

# Jury decision tragic

In a recent rape case in Florida, the jury found the defendant innocent because the plaintiff, the woman, had invited his "advances" by wearing revealing clothing.

Yes, it's true. And yes, it is 1989.

One wouldn't think it, however, by the actions of the so-called jury.

We don't know what she was wearing—but does it matter? Was the alleged assailant wearing tight bluejeans? An open shirt revealing his chest?

Someone should tell the

jury this, but rape is rape. It doesn't matter if the woman is a prostitute or a nun. If she says "no" to a man's sexual advances, that's exactly what she means—"no." The same thing can be argued for a man in an uncomfortable situation.

If a man is wearing a tight pair of pants, does that entitle someone with the right to sexually assault him? Of course not.

It's no wonder many rapes go unreported. At many trials, it's not the alleged assailant that's put on

trial—it's his victim. Her past is fair game, and heaven help her if she's not a virgin.

There's probably not much that can be done for the Florida woman. Her assailant must be laughing his head at the incredible narrow-mindedness and stupidity of the jury.

Only when more people understand that rape really has nothing to do with sex—it is a weapon of control the vehicle of sex is used—will victims of rape get more sympathy and the perpetrators punished as they should be.

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"I'd rather see newspapers with no government than a government with no newspapers." - Thomas Jefferson

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## Small Thinking at UNLV by Evan Blythin

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For 15 of my 20 years at UNLV, I have been campaigning for the presidency of the campus. My campaign has taken shape in a series of letters published in the university newspaper. I have advanced my campaign as a member of the loyal opposition, as one committed to the university without being a complete toad.

My campaign letters generally begin with a critical claim. For example, I would say that right now UNLV is being led by provincial thinking in student, faculty and community affairs.

### Student Affairs

As an example of our magnificence with students, we often point to the Elardi Scholarship program in which Nevada's best high school students are given big bucks to attend UNLV. The scholarships are generous and kind support for Nevada's children. But the guardians of UNLV have not done as well as they might have in their attempt to help Nevada's smartest young people. If we were doing our best, Nevada's children would go to Harvard if that was their dream and their capability.

Further, were we doing our best, the monies would bring more return: Service to the community after graduation, or repayment with interest that could then be used by yet other capable students. In short, we have allowed a ceiling on our children's dreams and a diminished return on our efforts.

The dorms are another example of small thinking: They look more like fraternity and sorority houses than the dorms of a university serving a large and growing cosmopolitan metropolis. If we were more synoptic in our perspective, we

would have gone for Vegas Towers.

Part of the Towers could be dorms, or could be faculty and graduate student rented apartments. Part of the Towers could be run as a model hotel by the College of Hotel Administration. We could sell our current low-rise, ground-eating dorms to the emerging fraternity and the sorority groups at UNLV. Yes, we would, if we weren't thinking so provincially.

### Faulty Affairs

Faculty affairs are a good example of small thinking at UNLV. In particular, the support system is petty to a fine point. The University of Nevada System is publicly funded by a formula that takes into account the number of faculty members relative to the number of students.

But the faculty who move ahead in promotion and merit at UNLV are generally advanced by publication. Further, while the faculty are expected to publish, the UN system provides miniscule support: For instance, the State of Nevada gives its University faculty \$21.00 and change for travel—enough to get to Baker, California (one-way).

The faculty are placed in a double-bind. If they focus on publication, they'll find themselves footing the bill for the research time and travel; if they focus on teaching, they may not obtain tenure or advancement. A good university rewards and supports its established goals of teaching and research.

Oftentimes faculty affairs reveal no rather than little thinking. For almost every year of the past 20, enrollment has grown at UNLV. Every year some president praises

the dedicated faculty who cover the larger-than-expected student body. And well he might; the faculty have subsidized the system I have yet to hear a president suggest that salaries be increased because of extra work. But in one of those rare years when enrollment simply held, all the state's toadies shrilly proclaimed the end of the universe.

Petty systems of support and reward are not the mark of the world-class institution. If the situation is not corrected we will become characterized as a school with one of the best-supported student bodies, and one of the worst supported faculty bodies. We can do better than that, but only if we rise above ourselves.

### Community Affairs

In Nevada, provinciality comes in "Jumbo". Take for example, the North/South split. For years the rubes from the North country have been battling it out with Southern Dudes. The battle has often focused on the University System. As often as possible, the two sides cut the baby in half.

Reno has the older campus and the greater greed, having done its best to book every possible area of study known to human kind. When UNLV gets a new program or building, Reno wants duplicate if not triplicate treatment. Over the years, the folks in the South have gotten a bit jaded about Reno's ongoing

greed. And so, as the South has gotten bigger and gained political power, the two campuses have been equalizing. At the moment, Reno has an aging and declining University. Vegas has a young, proud, and growing University. Zoom zoom.

The problem is that Nevada does not have enough capital to make two great universities. The good news is that Nevada does have enough money to create one very good university system. It would work like this. UNLV will have basketball; Reno will have football. And so forth. Both campuses would offer a general Bachelor's degree but graduate degrees and specialist programs would not be duplicated.

Oh yeah, what a mess, for a while. But when the dust settled, after years of having one or two departments a year make the shift, we would begin to see an incredible university. Imagine putting the UNR and the UNLV engineering programs in one place—we would have something of greater scale and potential than either the North or the South will ever individually.

More Nevada students would need to travel for advanced degrees, but dorms at both ends of the state would solve that problem.

Nevada and Nevada's children compete and cooperate within a world-wide network of various interests. If we are going to survive in this international world of ours, our highest potential, the one we should keep an our eye on, is being a world-class university. Small thinking won't cut it.

I step back and read what I've written and realize that each critique entails a gem of hope: We finally have scholarships of substance; the State does recognize the need for faculty travel and research; we do have a system of dorms. We have solid beginnings.

But still...we are not being our full selves, we are not fully capitalizing on all our resources, we are thinking small, we are thinking provincially. If we wish to be, we can be a world-class university. The question is, can we rise above ourselves? That's what I'd ask if I was the Nabob of UNLV.

