

## Weaver brings a refreshing change to athletic damage control

When J.R. Rider was arrested Jan. 24 by Las Vegas Metropolitan Police for allegedly obstructing justice outside a Jack-In-The-Box restaurant, the UNLV basketball program faced yet another problem.

This time however, instead of sweeping the problem under the rug only to have it come back and loom larger, or leaving it to be solved in some circuitous, drawn-out manner, it was handled straight forward—above board.

Jim Weaver, UNLV's new athletic director, is the person who took charge of the situation, and he is the person to lead the athletic department into a new relationship with the NCAA. Weaver took a necessary action, declaring Rider ineligible. Pretending the incident never happened would or could have set the university up for repercussions at some later date.

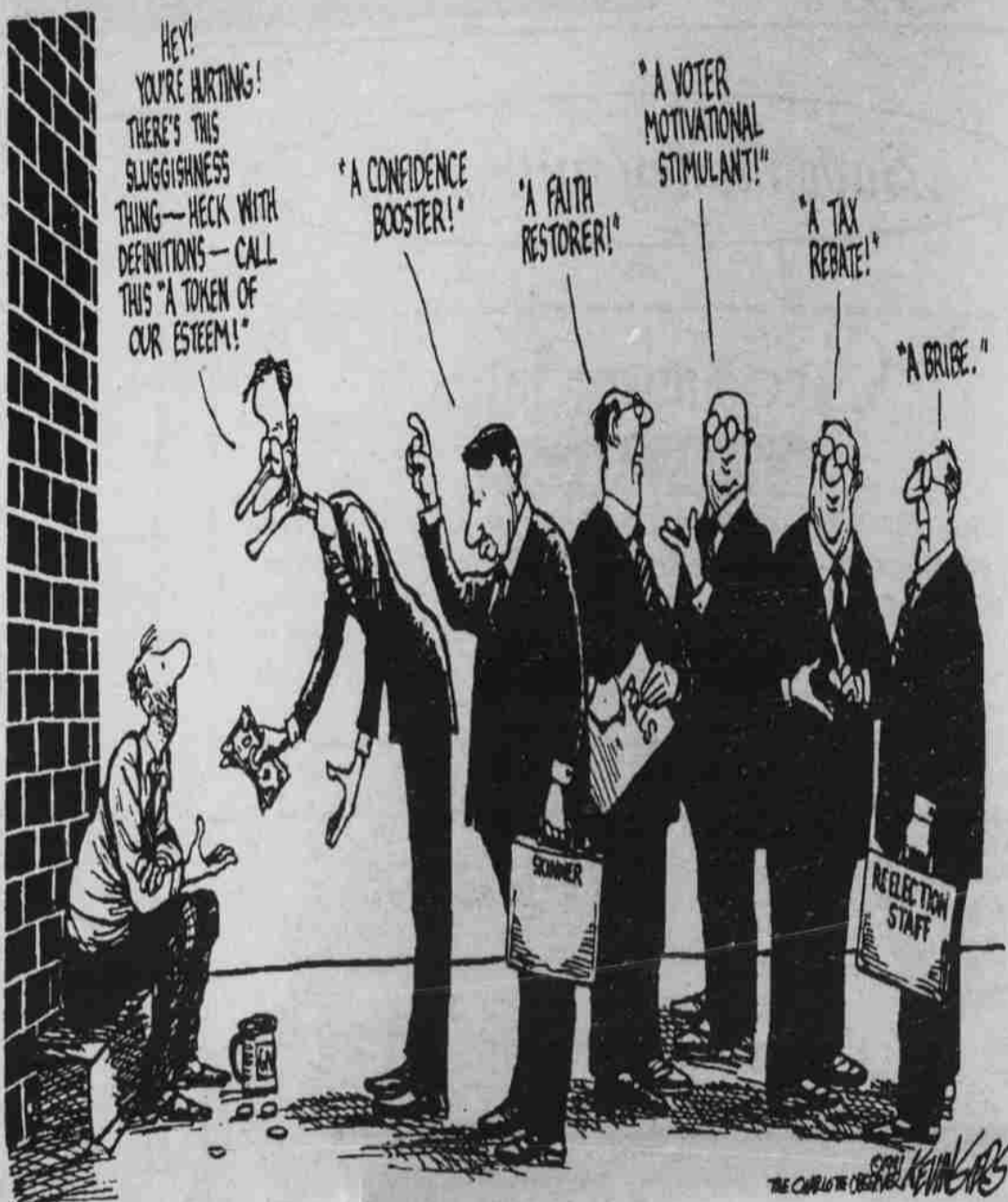
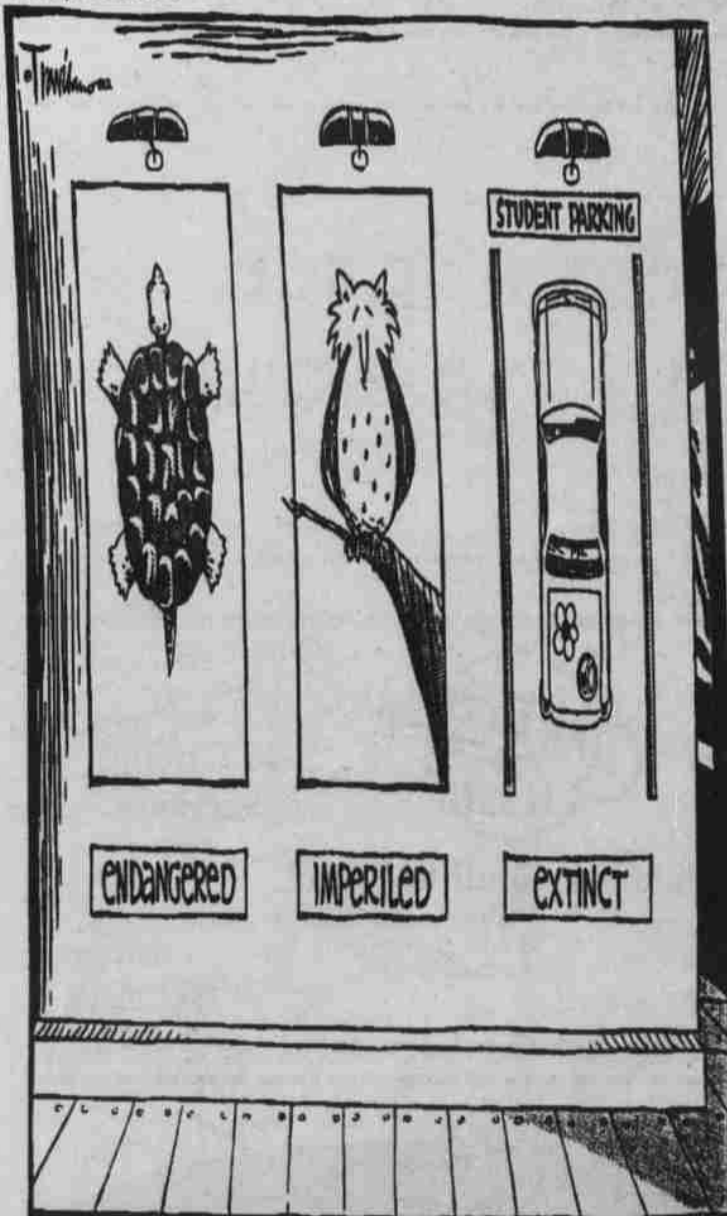
At the same time Weaver suspended Rider, he worked (in contact with the NCAA) to achieve what was best for the basketball program; Rider's reinstatement. As a result, Rider missed no games and the NCAA was kept apprised of the situation.

Obviously, Weaver is not afraid to "grab the bull by the horns" and sort out these problems as they arise.

After years of controversy and alleged violations that have eroded UNLV's reputation, this was definitely a change we needed.

*The above is the opinion of The Rebel Yell. All other articles on the opinion pages reflect the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of The Rebel Yell.*

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## Black History Month may be a joke being passed as an acceptance award

by Kelcey A. West

Being a student of the black culture here at UNLV, I find it utterly degrading that black history is not required as part of U.S. history classes since it is a major contribution to the success of this country.

Recently, I did a survey among 20 white students and found out that only one student could recognize the name Christopher Attucks, the first American to shed blood in the Revolutionary War, but all 20 could identify Booker T. Washington and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. I wasn't surprised by the results because many blacks also tested poorly. In fact, only 12 blacks could identify Attucks, showing that no one is learning black history in school.

Inside many U.S. history textbooks there are few pages

about black history. Today, something must be done to change the history books in order to educate the world about the real history of this country. According to many history texts, blacks were brought here from the jungle, sold into slavery, freed by Lincoln, and later marched on Washington with Dr. King.

What happened in between the 50-year gaps? Is it not true that Dr. Charles Drew, a black physician, invented a method of saving blood plasma? Is it not true that Jan Matzlinger is largely responsible for Nike and Reebok since he invented a machine to connect the upper to the lower sole of a shoe? Is it not true that Dr. Hale Williams performed the first open heart surgery? Since most history texts do not even mention these individuals, one might believe that they are just myths. In

reality, however, these examples are only atoms in the contributions made by blacks to this country.

Hopefully, one day America will realize that a month where schools can play Dr. King tapes over and over again isn't enough. Four hundred years of avoided knowledge can't be learned in one month, especially when the teachers, both black and white, don't know that Egypt is in Africa, and black people are decedents of kings and queens.

The following is a listing of books to educate the mind about Afro-American culture: *MisEducation of the Negro* by Carter G. Woodson, *The Isis Papers* by Francis Welsing, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* by Alex Haley and Malcolm X, *To Be Popular or Smart* by Jawanza Kunjufu and *Roots*.



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