

Professor resigns from national Sierra Club post

by SCOTT CAMPBELL

Richard Sill, assistant professor of physics at UNR, has resigned from the National Board of Directors of the Sierra Club. In a letter of resignation sent to the president of that organization, he cited two reasons for his action: A desire to remove "the potential conflict of interest that may exist between my position as Chairman of the Environmental Studies Board (ESB) at UNR and my position on the Sierra Club board of directors," and "my long standing dissatisfaction with the procedural direction the Club seems to be taking."

Referring to the problem of conflict of interest, Sill said, "Unfortunately there is a pervasive distrust of the Sierra Club by the public in Nevada . . . people with whom I must deal as ESB Chairman hold the opinion that the Sierra Club changes, disregards, or invents facts to reflect its own point of view." He went on to say that any information that he released as ESB

chairman would be considered biased by many, as long as he stayed on the national board. "Some even feel I cannot be a Sierra Club director without attempting to make ESB a club arm," he wrote.

The remainder and bulk of the letter addressed itself to Sill's dissatisfaction with the manner in which the Sierra Club is being run and the "procedural direction" of the organization. "I am disturbed that points of view within the Club conflicting with those of the Club's establishment have been ignored and even suppressed and that important decisions have been made by the Club hierarchy in secrecy or by fiat . . . I believe very strongly that the Club must be a democratic volunteer organization with power lying in the hands of the members."

Sill said he had worked for five years as a director attempting to get the National Board to reform itself, to make it more responsive to divergent viewpoints,

but had come to the conclusion the reform would not occur. "I reluctantly recognize the parallels which exist in Sierra Club and U.S. executive and administrative practices at the present time," he said.

Sill said the individual members of the Sierra Club have become steadily less important in the eyes of the "brass," even though, "the ultimate political and functional strength of the Club has always been its active volunteers."

Other issues Sill is concerned about, not just about the Sierra Club, but about the ecology movement as a whole and the environmental and political future of the United States, will be dealt with in detail in an upcoming Sagebrush article.

A related story concerns the Feb. 5 Reno Evening Gazette's front page article of Sill's resignation. In his resignation letter, Sill said his efforts as chairman of the Sierra Club's Pyramid Lake Task Force, which attempted to "develop objective facts and attempt to solve the root problems of the bitter (Pyramid Lake)

controversy," have been overlooked by the Nevada public, because "the report and proposal comes from the Sierra Club with its 'known' tendency to ignore or distort facts."

In the Gazette article, the quotation marks around the word "known" were left out.

A letter to the editor sent by Sill to the Gazette said, "What I said there and throughout the letter (of resignation) was that many people are under the impression that the Sierra Club distorts facts, which is a very different thing from accusing the Club of distorting facts. Indeed, I believe that the truth is far more often on the side of the Club than on the side of those we oppose." Sill's letter has not yet appeared in the paper.

He also said the article implied that he was no longer chairman of the Pyramid Lake Task Force, which is not the case, as his resignation from the board does not affect his status on the Task Force.

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ERA before Legislature

Pressure continued to grow this week for approval of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution, now being considered by the Nevada Legislature. Washoe and Carson City Democratic organizations endorsed the amendment and hearings before a joint legislative committee were dominated in numbers by pro-ERA speakers.

ERA has been approved by 23 state legislatures; 14 more approvals are needed. It provides that "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

The two Democratic county groups which supported ERA with unanimous resolutions were the Washoe County Young Democrats and the Carson City Democratic Central Committee. The only opposing political position was taken by the Sparks Young Republicans, who unanimously voted against approval.

Tuesday's legislative hearings on ERA began at 9:30 a.m., and lasted, with a break for lunch, until 3:30 p.m. Although proponents of ERA clearly outnumbered opponents, those opposing were better organized, apparently by a national group called Happiness of Women (HOW) which

had some out of state speakers present. A group of high school students were installed in a third of the visitors gallery where, after each opposing speaker finished, they began a rhythmic applause cycle to keep the applause going as long as possible. Speakers were alternated all day long between proponents and opponents of ERA, and when those opposing it ran out of speakers, their children were sent in. Nevertheless, those in favor outlasted them.

There were a few dramatic moments. One mother of two daughters became tearful at the end of her testimony and told the committee members that rather than see her daughters live under ERA, "I would rather see them in their grave!" This brought a statement by a later proponent about stage-managed tears and a third statement by another proponent defending the woman. One Las Vegas woman testifying on the behalf of the National Organization of Women (NOW) lumped the opponents of the amendment together with the American Communist Party and the John Birch Society, bringing groans from both sides. And after an opposing speaker warned the legislators that if they voted to approve ERA they would

photo by dennis myers



Legislative committee hears testimony on the Equal Rights Amendment.

"have to do your own dirty dishes and dirty clothes," both sides applauded the idea.

A light moment was provided by Dr. John DeTar, former head of the Reno John Birch Society, who said the amendment represented government encroachment into the private lives of citizens. Offering an example of such encroachment, he told the committee that "Our schools, including some of our Nevada schools, are literally teaching our children to fornicate." Laughter from both groups rolled across the room, which the chairman had to gavel into silence. After another opponent said that "Equal pay for equal work is a reality" without the amendment, the chairman had to use his gavel again to silence skeptical groans.

Among those testifying at the hearing were former Assemblywoman Mary Frazzini, who favored ERA; Assemblywoman Margie Foote, who opposes it; Dan Hansen, 1970 American Independent Party candidate for governor, opponent; Jeff Mennicucci, Sagebrush columnist, opponent; Ralph McMullen for the Sparks Young Republicans and for the AFofL-CIO, opponent; and Dennis Myers for the Washoe County Young Democrats, proponent.

The committee will hold more hearings in Las Vegas before sending a recommendation to the legislature.

Reaction to the hearings was mixed, and one assemblyman, Alan Glover, said he felt the testimony raised more questions than it answered.

Editor and manager reinstated by Board

The editor and business manager of the Sagebrush were reinstated without sanction by the Publications Board following an hour-long hearing Wednesday. The two students, Buddy Frank and Barbara Raymond, were suspended by the Board last Wednesday following the publication of an advertisement for a sexually stimulating device.

The hearing was held to determine if Frank and Raymond were in violation of their contract with the ASUN. Legal advisor to the ASUN, Gary Silverman, advised the Board that they must judge whether or not the editors' decisions or actions had placed the Sagebrush publication in jeopardy, if their past ac-

tions had placed the paper in jeopardy and whether or not the Board felt that their future actions might place the publication in jeopardy.

Silverman issued the opinion on the specific area which the Board must concentrate in a closed session after the hearing audience began to question the Board's right to exercise censorship or pre-publication restraints.

The hearing room was crowded as approximately 50 persons filled the Ingersoll Room for the Publications Board's decision.

On-campus Senator Scotty Turner said, "We're not children any more, we

should be able to read what we want to read." Graduate student Hank Nuwer was concerned with criteria for published material saying, "How do I know whether or not material I originate for the Sagebrush might jeopardize my job or standing at the University?" Fran Feinhandler said she disapproved of the ad, but "I feel that no one should be denied the right to read it if they choose." Dennis Myers, a Sagebrush writer said, "The case should be judged on the merits of the case, not on its effect on the state legislature."

Board member Mark Burrell verified that the Board was concerned with the legislature and particularly the Ways and Means Committee, since "it has a direct

concern with our lives as students." Editor Frank agreed saying, "My greatest error was poor timing, running the ad the day before the Ways and Means Committee was to hear President N. Edd Miller's budget requests."

Following his reinstatement, both Frank and Raymond were pleased and wanted to get the paper back to normal as soon as possible. Frank said, "I feel it is important to have a good newspaper, and will try even harder now that we have such an increased readership in the state." Both the editor and business manager told the Board that they would not be able to assume responsibility for the paper until the Tuesday issue due to deadline requirements.

Legislative Report



by Pat Murphy

The Equal Rights Amendment was discussed at length Tuesday in a joint Senate Judiciary and Commerce Committee hearing. Beginning at 9:30 a.m., the hearings continued into the early afternoon. Opponents and supporters of the amendment were on hand to make various rational and some totally irrational presentations to the legislators.

Many legislators have not yet decided how to vote on the resolution calling for ratification of the amendment. Assemblywoman Mary Gojack feels passage of the resolution would provide a "true law of clarification of the rights and responsibilities of women." Gojack feels it is a misunderstood piece of legislation and many of the arguments against it are exaggerations. Assemblyman Robert Barengo, who represents much of the University in his district, stated he has received a large number of letters urging his support of the resolution. Barengo also pointed to last week's report from the Labor Commission confirming wage and promotion discrimination by some casinos against women as an example of the need for an up-date in such laws.

The possibility of a law school being funded by this session of the Nevada legislature is becoming more of a reality. The support in Clark County for a law school has been underestimated by many, especially by those here in Northern Nevada. Assemblyman Jack Schofield, a Las Vegas Democrat, has prepared much of the pre-session material pointing out the need for a law school in Nevada. The result of his and other efforts was witnessed in the approval by both houses of the resolution calling for a feasibility study on the law school. The study, to report its findings during this session of the legislature, will direct its attention to the need and cost for a school in Nevada.

The Senate and Assembly Education Committees have set Feb. 13 as the date for a public hearing on the proposal. It is anticipated that various individuals and groups will be on hand to offer support for a law school.

UNR students are encouraged to participate in the hearings. UNR supporters hope to point out the obvious advantage of having a complete law school library and adequate lecture rooms available at the National College of Juvenile Court Judges Building, located at the north end of the Reno campus. Their argument is sound. One of the major expenses encountered by a new school is that of a law library. Nevada Supreme Court Justice David Zenoff is one of the strong supporters for a law school in the state, and he feels confident of getting one funded during this session.

The law school supporters from Las Vegas have directed attention to UNR's decreasing enrollment rate to support their position of Clark County having the population and community support to sustain a law school. Assemblyman Schofield hopes to have enough money pledged for the construction of a law library in Las Vegas to offset the UNR library advantage. Schofield sees the law school as a real priority for this session and he feels the creation of such a school will greatly enhance Nevada's image elsewhere. If indeed a law school is funded, its supporters envision evening courses beginning as early as next September, with day courses starting by the fall of 1974.

The University of Nevada appears to have survived last week's series of Senate and Assembly Committee meetings. Only once during the proceedings was there a reference to the UNR Sagebrush ad which had sparked some controversy. At that point, President N. Edd Miller apologized for the incident, and, after limited discussion, the topic was not publicly pursued by the legislators.

A note of appreciation should be extended to those students, legislators and administrators who handled themselves admirably throughout the difficult paper controversy.

Century 21
The Train Robbers
Red Sun, 8:35

Century 22
Lady Sings the Blues, 8:30
Play It Again Sam, 7:00, 11:00

Midway I
3 in the Attic
3 in the Cellar
99 Women
The Swappers
Opens 6:45

Midway II
Shaft
Shaft's Big Score
Opens 6:45

El Rancho
Everything You Always Wanted
to Know About Sex
T. R. Baskum
The Marriage of a Young Stock-
broker
Opens 6:45

Majestic
The Poseidon Adventure, 1:00,
5:40, 10:20
It's A Mad, Mad World, 3:00,
7:40

Granada
Jeremiah Johnson, 1:00, 4:50,
8:45
Sometimes A Great Notion, 2:50,
6:45, 10:30

Cinema I
Avanti, 1:00, 5:30, 10:00
Hickey and Boggs, 3:30, 8:05

Cinema II
Fiddler on the Roof, 1:20, 4:50,
8:15

Crest
Deliverance, 2:58, 6:38, 10:18
Prime Cut, 1:15, 4:55, 8:35

Keystone Cinema
Fritz the Cat, 7:00
Beyond the Valley of the Dolls,
8:20

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Announcements

Today
2-5 p.m.—Personnel orientation. Hardy Room,
Student Union.
3-5 p.m.—Ad Hoc committee. Truckee Room,
Student Union.
6-10 p.m.—Campus Crusade for Christ. Travis
Lounge, Student Union.
6:30 p.m.—Chinese New Year celebration,
sponsored by the Asian American Alliance.
The Center.
7-9 p.m.—Nevada sky divers. Las Vegas
Room, Student Union.
7 and 10 p.m.—University theatre: "Don Juan
in Kansas." Church Fine Arts Theatre.

8 p.m.—Film: "Sailing the South Seas."
Thompson Education Building.
8:15 p.m.—La Traviata—opera. Pioneer
Theatre Auditorium.

Saturday
7 and 10 p.m.—University theatre: "Don Juan
in Kansas." Church Fine Arts Theatre.
8:15 p.m.—La Traviata—opera. Pioneer
Theatre Auditorium.

Monday
8 p.m.—John Denver concert. Centennial
Coliseum.
Washoe County Young Democrats will meet at
the Center for Religion and Life on Wed-
nesday, Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m. Among items on
the agenda will be election of officers,
constitutional changes, and consideration of
the Thailand Petition as a resolution. New
members needed and very welcome.

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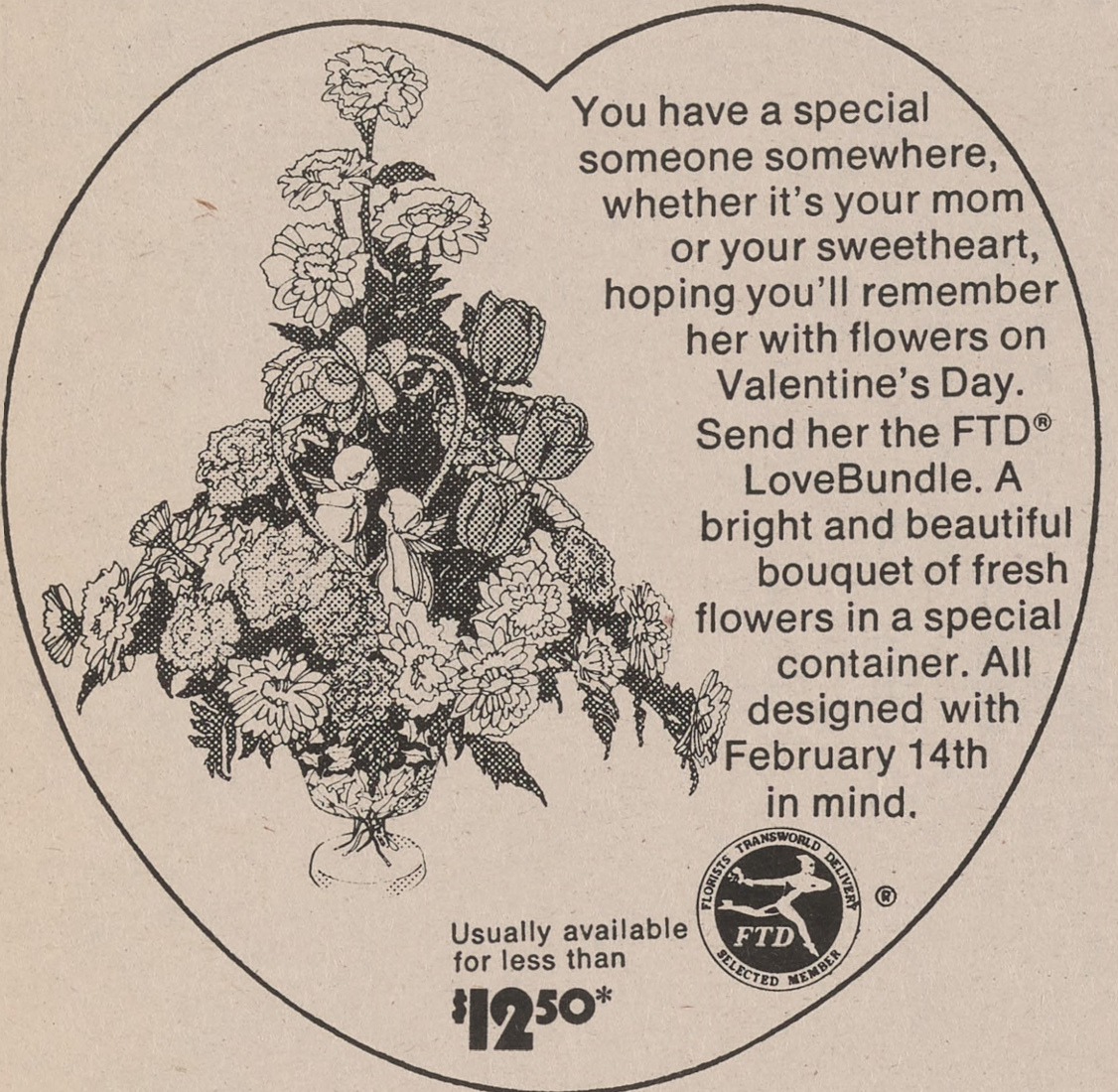
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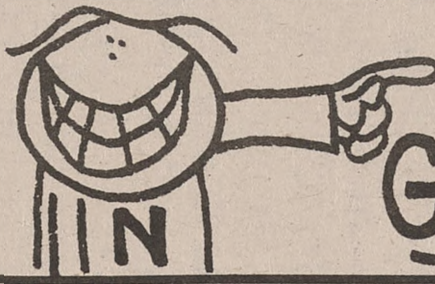
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Notice to the University Public

On January 17, 1973, I resigned my seat as a member of the National Board of Directors of the Sierra Club. As inevitably happens my letter and intent has been misinterpreted particularly by those who have not seen the letter in its entirety.

The local press chose to give my resignation front page attention but in the process made a minor typographical error that happens to convey a seriously erroneous impression of my point of view. Although I immediately requested the error and the sense be corrected, thus far the correction has not been accomplished.

Since the resignation was in my eyes necessitated by my responsibilities toward the University of Nevada and this community, I feel obligated to notify the university community where the original document can be seen.

Anyone interested will find copies of the complete letter in the February issue of the 'Toiyabe Trails' which is sent by the local Sierra Club chapter to each club member. Copies are also filed in the Sparks and Reno branches of the Washoe County Library, in the Getchell University Library (inquire in the government section) and in the Physics-Chemistry Branch Library.

I believe in freedom of discussion and information and in freedom of the press. Democracy demands it although such freedom is sometimes not comfortable to live with. Part of my basic complaint against the national office of the Sierra Club (and it is even more a complaint against many of the club's opponents and the governments themselves) is just such suppression of discussion and information. Such procedures do not solve the problems we face.

My resignation has not affected my chairmanship of the Sierra Club's Pyramid Lake Task Force; since our effort is to solve the problem to the benefit of all Nevada there is no feasible conflict of interest with my University responsibilities.

RICHARD C. SILL
Associate Professor
Feb. 7, 1973

pd. adv.

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UNR Concert Jazz Band

The UNR Concert Jazz Band, directed by Gene Isaef, will play a three-day concert tour of colleges and high schools in Northern California, beginning February 12. The Concert Jazz Band will start the tour at George Whittell High School, followed by concerts at Tracy High School, Tracy, Calif.; Dominican College, San Rafael, Calif.; Sonoma State College; Napa College; and, finally, Napa High School.

On this tour the Concert Jazz Band will feature a guest trumpet soloist, Dennis

Christianson. Christianson was a featured soloist with the Jazz Ensemble and the Concert Band at the U.S. Naval Academy. He is also a staff member of the Lake Tahoe Summer Jazz Camp and is an active professional trumpet player in the Reno-Lake Tahoe area. During this California Tour, the Jazz Band will present a varied program of contemporary music for jazz band including swing, jazz and rock numbers.

The band is a regularly accredited course of the Music Department at UNR.