee reaches students is through its speakers' bureau. Individual committee members speak to fraternities and sororities, student organizations, classes, and just about anyone who will listen.

"What these kids don't know is surprising," Manning says. "For example, one student didn't know that the virus could be transmitted by oral sex or that not all condoms are equally effective."

Another way of increasing awareness about AIDS is through special events, such as those held on campus Dec. 1, World AIDS Day. This year the Campus Committee on Aids scheduled 72 hours of events, including a 15-minute darkening of the campus from the Moyer Student Union to Grant Hall, a human red ribbon formation, free HIV testing at the Student Health Center, a non-denominational memorial service, and a feature film festival.

"The committee feels that it's important to offer both community outreach events and education in-house to our population," Manning says. "We have the at-risk population and the educational resources. It's time that the university took the lead in this fight." ■

can extend for a number of years, if a patient believes he or she feels better or has more energy as a result of using the alternative therapy, then that is clearly a benefit."

Results of the survey revealed that prayer, meditation, laughter and humor, and self-talk relaxation techniques were the most frequently used alternative therapies.

"These are things that people can do on their own, privately and with minimal expense," Sabo says. "It's not surprising that patients would choose therapies that they can do when they want and as often as they want."

What was surprising, however, was the extent of alternative therapy use by HIV-infected patients, she adds.

"What we found most impressive was that only 20 percent of the people who completed the survey used alternative therapies before they were infected, but 100 percent used alternative therapies post infection," she says, noting that previous studies found that only about one-third of those with chronic illnesses use alternative therapies.

Although Sabo says the limited number of respondents in her sample prevents her from drawing firm conclusions about the larger population of HIV-infected patients, she says her study seems to suggest that they are more likely than other chronic disease sufferers to use alternative therapies. She is interested in gathering more data on the subject so that she can find out why.

She speculates that one reason for these patients' propensity for such therapies might be the strong communication network within the HIV-infected community.

"There is a tremendous sharing of information within the HIV-infected community both through formal informational channels, such as newsletters, and through informal sharing between patients in clinics and self-help groups."

Another reason might be that physicians are becoming more receptive to the use of alternative therapies when they are combined with more traditional therapies, she adds.

"One of the things that we're learning from individuals in this study is that some physicians tend to be open to a number of ideas and are not focused on just one type of therapy about which they'll talk or give information," Sabo says.

The value of this type of study, according to Sabo, is that it seeks to provide health care practitioners with more information about what their patients are doing on their own; they can then perhaps offer additional guidance. For example, if a physician knows that a patient is taking mega-doses of vitamins, he or she can advise that patient about the proper dosage. The physician might also have a list of reflexologists or support groups to recommend to a patient, Sabo says.

"I would be interested in future analyses with bigger numbers [in the sample] to learn how much of this information patients gathered on their own, how much they gathered from friends or family, and how much they gathered from people they met at the clinic or at AFAN.

"This will give us some idea about how people are coming to decisions about using alternative therapies. Something made the participants in this study change their minds about the value of using alternative therapies," Sabo says, adding that she would like to know what that "something" was.

She is also interested in the cost of such therapy. Additional results from the survey revealed that some HIV-infected patients spend little out of pocket, while others spend as much as \$400 per month on alternative therapies.

Further analysis of the data will

continued on page 24



CALENDAR

January 1996

- 1-20 Exhibit: "Lee Sido - Sculpture." Weekdays, 9am-4:45pm; Sat., 10am-2pm. Barrick Museum of Natural History. 895-3381.
- 4 Men's Basketball: UNLV vs. Utah State. 8:05pm. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900.
- 5-13 University Theatre: Winter Fight Workshop. 8am all days. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.
- 7 Festival: Handbell Orchestra Festival. 4pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
- Women's Basketball: UNLV vs. Pacific. 2pm. McDermott South Gym. 895-3207.
- 8 Men's Basketball: UNLV vs. Pacific. 8:05pm. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900.
- 9 Barrick Lecture: William F. Buckley Jr. and John Kenneth Galbraith. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
- Women's Basketball: UNLV vs. UNR. 7:30pm. McDermott South Gym. 895-3207.
- 13 Men's Basketball: UNLV vs. Long Beach State. 8:05pm. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900.
- 15 Men's Basketball: UNLV vs. UC-Santa Barbara. 8:05pm. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900.
- Exhibit: "Justen Ladda: Contemporary Sculptor." Weekdays, 9am-5pm. Donna Beam Gallery. 895-3893. (thru Feb. 9)
- 16 Spring Semester 1996: Instruction begins.
- 17-21 University Theatre: *The Green in Winter*. Jan. 17-20, 8pm; Jan. 21, 2pm. Paul Harris Theatre. 895-3801.
- 19 Master Series: Isaac Stern. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
- Women's Basketball: UNLV vs. CS-Fullerton. 7pm. McDermott South Gym. 895-3207.
- 20 Chamber Music Southwest: Winner of the 1995 Walter Naumberg Foundation International Competition. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
- 21 Women's Basketball: UNLV vs. UC-Irvine. 2pm. McDermott South Gym. 895-3207.
- 24-28 University Theatre: *Mercer on Mercer*. Jan. 24-27, 8pm; Jan. 28, 2pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.

ALUMNI MEETING REMINDER

The Alumni Association Board of Directors meets the third Wednesday of every month. Meetings begin at 6pm and are held in the Richard Tam Alumni Center. For details, call 895-3621.

- 27 Concert: Nevada Symphony Orchestra. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
- Women's Basketball: UNLV vs. New Mexico State. 7:30pm. McDermott South Gym. 895-3207.
- 29 Men's Basketball: UNLV vs. UNR. 8:05pm. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900.
- 31 University Theatre: Ten-Minute Play Festival. Jan. 31-Feb. 3, 8pm; Feb. 4, 2pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.

February 1996

- 1 Graduate College: Graduate College Exploration Day Fair. 1:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall and Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-4391.
- Men's Basketball: UNLV vs. San Jose State. 8:05pm. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900.
- 2 Women's Tennis: UNLV vs. New Mexico State. 1pm. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.
- 3&4 Nevada Opera Theatre: Maggio Fiorentino. Feb. 3, 8pm; Feb. 4, 2pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.
- 4 Women's Tennis: UNLV vs. Weber State. Noon. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.
- 5 Chamber Music Southwest: Teresa Ling. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
- 8-11 Nevada Dance Theatre: *Bolero*. Feb. 8 & 9, 8pm; Feb. 10, 2pm & 8pm; Feb. 11, 2pm & 7pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.
- 9 Women's Basketball: UNLV vs. UC-Santa Barbara. 7:30pm. McDermott South Gym. 895-3207.
- 9-12 Alumni Trip: Fiesta Cruise to Mexico. 895-3621.
- 11 Women's Basketball: UNLV vs. Long Beach State. 2pm. McDermott South Gym. 895-3207.
- 12 A Family Affair: Boys Choir of Harlem. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
- 16&17 University Dance Theatre: Dance Arts Gala. Feb. 16, 8pm; Feb. 17, 2 & 8pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.
- 16-18 Men's Tennis: UNLV Invitational. All day. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.



Isaac Stern
Master Series
Jan. 19

CALENDAR



Jean-Pierre Rampal
Master Series
March 1

17 **Concert:** Nevada Symphony Orchestra. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

Men's Basketball: UNLV vs. CS-Fullerton. 8:05pm. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900.

19 **A Family Affair:** *The Hobbit*. Theatre Sans Fil. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

Exhibit: Juried Student Exhibit. Weekdays, 9am-5pm. Donna Beam Gallery. 895-3893. (thru March 1)

Men's Basketball: UNLV vs. UC-Irvine. 8:05pm. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900.

21 **Master Series:** *Pirates of Penzance*. Opera a la Carte. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

23 **Men's Tennis:** UNLV vs. New Mexico State. Noon. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.

Women's Tennis: UNLV vs. Northern Arizona University. 1pm. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.

24 **Celebration Series:** Preservation Hall Jazz Band. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

Men's Basketball: UNLV vs. New Mexico State. 8:05pm. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900.

25 **Music Department:** University Musical Society Orchestra. 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

Men's Tennis: UNLV vs. San Jose. 1:30pm. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.

Women's Tennis: UNLV vs. University of Oklahoma. Noon. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.

28 **Special Event:** Career Day Reception and Job Fair. Job Fair runs 8am-1pm in the Moyer Student Union Ballroom. Reception follows at 1:30pm in the Richard Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.

29 **Women's Basketball:** UNLV vs. Hawaii. 7:30pm. McDermott South Gym. 895-3207.

March 1996

1 **Master Series:** Jean-Pierre Rampal. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

2 **Women's Basketball:** UNLV vs. San Jose State. 7:30pm. McDermott South Gym. 895-3207.

Women's Tennis: UNLV vs. University of South Alabama. Noon. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.

4 **Music Department:** Mariposa Trio. 7:30pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.

Women's Tennis: UNLV vs. Purdue. 1pm. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.

8 **Women's Tennis:** UNLV vs. Idaho State. 1pm. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.

8-10 **UNLV Opera Theatre:** *Hunger/Vera in Las Vegas*. March 8 & 9, 7:30pm; March 10, 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

9 **Women's Tennis:** UNLV vs. Oklahoma. Noon. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.

10 **Women's Tennis:** UNLV vs. CS-Northridge. Noon. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.

11 **Exhibit:** "Blind Trust: Photographs by Robert Flynt." Weekdays, 9am-5pm. Donna Beam Gallery. 895-3893. (thru April 5)

12 **A Family Affair:** Veryovka Ukrainian National Dance Co. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

14 **Music Department:** UNLV Wind Symphony. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

14-24 **University Theatre:** *King John*. March 14-16 & 20-23, 8pm; March 17 & 24, 2pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.

15 **Men's Tennis:** UNLV vs. UNR. 1:30pm. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.

16 **Celebration Series:** The Irish Rovers. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

17 **Men's Tennis:** UNLV vs. San Diego State. 1:30pm. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.

19 **Men's Tennis:** UNLV vs. Arkansas. 1:30pm. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.

Music Department: Sierra Winds. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

20 **Men's Tennis:** UNLV vs. Cal Poly. 1:30pm. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.

Women's Tennis: UNLV vs. Auburn. 1pm. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.

22&23 **Music Department:** UNLV Invitational Choral Festival. 8am-5pm both days. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

23 **Women's Tennis:** UNLV vs. University of New Mexico. Noon. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.

26 **Chamber Music Southwest:** Kelley Mikkelsen. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

26 **Women's Tennis:** UNLV vs. Kansas. 1pm. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.

CALENDAR

28 **Women's Tennis:** UNLV vs. Kansas State. 1pm. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.

28-31 **Nevada Dance Theatre:** *La Luna Gitana*. March 28 & 29, 8pm; March 30, 2pm & 8pm; March 31, 2pm & 7pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.

30 **Women's Tennis:** UNLV vs. Washington State. Noon. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.

31 **Concert:** Musical Arts Society. 3pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

April 1996

11 **Community Concert:** Khenany. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

11-21 **University Theatre:** *Ring Around the Moon*. April 11-13 & 18-20, 8pm; April 14 & 21, 2pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.

12 **Men's Tennis:** UNLV vs. Oregon. 1:30pm. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.

12-27 **Alumni Trip:** The Downunder - Australia and New Zealand. 895-3621.

13 **Concert:** Nevada Symphony Orchestra. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

13-21 **Alumni Trip:** The Majesty of the Sea, Western Caribbean cruise. 895-3621.

14 **Men's Tennis:** UNLV vs. Texas Tech. 1:30pm. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.

15-19 & 22-26 **Exhibit:** Master of Fine Arts Exhibit. Weekdays, 9am-5pm. Donna Beam Gallery. 895-3893.

18 **Ceremony:** Honors Convocation. 10am. Artemus Ham Concert Hall.

Music Department: Gala Performance. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

19 **Music Department:** Sierra Winds. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

20 **Music Department:** Desert Winds Invitational Band Festival. 8am. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

Women's Tennis: UNLV vs. San Diego State. Noon. Fertitta Tennis Complex. 895-3207.

21 **Music Department:** University Musical Society Orchestra. 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

23 **Master Series:** Bolshoi Ballet Ensemble. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

23 **Music Department:** Collegium Musicum. 7:30pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.

25 **University Theatre:** *110 in the Shade*. April 25-27 & May 1-4, 8pm; April 28 & May 5, 2pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.

26&27 **University Dance Theatre:** Department of Dance Arts. April 26, 8pm; April 27, 2pm & 8pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.

27 **Master Series:** Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

May 1996

3 **Music Department:** Sierra Winds. 8pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.

5 **Music Department:** UNLV Wind Symphony. 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

7 **Music Department:** Jazz Ensemble I. 8pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.

9 **Exhibit:** Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibit. Weekdays, 9am-5pm. Donna Beam Gallery. 895-3893. (thru June 7)

Dance Concert: Utah Contemporary Dance Theatre. 8pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.

18 **Music Department:** Bolognini Scholarship Concert. 7pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.

Concert: Las Vegas Gamble-Aires. 2pm & 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

24-26 **Nevada Opera Theatre:** *Carousel*. May 24 & 25, 8pm; May 26, 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.



.....
Veryovka Ukrainian National
Dance Co.
A Family Affair
March 12



Events are subject to change/cancellation.

CLASS NOTES

'60s

Betty E. Luttrell, '64 BS Education, was a member of the first graduating class at UNLV. She retired from the Clark County School District in 1982. She taught at Vegas Verdes Elementary School for 24 years.



Kathleen Leonard Magee, '69

Kathleen Leonard Magee, '69 BS Education, '76 Master of Education, was one of the 1994 recipients of the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards. She received \$25,000 as part of the award. Magee teaches at Crestwood Elementary School, where she works with academically at-risk students as part of the federally funded Title I program. Employed by the Clark County School District since 1969, she taught at Mitchell Elementary School in Boulder City for 25 years. She is also a part-time instructor at UNLV.

'70s

Ron Hickman, '70 BS Business Administration, founded and manages the insulation division of Dean Roofing Co. The company, which designed and installed the fire containment system on the exterior

window walls of the Luxor Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, is expanding into land development and custom home building.

Ethel Ann Barina, '72 BA Social Work, is a counselor at the Turning Point Foundation in Ventura, Calif., where she works with the homeless and with the mentally ill. She lives in Santa Paula.

Jim Farnham, '74 BS Education, is vice president and general manager of Wico Gaming Supply Corp. Before returning to Las Vegas, he spent 16 years in Reno as vice president of sales for Paul-son Dice and Card Inc.



Jim Farnham, '74

Sandra L. Quinn-Musgrove, '75 BA Political Science, '76 MA Political Science, is an associate professor of political science and public administration at Our Lady of the Lake University of San Antonio. She is the author or co-author of *America's Royalty: All the Presidents' Children*, *Texas State Government: Its Moral Foundations*, *Auctions for Amateurs*, and numerous other books and articles. For the past 12 years she has written a weekly newspaper column on a variety of topics.

Alma Garcia Vining, '76 Master of Education, was chosen as one of the recipients of the 1994 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards. She received \$25,000 as part of the award. Currently the principal of Lake Elementary School, she has been with the Clark County School District for 23 years. During that time she has taught at Sunrise Acres and Diskin elementary schools and

has served as assistant principal at Heard, McCaw, Bartlett, Herron, and Ira Earl elementary schools.



Alma Garcia Vining, '76

Clifford J. Klinkhammer, '78 MS Counseling, is director of corporate human resources for SuperPawn, a chain of pawn shops that is preparing to expand nationally.

'80s

Kevin J. Brooks, '80 BS Hotel Administration, has been employed by Hyatt Hotels since graduating from UNLV. He currently serves as director of human resources for the East Bank Club, a health and recreation club, in Chicago. Previously, he served as the human resources director at the Hyatt-Schaumburg. He lives in LaGrange Park.

Kristine R. Vandermark, '80 BS Business Administration, '86 MS Counseling, is doing a two-year post-doctoral fellowship in neuro-psychology at Madigan Army Hospital in Tacoma, Wash. She recently completed a doctoral degree in clinical psychology at Pacific University in Portland, Ore. While pursuing that degree, she did an internship at Western State Hospital in Tacoma.

Steven G. Byan, '83 BS Hotel Administration, is the food and beverage director at the Beverly Rodeo Hotel

in Beverly Hills, Calif. He lives in West Hollywood.

Albert Young, '83 BA Criminal Justice, is a sergeant with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. He works at the Clark County Jail and has been with the department for 20 years.



Albert Young, '83

David Brundage, '84 BS Business Administration, is an American Express financial planner in the Hurst, Texas, division. He was promoted to the National Silver Team, an advanced financial planning group. He lives in Grapevine.

Charles C. LoBello, '84 BA Psychology, received a law degree from Pepperdine University Law School in 1988 and a master's degree in tax law from Georgetown University in 1992. He is now in private practice in Las Vegas with his brother, **Mark A. LoBello**, '87 BS Business Administration.

Steven Segal, '84 BS Hotel Administration, owns an advertising agency in Englewood, Colo., that specializes in business-to-business marketing. His work has been featured in *USA Today* and in *Inc.* magazine. He lives in Littleton.

Thomas J. Smith, '85 BA History, received a master's degree in Library Science from Indiana University. He works as a reference librarian for the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District. He is co-editor and compiler of the recently published *Nevada Funding Directory*, which lists funding sources for non-profit organizations.

CLASS NOTES

Cynthia R. Dietrick, '86 AA Nursing, is a psychiatric registered nurse and case manager at Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services. She has been with the agency for eight years. Previously, she worked at University Medical Center.

William H. Finnegan, '87 BS Hotel Administration, is corporate vice president and division control officer for the central division of Paine Webber.

Donald Davis, '88 BS Hotel Administration, is general manager of Houston's restaurant in Rockville, Md. He lives in Bethesda.

Scott J. Smith, '88 Master of Education, is athletic director for the Wichita (Kansas) Public School District. He is also completing a doctoral degree in sport management at the University of Missouri.

Jody Tarchione, '88 BS Hotel Administration, is the director of sales for USA Hosts Destination Services. The company creates

themed productions, operates customized tours, and provides citywide transportation.

Sulaiman S. Pradhan, '89 BS Hotel Administration, is the banquet manager for the Red Lion Hotel at Los Angeles International Airport. He has been with the hotel for five years, working in a variety of food and beverage management positions.

'90s

Joseph Michael Bellos, '90 MA History, is a special education teacher at Chinook Middle School, which is part of the Highline (Washington) School District. He lives in Federal Way.

Michael Leitner, '90 BS Hotel Administration, is the corporate chef for Grisanti's Inc. He lives in Denver.

Robert J. Ringle, '90 BS Business Administration, is co-owner, co-publisher, and business manager of *Scope* magazine, a guide to the Las Vegas music and cultural scene.



Laura E. Worthington, '90

Laura E. Worthington, '90 BS Business Administration, is a Realtor with Americana Group/Better Homes and Gardens. She has been with the company for eight years.

Susan Lynn Konopka-Reif, '92 BA Psychology, is a director of the Pacific Cetacean Group, a non-profit marine mammal research organization based in Moss Landing, Calif. Her job

involves research projects studying the bottlenose dolphins in Monterey Bay and the California sea otters in Elkhorn Slough. Previously, she worked as a researcher for the humpback whale project at the Kewalo Basin Marine Mammal Lab in Hawaii. She lives in Capitola.

Ingrid Stewart, '93 MS Mathematics, is a mathematics instructor at the Cheyenne campus of the Community College of Southern Nevada.

Attention Alumni — The UNLV Alumni Association offers a variety of social and cultural activities. For more information or to join the association, call 895-3621.

Please be patient! Because of the popularity of the Class Notes section, UNLV Magazine cannot use every entry as soon as it arrives. If the information you have submitted for a Class Notes entry becomes outdated, please submit a new entry and indicate on the form that it is a replacement.

We'd • Like • To • Hear • From • You!

We would like to invite all UNLV alumni to submit information about themselves to *UNLV Magazine* for inclusion in the Class Notes section. Please fill out the form below completely, type or print clearly, and avoid abbreviations. Also, please supply home and office telephone numbers so we can reach you if there is a question about your entry. We encourage you to submit a black and white photograph of yourself to accompany your Class Notes entry.

Name _____

Year Graduated _____ Major _____ Type of Degree(s) _____
(e.g., Bachelor of Arts, Master of Science)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Office _____

Career or Personal Information _____

Entries should be mailed to: UNLV Class Notes, University News and Publications, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Box 451012, Las Vegas, NV 89154-1012

Beast

continued from page 11

if he wants to observe a Komodo closer to home, he must travel to the San Diego Zoo.

But Reiber doesn't keep all of his eggs in one basket either. His studies of the Komodo dragon have led quite naturally into his research on another reptile, one indigenous to the Las Vegas area: the endangered desert tortoise.

"The reason for working on them really stems from the Komodo dragon work in that they are such different eggs," he says, comparing the leathery shells of the Komodo eggs to the more brittle eggshells of the tortoise, which are similar to chicken eggs. And, while the dragon eggs apparently can tolerate considerable extremes in conditions, they would have a hard time in Southern Nevada's exceptionally arid climate in which the tortoise eggs thrive.

"If you took a Komodo dragon egg and put it in a Las Vegas environment, it would not hatch," Reiber says. "It would dry up and blow away. If you put a snapping turtle egg [the subject of one of Reiber's earlier studies] in the Las Vegas environment, it wouldn't hatch. Yet these desert tortoises — their eggs sit in the air, and they don't lose water. This capability to conserve water is unique."

As with the dragons, Reiber is trying to discover how the tortoise egg's cardiovascular system handles incubation conditions. "We are looking for optimal hatching conditions, but also how the cardiovascular system deals with such a dry environment. Is the egg dehydrated proportionately to other reptiles' eggs, and if so, does it have an effect?"

Yet another subject of Reiber's research is the crayfish, specimens of which he collects in the Flamingo Wash, not far from the UNLV campus. Reiber focuses on newly hatched crayfish, so tiny

and transparent they are barely visible in the tanks that line his lab in the Juanita Greer White Lifesciences building.

Although the techniques for studying the crayfish hatchlings differ from those used to analyze reptile eggs, Reiber's objective is still to measure cardiovascular pressures and flow rates in an effort to discover how the system works. When does the heart start to beat? What effect does the oxygen supply have on the developing system? What role does the cardiovascular system play in regulating development?

Reiber would be the first to acknowledge that while he might find a greater number of subjects nearby for his work on the crayfish and the tortoise, they can't compete with the Komodo dragon when it comes to generating interest in his research. The dragon would win hands down every time in a contest gauging public appeal, he notes.

That is, of course, unless the contest were held on the island of Komodo. ■

Temporary Fix

continued from page 15

insurance now that employers have pulled back and have created another kind of arrangement for employing their staffs?

"Does it mean that we're just going to have laissez-faire capitalism 1890s-style? Or does it mean that the government is going to have to stand up and

take a role and say, 'Look, employers, we're going to require you to prorate benefits,' or 'You're just going to have to offer these people the same benefits you offer everybody else.'"

Or does the government step in and provide universal health care coverage as President Clinton has proposed?

In short, Parker says, "We've got a really big problem on our hands."

But he doesn't believe that either American employers or workers are at

the point of recognizing the severity of the situation. Therefore, a turn away from hiring temporary employees is unlikely, particularly within the next five years, according to Parker.

In the meantime, he says, corporate America would be well-advised to consider his admonitions. "Maybe some farsighted chief executive officers will say, 'Look this is hurting us more than it's helping us.' Maybe then we'll see some changes." ■

Therapies

continued from page 18

enable Sabo to determine how much money was actually spent over the course of a year, how much was covered by insurance, and how much patients were willing to spend on specific alternative therapies.

In the meantime, Sabo and her coauthors of the study — Vicky Carwein, the former dean of the College of Health Sciences, and health care administration professor Mary Patterson — were invited to present the results of their investigation last fall at the Eighth Annual Conference of the Association of Nurses with AIDS in Boston.

Sabo is pleased that her research

efforts are adding to the small but growing body of research on HIV-infected patients.

"When you're dealing with people who have a chronic illness, who must have repeated contact with a physician or sometimes with a number of physicians, the more information a physician has concerning a patient, the more they can individualize the care." ■



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Faculty, regents, alumni, several former UNLV presidents, and other dignitaries joined in the processional for the inauguration of UNLV President Carol C. Harter, held Oct. 21 at the north end of the campus academic mall. See inauguration story, page 3.

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