VALENTINE'S DAY EXTRA

THE PAPER THAT GETS TO THE HEART OF THE NEWS

The aroma of food wafting across the bench
Like the aroma of you dancing across my mind.

The warmth of the sun on my back
Like the warmth of your touch.

The feel of the ocean spray
Against my skin

Like the freshness of your bodies close together.

Ethel Pittman

Students Appear Before Nevada Senate
WNCC Celebrates Black History Week
Associated Student News
WNCC Sports
University turns away WNCC Law Students

by Lori Kennear Briggs

Sagebrush writer

Law enforcement students from Western Nevada Community College (WNCC) may run aground if they try to transfer to the University of Nevada. A recommendation by Ken Braunstein, chairman of the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee to the Academic Vice-President requests that law enforcement courses at WNCC not be accepted for transfer to either UNR or UNLV.

According to Braunstein, some WNCC law enforcement instructors are not qualified to teach college-parallel courses in their field. He cited examples of instructors having degrees in fields other than law enforcement and instructors that did not have a minimum degree.

This is not the first time Braunstein has voiced his dissatisfaction with the WNCC law enforcement program.

"On two prior occasions I have made formal complaints," he said. "The complaints have been heard and no notice was changed. The situation has gotten worse.

Braunstein believes the quality of the UNR parallel program may be affected by this lack of levels of students transferring from WNCC.

"There is high propensity of student failure." Braunstein explained. "WNCC transfers tend to be less properly prepared. My concern is with the students that are getting short changed.

Despite the gravity of Braunstein's recommendation, Ron Johnson, director of Public Safety at WNCC said he was not overly concerned.

"We can handle the issue," Johnson said. "At this point we are not too concerned about it.

Johnson said Braunstein's recommendation is unjustified. According to Johnson, the recommendation was made without knowledge of WNCC. Johnson said he received the information through the "grapevine.

"At the attitude at WNCC is positive," he said. "We provide education to meet the needs of law enforcement students. There isn't any reason why we (UNR and WNCC) can't work together.

Johnson admits that some instructors do not have credentials in law enforcement. However, he believes those experienced in the field have a lot to offer students. He said local law enforcement personnel work closely with WNCC, both in teaching in instructional capacities.

Two WNCC law enforcement students from WNCC both in teaching and instructional capacities.

Students at hearing

Representatives from the University of Nevada System testified the need for supplemental funding over the next two years to the Assembly Ways and Means Committee at an early morning meeting on Feb. 3.

Administrators from all seven of Nevada's institutions of higher learning expressed their concern that the governor's budget would harm the quality of education in the state.

Few questions were asked the representatives by Killingsworth, but Don Mele, chairman of the committee indicated that a subcommittee which will review the total budget will tour the campuses of UNLV and the community colleges.

Mele emphasized that the committee will be interested in hearing from the staff and students on these campuses in addition to those who have already testified.

The Echo welcomes letters to the Editor

To The Echo Editor:

"In this world brothers and sisters there is no standing still in the moving ahead or falling behind." Odie Fields, Reaching the Dropout

The problem of finding ways to encourage youths to complete high school is one of the most crucial issues in American society. The message has been repeated with so much emphasis that the government has invested in programs to rescue former dropouts and to rehabilitate potential ones.

The mass media have joined in, along with social agencies for campaigns for a return to high school.

If you know of a youth who is in school and thinking of dropping out, encourage him to stay in school. To stick it through, and benefit to the fullest their education. It may not seem important to them at this point in their lives, but education is a must, there is only so far you can go without it. Even if a youngster has dropped out it is not too late to return.

The Editor

Jimmie Biktin

The The Western Echo

February 1977

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Black Inventors in U.S. History

In 1939, 50 years after emancipation, a detailed study of black inventors was made by a negro. He was Henry B. Baker, assistant examiner for the United States Patent Office. Despite difficulties in proving all that black people had done Baker found that they had been granted about 1,000 patents during those 50 years.

Some of these patents are as familiar as the potato chip of Hyman Thomas, a Serboga chef, the ice cream of Augustus Jackson, a Philadelphia confectioner and the player pianos of J.H. and S.L. Dickinson. The study also pointed out that black people had invented hundreds of mechanical devices and items we use everyday, including a folding bed, better box, ironing board, detachable car fenders, various models and improved versions of the printing press, elevators, fire extinguishers, steam and railroad engines and the inventor’s favorite, an egg beater.

Outlook for inventive Blacks improved in the twentieth century. One of the most notable was Garrett A. Morgan, who became a hero on July 25, 1916. An explosion had trapped a dozen men in a tunnel 228 feet below Lake Erie. Morgan was called to help with his newly invented gas mask. Wearing the mask, Morgan was able to enter the tunnel and rescue several men. Several years later, Morgan invented the traffic light just as the automobile was becoming a large part of American life.

Almost all innovators have had to overcome hostility and scorn in presenting their ideas to the world. The idea that the black scientist overcame these hurdles, as well as played a significant role in the rise of modern science, adds to the wonder of their achievements. Telling the full story required a large amount of work. In showing our appreciation to the outstanding contributions of the black man in the growth of our nation, these brief paragraphs are a salute to the blacks, as America celebrates Black History February 5.

"UNLESS WE LIVE TOGETHER AS BROTHERS, WE WILL PERISH TOGETHER AS FOES." (MARK LUTHER KING)

Blacks attracted to Technical Jobs

Our recent history is filled with individual black heroes in medicine, engineering and science. Perhaps more important are the statistics which show that technological careers are attracting more and more minority group people at all job levels.

For example, the United States census reports show that in 1966, almost seven million non-white people were employed in professional and technical categories, an increase of more than 100 per cent over 1960.

In the same period, the number of non-white craftsmen and foremen reached seven and one-half million, an increase of more than 50 per cent.

By 1976 the engineering manpower commission predicts there will be 1,980,000 engineers employed in the United States but the country will require almost two million engineers at that time. These figures do not include the nations need for scientists, physicians, dentists, programmers or technical support people ten years from now.

With the general surge of black people into scientific occupation there remain those individuals whose work is extra ordinary today.

B. V. Moore of Chester, Pennsylvania has developed many electronic devices such as tape recorders and listening aids, including receivers for the helmets of pro football players.

Emanuel Moore of Pine Gluff, Arkansas, designed an earth moving machine which can deliver twice as much as conventional excavators.

Tony Helm of Chicago devised an all-angle wrench that he sold so popular that he started his own factory to meet the demand.

Adolph Summs of the U.S. Army Weapons Test Station in Yuma, Arizona, developed an air frame support which replaces the second and third stage engines from rockets. Summs has several patented rocket designs, his work has been reviewed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

And so, the work of American black scientists and technicians goes on, adding significantly to a proud legacy.

Associated Students

What is Student Government

by Mike Bridgesman

All free men. The Constitution is subject to interpretation, including "We the People." ERA will not be an exception. ERA will not be a law that can be enforced by any strict moral code, but making it a part of our Constitution will allow us to fulfill in a common bond.

By Mike Bridgesman

The Constitution is subject to interpretation, so this idea must be conveyed in spirit and not precise wording of ideals.

ERA cannot stop a woman from being a woman, a broad from being a broad, or a lady from being a lady. ERA does not mean a woman must work more or less or that she must accept work she does not want.

All through history, women have known themselves to be a power that cannot be ignored and yet they have allowed themselves to be put in a second class position.

ERA cannot change the battle of the sexes. It is not assured, it will be a victory for men, if it does not plan to open to the students. The students are allowed to participate in discussion if recognized by the chair, but voting on an issue is left up to the senate.

Committees are either created by the president or set up by the senate. The student government has contact with the State Legislature in the form of student lobbyists on specified issues. We students at WNCC now have a direct relationship with the present and future outcome of our school and State.

The student government in the past, has sponsored student picnics, dances, lectures, drama productions, etc.

They have also sponsored a student life insurance program through the United National Student insurance program. They assisted in a survey of student interest in the Spring of 1975 and fund the Western Echo.

Meetings of the senate are once a week and are open to the students. The years only a small number of students have chosen to become involved... and "Students must give it a chance. After all, it is the first time the students are on a central campus."

Felicia McGinn, a student, feels more of a need for students to get involved.

Does the average student not get involved? The student has priorities, self, family and job. The controlling element is time. Since education, family and job are more important, school activities are limited within a twenty-four hour day.

WNCC Celebrates Homecoming

Saturday night, Feb. 9, the Homecoming Buff Dinner Dance and Dance at the Holiday Inn, took place, as scheduled.

Over 100 people attended the affair to take advantage of the more than seven course dinner which included chili dog tips over rice and several different cold salads. The cream cake was the dessert.

After dinner the sounds of Bump and Grind, a popular Reno rock band, began to fill the stage, asking everyone to get up and dance. The band played for more than half hour without a single costume on the dance floor.

Most of the people who came to the dinner-dance were either faculty members or staff. Few students showed up, which made the whole event appear to be more of a teachers’ convention than a student party.

Obviously the faculty members and staff are more concerned about school events than the students, for whom such things are actually intended for in the first place.

If the student government doesn’t let the students about what they would like to have for special events, it will never be known.

Homecoming students to begin showing some interest in student affairs. From now on if you, the student, will get what you want out of the community college.

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MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

by JIMI BUFKIN

Anthony Martin, a WNCC student, keeps in shape by running to school at least three times a week. The distance from his home is approximately three miles. He runs across the freeway, jumps a barbed wire fence, and after that, it's a lot of concentration and mostly uphill all the way to the campus.

Anthony, a Hug High School graduate, was active in track, football and basketball, he plans to run track for WNCC once their track team is organized. It usually takes Anthony 15 minutes to run the distance from his home to school, after class he runs back home again.

Martin stated that he wouldn't suggest the route that he takes for beginning runners since it's mostly running uphill.

Anthony has been running since elementary school, and he considers himself an authority on running to stay in shape.

He would like to give some suggestions to beginning runners: "Don't run on the concrete, it could cause shin splints; it's better to run on dirt or pavement that gives."

Anthony runs to build endurance. He says "The hardest part is topping the hill." Each day he runs that's his goal. Anthony also feels that anybody in shape can do it. "You have to demand it from your body. If you don't you'll stop half way. You have to have the desire to run the whole distance and concentrate on doing just that."

Anthony is studying toward an Associate in Applied Science (Business). His academic goal is to actively seek employment in an executive position; a job where he can use his brain.

He is active in all outdoor sports. He keeps in shape by giving his body a workout every day. In his spare time, he studies. Besides sports, his favorite pass-time is girl watching. With a body like Martin's there are a lot of young ladies watching him too.

Dear Gabby,

We feel it is a needed service to our readers to have an advice column of extreme quality. Gabby, a reporter on our own staff, likes to put his nose in other people's business, and he has a habit of telling people where to go. Gabby is simply qualiﬁed for his job by his long association with the analytical profession. It's our guess Gabby has been under observation for a long time, and now we are giving him equal time.

Dear Gabby,

I wonder if you can help me with a small problem? I have been out of school for a long time and maybe I have a complex or something. In one of my classes the instructor treats me like a fifth grader. I can never get any answers to my questions. I'm too embarrassed to ask if it's just me or if other students feel the same way. What do you think I should do?

Signed
J.S.

Dear J.S.,

I have found that the solution is in the problem. Now do as I say. Take a shotgun to class then ask any question you would like: do you like me? and only shoot him/her if there is no answer. Don't ask the other students because that is like taking a poll, and you know how well those work. You can also try going to sleep, that's what I do.

Gabby

Dear Gabby:

I am a vegetarian. This commitment imposes some social problems when dining out, either at friends' homes or at restaurants. This is especially difficult (or others try to make it difﬁcult at times) when attending a banquet dinner one does not have a choice of menu but is served a pile of prime rib. I try to play down the issue if people are too critical, but talk opening to the genuinely interested. What are your thoughts on handling this problem?

Sincerely,
A. Vagan

Dear A,

Tell your friends what you are, and at the banquet say you're too excited to eat, eat before the banquet so you won't be hungry! I know that this is considered lying. So I suggest you don't take my advice and talk to a vegetarian who knows how to deal with the problem.

Gabby

Dear Gabby:

I think the new campus is great and the student newspaper is better than ever. I hope the students will share the responsibility of keeping our campus beautiful. Right now there is a shortage of trash cans, but all the students throw coffee cups and pop cans after they are empty we can hold down the clutter of tables ash trays. My only complaint is that in the ladies room the sanitary napkins and tampons are higher than anywhere in town. Do you know why?

A concerned Student

Dear Student,

P.S. Is it true that we don't have a change machine because they're afraid we'll rip it off?

Dear SB,

A higher up in the school (who will not associate with this column to protect his name) assures the price of sanitary napkins and tampons will go down a dime. But in the meantime the proﬁts are going to help the students. Also a cash register will be set up to make change. I want to thank you for your ﬁrst letter.

Gabby

A note to our readers:

Word has gotten out that I was to write an ad vice column. Many people didn't know what to call me. Some call me foxy: Others don't call me at all. The rest call me Gabby, you can too. Also one typist is needed the pay is CHEAP!

Gabby

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WNCC Nursing Students Receive Caps

The WNCC LPN class is the first class to have a social function at the North Campus of Western Nevada Community College.

Wednesday, Jan. 26, the LPN nursing class had their traditional capping ceremony. The informal ceremony signified that all eleven students had successfully finished the probationary period for the program.

This is a special class which started in September, 1976 at the Studebaker campus. This was the first class to be combined with the Registered Nursing program. This change was started during the fall semester. This is the first time the two classes have been physically combined.

Most of the students are from the Reno-Sparks area. The students are:

Mary Ann Hawkins
Jeanette Froesser
Carolyn West
Laurie Austin
Laurie Etkieberry
Cindy Fleming
Cindie Olsen
Cosi McIllick
Judith Frank
Carol LaVene
Patli Judge

Carol LaVene, from Redwood City, Calif., lives at Lake Tahoe but stays in Reno during the week and goes home on the weekend. Carol plans to get a job at the hospital in Truckee or Carson City or hopefully in a doctor's office. Carolyn West, another student, plans to work in the Reno area; she feels the one-year program trains the students sufficiently and is looking forward to graduation in July of this year.

Spring semester will consist of lectures and clinical work for the students and a nine week clinical summer session, which will be advanced medical and surgical nursing.

The students will take their state board exams in October. Mrs. Marjorie Goff, the instructor, is confident all the girls will pass their examination.

LOVE IS...

Hands to help others,
Feet to hurry to the poor and the needy,
Eyes to see misery and want,
Ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men,
That is what love is.

Love isn't a reservoir. You'll never drain it dry, it's much more like a return spring. The longer and farther it flows, the stronger and deeper it becomes.

—Edith Cowan

Theatre Arts Now Active

by Ethel Pittman

Theatre Arts Unlimited, originally sanctioned by the Student Government in the Spring of 1972, with Advisor Jeaney Pontrelli, hopes to be active during the Spring 1977 Term.


"You Don't Have to Be a Star to Be in My Show" could well be the theme song of Theatre Arts Unlimited. Any student of WNCC interested in acting, directing, or any technical aspect of drama (television, costume, wardrobe, lights, make-up, props, etc.) should contact Jeaney Pontrelli in her office in the second floor Student Lounge. There is enough interest shown at this meeting, Theatre Arts will produce and present a play during the Spring 1977 Term, with tryouts in early March to open to the student body.

Volunteers In Probation

Mary Templeton, a full time WNCC student, will receive a degree in Associate in Applied Science (Concentration) this spring. After graduation she plans to do a criminal investigation work or work with the local parole and probation agency.

The State of Nevada Department of Adult Parole and Probation has a Volunteers in Probation (VIP) Program. This program started in November, and Mary was the first volunteer to get the award.

Mary chose this major because she is people oriented, and can relate to almost anyone. She has been a volunteer for a year and finds the work a rewarding experience.

Mary is the mother of two boys; she is originally from San Jose, and attended Junior Colleges there. Mary's father was in the military and they lived mostly overseas.

As a VIP, Mary contributed the "extra effort" hour orientation sessions, which consists of the study of probation laws, and the basic concepts of counseling. These sessions are offered once a month with in most localities, an afternoon and evening schedule.

Nationally the Volunteers in Probation movement has resulted in thousands of men and women who are encouraged to turn away from crime and to become useful citizens.

By Jimi Butkin

The training period consists of three 2½ to 3 hour orientation sessions which consist of the study of probation laws, and the basic concepts of counseling. These sessions are offered once a month in most localities, an afternoon and evening schedule.

Nationally the Volunteers in Probation movement has resulted in thousands of men and women who are encouraged to turn away from crime and to become useful citizens.

The training period consists of three 2½ to 3 hour orientation sessions which consists of the study of probation laws, and the basic concepts of counseling. These sessions are offered once a month with in most localities, an afternoon and evening schedule.

Love is the beginning, the middle and the end of everything.

—Leonardo
Wildcats Win Two

Friday, January 28, 1977, 8:00 p.m., WCC’s running offense rolled past IBIERA College, 66-52, at Focklin in California in the last eight minutes of the game, tying a 20-year-old record. Jeff Ward and Gary Green combined for 19 of a total of 50 points between them, while Steve Crick finished 13 rebounds.

Saturday, January 29, the WILDCATS got excellent team play from all its players in the first half, maintaining a 21 point lead over the CORSAIRS (College of the Siskyuans). WCC began to tire in the second half of the game, narrowing down its (21) point spread to a nine point lead. The ending score was 87-78 favoring the exhausted WILDCATS. A decision match.

Sports

Opinion
JOHN ROUSBY

Under the University of Nevada, WCC does not receive a budget of $3.5 million per season for athletic programs. In fact, WCC gets no money at all from the state. All of WCC’s athletic funds come from the students and its amounts to very little.

The only sports that WCC can support are golf and basketball. The WILDCATS basketball team goes on a road trip and spends about eight hours driving to somewhere in Northern California, in a van that was built for nine people, not twelve. But the team members want to play, so they pull up with the disagreeable parts of the crowded van.

The next day might find the team driving down the coast for another four or five hours to its next game site. After all this, the team heads back to Reno, a twelve hour journey arriving at around three or four in the morning.

The University reality has it tough. They once had to drive for a whole half hour, to a game in Malibu, after a very tiresome flight to L.A.

The University football team spends more money in one night at a home game than WCC spends in an entire season! But, then again, I guess the needs of our little college don’t matter, even if we do have about the same number of students as UNR.

Incidentally, if anyone would like to come to a WCC game, it won’t cost $4. It’s free!

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Wildcats

Basketball Schedule
Feb. 19 - Utah College - UNR Gym - 8:00
Feb. 23 - College of the Siskuys - Reno - 8:00
Feb. 25 - College of the Siskuys - Reno - 8:00
Feb. 26 - Nevada College - UNR Gym - 8:00

Intermural Sports

600 students enrolled in program

by Joe Ayarbe

We are very pleased that approximately 600 students have signed up for the Intramural program being offered during Spring semester of 1977. Seven events (individual) make up the Intramural program, with the largest enrollments in bowling (132) and tennis (135).

In order for the program to be successful there must be full cooperation from all participants. Please follow the following rules:

A. General Rules

1. All rounds must be over and a champion decided by May 1.

2. R. It is the responsibility of those playing one another to make sure that the necessary arrangements to play the match (phone numbers have been provided.)

3. You must play the match during the round scheduled.

Rounds are as follows:

Round 1 - Feb. 6 to March 6
Round 2 - Mar. 7 to March 27
Round 3 - Mar. 28 to April 10
Round 4 - April 11 to April 25

Championship Round April 25 to May 1

Weather will pose a problem in tennis and golf only. We have started the golf tournament on March 1 to help eliminate weather problems. With so many participants in tennis we must run the first round from Feb. 6 to Mar. 6.

Tennies, you must get out and play that first round.

4. Winners of matches notify Joe Ayarbe at 786-0711 at BD Gym or 810-2673 at Hilligurty Gym.

5. Championship matches will be held at BD Gym.

6. Basketball and ping pong may be played at the BD Gym.

As Director of Student Activities and Athletics for WCC, he is enthusiastically putting his principles to work. The results of his enthusiasm are evident throughout the program that Ayarbe supervises. Sign-ups for the Intramural Program, which is a new campus sports program this semester, have been overwhelming. More than 500 students will be involved in one of the following activities: basketball, bowling, golf, tennis, ping pong, racquetball and chess.

An interest sheet was provided for students during registration. Those who showed an interest will be contacted during the next few weeks, and encouraged to give the program a personal push by contacting their opponent and then being active about the sport.

Several of the activities will be held at BD Billinghurst Gym on Plemist Street, and the others at appropriate locations in the Reno area. The Intramural Program will be presented in challenge rounds, one per competition.

The final round will begin Feb. 6 and run through March 6. The second round will be completed March 27, the third round will finish on April 10; the final play will be completed by April 24.

Championship games are to be held from April 25 through May 1. On May 6, an athletic and intramural banquet will be held for those participating in the program. Ayarbe is optimistic that the Intramural Program will be a winner because of the vast number of students who showed interest pointing out the need for more organized sports among students on campus.

There are other activities under Ayarbe’s direction at BD Thry include: jai-alai, dance, fencing, modern dance, yoga, beginning volleyball, body contouring and conditioning (coed), and recreational sports. The gym is open every day for students who just want to shoot some baskets or do a stretching exercise including morning hours on weekdays.

PE 122, Jogging, has become another popular class according to Coach Ayarbe. A student can set his own pace or time running keeping the Coach posted through progress reports. The class is open to all levels of ability, and is just as exciting about the quarter miler as those who reach 20 miles.

Students may talk to Joe at his BD Gym office, 786-0711, for encouragement to enter this program for one credit during summer semester.

Joe Ayarbe, a native of New York state, and a graduate of Utah State University, has many successful years of coaching behind him at the high school and community college levels in Carlin, Elko and Las Vegas. This semester he is coaching the WCC golf team.

He looks forward to seeing a sports complex on the campus before he retires because it is more oriented to people than the old gym, he feels confident that extensive public interest in the activities will make the need for a sports complex a reality in the community.
TEXT BOOK FOR SALE, LIKE NEW. $6.00
CENTURY: 21--ACCOUNTING FIRST YEAR COURSE
AUTHORS--BOYN SWANKON PORKER PUBLISHED BY THE NEW YORK SCHOOL PUBLISHING COMPANY
The required workbook is available elsewhere. This book has been used to chapter 12 and is in excellent condition for anyone who can use it.
Coyotes, cats facing a new threat

By DOUG McMILLAN

The lowly coyote has been shot, poisoned, trapped and cursed throughout Nevada history. The bobcat has had it even rougher; he is currently the rage in the fashion capitals of Europe.

And the proud mountain lion is subject to an intensive Nevada Fish and Game Department study in an effort to protect its dwindling species. All three were the subject of a speech Thursday by William Molini, up-and-coming specialist for the fish and game department. He started with coyotes.

Addressing a Sierra Club meeting in Reno, Molini told members of the sudden, new-found glimmer of the coyote — as the fur lining and trim of men's and women's coats.

In 1973, coyote trappers were getting an average of $13.68 per pelt. Last month, coyote pelts were fetching an average of $51 and top hides were selling for as much as $110. Clearly, the coyote's uncustomed popularity is not going to do him much good. He still has to combat the old axiom: He's held by most shepherds and many cattlemen — the only good coyote is a dead one.

And the coyote still has to contend with the federal government which allows him to be shot from airplanes or tempted into snuffing traps which contain a charge of cyanide into his muzzle that kills him in about a minute. This is a quick retribution for any coyote accused by a ranger of being so indiscriminate as to dine on lamb or calf.

The wily coyote has to be doubly wily now that he has a growing enemy, a small army of trappers after his newly expensive hide.

"Believe me," said Molini, "this stimulates trapper interest."

Although the fish and game department's basic charge is to preserve, protect and maintain all wildlife in the state as a natural resource, Molini said the agency is unconcerned about the added pressure on the coyote.

The thrust of wildlife management policies toward the coyote over the last 10 to 20 years "has been to get rid of the animal," said Molini.

The Nevada Fish and Game Commission, a nine-member board which sets policies on all wildlife, still classifies the coyote as "unprotected."

This translates into open season, day and night, year round on the coyote.

"Essentially, the coyote has no protection whatsoever," said Molini. "But it doesn't seem to matter. Coyotes have a unique ability to handle themselves," said Molini. The resilient creatures, he explained, seem to be smarter than other wildlife — withstanding any onslaught.

The major influence on their population is neither predator control nor fur trapping, but rabbits. Coyotes have been decreasing the past five years because the number of rabbits also has been declining.

But the fish and game department is worried about two other species which, until recent time, were discriminatingly lumped into the same unprotected class as the bobcat and the mountain lion.

Bobcats are in the same unenviable situation as the coyote. Their pelts have gone up in value even more dramatically in recent years.

The price of bobcat pelts has risen from an average of $15.35 in 1970-71 to $152 this year, with some bobcats costing as much as $350 apiece.

The reasons for the unprecedented value for both coyote and bobcat can be traced far beyond Nevada to the economies of South America, Alaska and Mexico.

International agreements have banned the killing of the leopard, cheetah and tiger because they have become endangered species.

The resulting vacuum in the natural fur market has been taken over by the bobcat and coyote, Molini said. Their pelts are big fashion items in Europe.

Molini said the fish and game department's experts on fur-bearing animals have watched with alarm as the harvest of bobcats in Nevada increased from 1,421 six years ago to 2,327 last year.

At the same time, the bobcat's principal source of food, the cottontail rabbit, went through one of its frequent, unexplainable down cycles in reproduction.

This year, Nevada officials took a monumental step in the life of the bobcat. They recommended it be re-classified from an "unprotected" species. The action does not ban the trapping of bobcats, but it does give the department more control.

The fish and game commission has established a four-month season on the trapping of bobcats (Nov. 1-Feb. 28), eliminating the former two month season.

Also, trappers going after bobcat have to be licensed for the first time.

Thus the bobcat enjoys a higher status than the coyote. Coyote trappers still require no license.

There are at least 30 trappers with bobcat licenses, but the state has no way of knowing how many trappers are going after coyotes.

As soon as the department gets a more definite reading on the state's bobcat population from their trapping procedures, it can set a quota on the animal, if necessary, said Molini.

But bobcat studies in Nevada will have to wait awhile. The fish and game department's two experts on fur-bearing animals are concentrating on the mountain lion.

The mountain lion, although dwindling in numbers in many areas of the state, still is hunted as a trophy by sportsmen. It also is called as a harmful predator by ranchers.

An intensive bobcat trapping program is underway as a protest against the current mountain lion population in the state.

Last year, the department issued 113 tags.

"To a lot of people, that sounds alarming," said Molini.

But the department's research on the all mountain lions has a prolific 35 percent annual reproduction.

And the quota is quite a change from the early years of the mountain lion management program when up to 461 tags were issued — equivalent to the entire estimated mountain lion population in the state now.

Bobcats, however, bag their trophy. An average of 50 or 60 of the big cats have been taken in the last few years.

Mountain lions killed for livestock "depopulation" also have dropped dramatically — from 100 or 150 a year.

California has a moratorium on the killing of mountain lions while wildlife experts there study a management plan. Molini said he doesn't think they can come up with any plan better than that used in Nevada.

Nor does he think that any western state has a better mountain lion study going than Nevada's. Although the time-consuming and meticulous study is concentrated on only one small area of the big cat's far-flung mountain domain — the Ruby Mountains in White Pine and Elko counties — it is yielding valuable information.

The tentative findings indicate that the mountain lion can hold its own despite trophy hunting and predator control.

Meanwhile, residents are going on a "kill "em all" campaign" in Oregon, Idaho and Montana to protect the bobcat. Utah has a moratorium on bobcat killing while its game officials study their situation.

The Idaho Woolgrowers Association took the surprising step of going on the record in favor of bobcat protection, realizing that if unrestricted the animals, a backlash could develop against the sheep industry.

In Nevada, the Nevada Woolgrowers and Cattlemen's associations passed a joint resolution last fall asking that the bobcat, mountain lion and bobcat be re-classified as an unprotected status. And a bill has been introduced in this session of the Nevada Legislature giving livestock operators the unrestricted right to kill mountain lions.

UGLY, ISN'T IT? These photos were taken at the base of Rattlesnake Mountain. By Dan Wood