

THE YELLIN' REBEL

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Controversy brews over bidding

By Debbie Tubbesing
YELLIN' REBEL

On May 17, 1990, the nine-member University of Nevada Board of Regents voted to reject moving the University's \$200 million dollar account from Valley Bank of Nevada to Security Pacific Bank of Nevada.

The Regents further voted to reject the March bids for bank services and reopen the bidding process. Those in favor of reopening the bidding process were: Shelly Berkley, Joseph Foley, Dr. Lonnie Hammargren, Carolyn Sparks, and June Whitely.

The vote was recorded just one week prior to the announcement of a \$1 million dollar gift from Valley Bank for the creation of a new academic department for the studies of entrepreneurship and leadership.

In early March, letters of intent to open bidding for banking services were sent to all the banking institutions in the state. The invitation to submit a proposal

stated that all banks interested in bidding must attend a proposal meeting on March 21, 1990. Only representatives from Security Pacific Bank of Nevada and First Interstate Bank of Nevada were in attendance at the meeting.

Some of the regents in favor of reopening the bidding process felt that while Valley Bank was notified of the rules of bidding, the long term relationship between the bank and the university mandated personal communication of the intent of the bidding.

Hammargren said that the staff of Valley Bank was not careful enough when reading the bidding procedures and neglected to send a representative to the mandatory pre-proposal meeting on March 21, 1990. He said that there should have been daily contact with Valley Bank during the pre-proposal bidding process and that discrepancies in communication occurred during this time. Hammargren felt that the desire for "correct procedure" got out of

hand with regards to Valley Bank and the bidding process. He said, "We're looking for what's best overall for the university system instead of how several points of law should have been handled correctly ... we want to get the best system we can."

When asked about the \$1 million dollar gift from Valley Bank to the university, Hammargren stated emphatically that it had no relation whatsoever to the vote.

"My mind was made up. I talked with other people eligible to vote and all of them had made up their mind. After finding out about the gift from Valley Bank during the noon break, no one changed their mind or their vote."

Pam Galloway, director of public information for the University of Nevada System, said that the timing of the \$1 million dollar gift was not ideal in relation to the bidding process. She said that the gift had been in the works for several weeks before the vote and had absolutely nothing to do with

the vote. UNS Deputy Treasurer Jan MacDonald had recommended to the Board of Regents before the vote that they transfer the university account to Security Pacific Bank.

When asked why only two banks participated in the pre-bidding process, MacDonald said that letters of intent had been mailed to all of the banks in the state. MacDonald felt that possibly the other banks could not meet the stringent requirements and needs of the university system.

With regard to the vote, MacDonald stated, "I will comply with the regents and I respect them and their decision."

Chief Executive Officer and

President of Security Pacific, Lyle R. Knight, said that a letter had been written and delivered to the Chairman of the Board of Regents. In this letter, additional information had been given for the regents to consider with regard to the March, 1990 bid.

Knight said he feels rules are established in any bidding process and that all bidders need to adhere to those rules. Knight agreed that the \$1 million dollar gift from Valley Bank had nothing to do with the vote. He said that he is sure that the Board of Regents will do the right thing.

Through his representative, UNLV President Robert Maxon reiterated that the gift had noth-

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ARA wins new food service contract

By J. Anthony Bernardi
YELLIN' REBEL

As of June 29, 1990 Marriott Food Services will no longer be flipping burgers for University of Nevada, Las Vegas students. After 22 years on campus Marriott will be ending its operations at UNLV.

Until 1987, the contract was held by a company called Saga. In 1987, however, Marriott bought Saga and began serving UNLV.

According to Mallick Wightman, director of dining services, Marriott will cease to perform their duties as the sole provider of food services on the UNLV campus on Friday June 29, 1990.

The contract officially ends on June 30, says Wightman. "That will be a day of transition," he said. "We'll be conducting our closing inventories and American Restaurant Association (ARA) will, I assume, be setting their operations."

According to Wightman, some of their employees have opted for jobs at other Marriott facilities, and work sights still others will be considered by ARA.

Marriott has The Residence Inn and The Courtyard, both located on Paradise Road. They also have the food service contract at McCarren International. Other options for their employees include several Las Vegas area gift shops, and a contract with Citibank.

Wightman said, "We've enjoyed being here, and look forward to an opportunity to returning. Dr. Maxson is doing some neat things and it's becoming a more exciting place to be."

Wightman said that he regrets that he won't have the opportunity to open the new dining hall. He says the opening of the new dining hall is going to be a very exciting event.

According to Wightman, ARA will be able to do some things in the new facility that, due to equipment and space limitations, just were not possible to do in the old facility. Wightman said Marriott did have some input on the design of the new dining hall.

Said Wightman, of the reason for the change, "There is a need for change, at this point in time, and the administration decided to make that change."

He added, "Business is business and you have to just roll with the punches and wait for your next opportunity."

In February 1990, the food services contract for UNLV was put up for bid. Several companies submitted proposals, including MacDonalds, and Professional Food Management (PFM has the Food Service Contract at University of Nevada, Reno), but only one was chosen. ARA Leisure Services was that company.

ARA officially takes over on Sunday July 1, 1990, and will begin providing food services on Monday July 2, 1990.

ARA holds the contract for The Las Vegas Convention Authority. This contract includes providing concessions for the Cashman Field Center.

The campus dining services division is independent of that which provides food services to the Las Vegas Convention Authority. Kenneth Hetrick is district manager for the Western Region Campus Dining Services. According to Hetrick, student managers positions are available. He said, also, that they will be instituting an internship program with the Hotel College.

ARA is a nationwide corporation providing food service across the country, including Chicago, and New York City.

ARA has its roots in service-

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Athletic director Rothermel retires

By Richard Crow
YELLIN' REBEL

Dr. Brad Rothermel, University of Nevada Las Vegas Athletic Director, announced his retirement on Wed. June 13, citing ten years of 80 to 100 hour work weeks and a desire to return to teaching as his reasons for leaving.

Rothermel said his retirement is effective as of Dec. 31, 1990 when he will move into a teaching position in the school of health, physical education and recreation in the spring.

University president, Dr. Robert C. Maxson said "Brad has served the university with distinction, integrity and pride and we're certainly going to miss him as athletic director."

"But we'll welcome him as the newest professor on campus" he said.

Rothermel, who came to UNLV in 1980 said "we were in a \$750,000 deficit when I arrived, and we've been in the black every year since."

He said "I'm proud of that, and we've done it within the framework of the rules. Of course, I don't deserve all the credit and I won't accept it. I just formed the direction and said what we'd like to accomplish."

Rothermel said his stepping down had nothing to do with the on going investigation by the NCAA or the recent criticism over a contract awarded by the Big West Conference athletic directors to a Charlotte, N.C., firm.

He said he was not happy with new contract and abstained from voting on the six-year pact



Yell Photo / Matt Dovel

10 YEAR REIGN Sports excelled tremendously under Brad Rothermel's direction.

last month.

During Rothermel's tenure as A.D. he was able to bring all 14 intercollegiate athletic activities to a level of national competitiveness.

"We have won 33 conference championships since we joined the Big West Conference. We have won the only national championship in the history of our program at the Division I level, and we won our only individual NCAA championships during this time," he said.

He said he made his decision to retire on Feb. 17, 1990, and

began discussing the situation with Dr. Maxson three weeks ago.

"Ten years is a long time to be in athletic administration," Rothermel said. "I figure I've put in 100,000 hours and felt it was time to pay back my family for all the times I haven't been able to spend with them."

Rothermel said "I've really given this some thought for some time. Intercollegiate athletics is a very challenging experience and I'm glad to have had the opportunity to serve the school in that capacity, but it's time to let someone else take the challenge."