

# Maxson hails UNLV's 'best value' selection

## Dear Students:

In case you missed the news, I thought you'd want to know about two wonderful developments concerning the national perception of UNLV.

First, UNLV has been selected for inclusion in *101 Best Values in America's Colleges and Universities*, a 240-page book published in Bridgewater, Mass.,

by the Center for Studies in College Enrollment and Tuition Issues.

I have also learned that we were selected again this fall—for the fourth straight year—as one of *U.S. News and World Report's* up-and-coming universities in the west. As you may recall, in 1989, when *U.S. News and World Report* first conducted its survey of such institutions, we were characterized as "rising

stars of American higher education." This year, the up-and-comers were designated by 2,527 college presidents, deans and admissions officers at hundreds of four-year colleges and universities around the country.

The magazine concluded its introduction to this category by saying, "For parents and students looking for the hidden gems of academe, the list below is

an excellent place to start the search."

I would like to congratulate our wonderful students on this well-deserved recognition. We're not only a very good value, we're also a very good university.

**Robert Maxson**  
is president of UNLV

## Letters to the Editor



### More readers respond to Berkley snub

I was astonished and dismayed to read that CSUN was recommending which candidates should be elected as regents. Personally, I was astonished by the recommendations. Moreover, I was dismayed that a government body would even attempt such a process.

With regard to the "handpicked" panel's selections, I personally disagree with two of the recommendations. First of all, passing over Shelley Berkley seems incomprehensible. As the first UNLV alumna in 20 years to serve on the Board of Regents, Berkley deserves more respect from her alma mater.

During my two terms as CSUN president, Berkley (a former CSUN President herself) served as CSUN's legal counsel at a rate far below what she could have commanded in the private sector. Berkley is probably the number one advocate of UNLV's interests on the board, and the students of UNLV should recognize when they have a friend on the board.

I also disagree with the panel's failure to recommend Nancy Price. Price was a classmate of mine while at UNLV. After receiving her bachelor's degree, she also went on to get her master's degree at UNLV. After serving as president of the Graduate Students Association, Price went to UNR to get her doctorate degree. In my opinion, Price's experience as a recent student makes her perfectly suited to receive the student's vote.

It is my opinion that Berkley and Price would make excellent regents. Obviously, not everyone agrees with me. That's the democratic process. What really disappoints me is that CSUN is trying to circumvent the political process by having five chosen students recommend who should be the next board members.

The purpose of a student government is not to endorse or recommend candidates for elected office. Student Government should provide the vehicle for students to get involved in events that shape their scholastic and extracurricular lives.

Elections, be it for regent or for president of the United States, impact the lives of UNLV students. Thus, it is CSUN's responsibility to schedule forums and debates between the candidates to allow UNLV's students to choose for themselves who should be elected. To hold a "closed door meeting" and handpick the "student's choice", belittles the students of UNLV.

CSUN should be commended for wanting to know what the candidates stand for and what each will do if elected. However, Student Government should stimulate debate and interest, not make

recommendations. Electing student leaders to recommend other elected officials misses the point of what a student government is all about.

**Kirk D. Hendrick, Esq.**  
CSUN President (1986-88)

This letter is in response to Student Government's failing to endorse Shelley Berkley for the Board of Regents. Their decision misrepresents the students of UNLV.

Regent Berkley is a friend to each and every student on the UNLV campus. She has sponsored many club activities and is always available for support. If a student needs her help, all they would have to do is pick up the phone and call her; and they do. No other regent is that in touch with students.

Each year the Berkley family provides a pre-law scholarship to a deserving student. They do so because they want students to be able to achieve their career goals, not for recognition out of a sense of obligation.

It has taken 20 years to get a UNLV graduate on the Board of Regents. Most people are not aware that a regent is an unpaid position, yet to Berkley it is a full time job (plus overtime). She can often be found eating lunch in the student union and listening to student gripes. She truly understands and cares about the issues that are important to the university students. Berkley has given her entire life to UNLV, and having her on the Board of Regents is like the students having a vote.

Just a note to the "distinguished" panel that conducted the interviews: Maybe you should pay more attention to what Berkley has done for this university because if she should lose the seat on the board, the real losers will be the students.

**Melanie Rosenberg**  
UNLV Alumna

Your article on the student panel's recommendation not to endorse Regent Shelley Berkley was a shock to me!

I read it twice to find why but still could see no reasons on which to base the decision. The story tells me the student body president selected five students to be the judges. They were not required to give their reasons and yet their decisions were "to provide the Las Vegas community with a perspective of who will best serve students' needs." How fortunate that these judges aren't in city or state government, or we'd be in more trouble than we are!

Hopefully, none of these five are in

Student Government. Their actions fall far short of what government in a democracy is meant to be. After re-reading the article, my shock turned to embarrassment.

**Harold H.J. Erickson**  
Emeritus Faculty

### Student senator: 'panel should be applauded'

My name is Kerry Brown and I am the senator for the College of Health Sciences. There are a couple of points I would like to address regarding Student Government and its performance as interpreted by or expressed in *The Rebel Yell*.

Point number one: I would like to congratulate Student Government President Joel Kostman and Nevada Student Affairs Director Mike Kennedy on a successful tuition battle. I am thoroughly pleased with the outcome and Kostman's ability to fight for the concerns of UNLV students. I don't feel this 5 percent increase should diminish what he has accomplished. Senate President Bud Benneman stated it was obvious that they (the regents) were not going to approve another freeze.

"It was obvious we were going to get shot in the arm no matter what. We were able to reduce the caliber from a .357 to that of a pellet gun," said Benneman. Thanks guys, I would rather pay \$58 per credit than \$66.

Point number two: This is about the student recommendation panel for the regents. There were five students, all from different colleges, races, and members of both sexes on the panel. That is a better composition than that of the United States presidential debate. Two upper-class white males and one upperclass white female were on that panel. One could say that the U.S. debate being televised makes up for that. All television stations and newspapers were invited. However, they evidently didn't see the importance of showing up to the UNLV regents panel. That should not reflect on the panel but the press.

Our panel should be applauded. I sat in all day long from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to listen to the regent candidates. I will be voting for Bill Shields as University Regent because I feel he will do a better job. He too is a university graduate and has attended the last five Senate meetings at least, not to campaign but to listen.

I have seen Shelley Berkley (his opponent) once. I think she was arrogant at the panel meeting stating that she had absolutely no faults as a regent. I find that hard to believe. The only reason she

was ever a student body president is because she was appointed after the elected president was impeached. Shields was a teacher for 17 years at Chaparral High School. He wants to be a regent because he misses dealing with students. He has no further political aspirations.

I invite all students to investigate for themselves. You can meet him at 5 p.m. Wednesday nights at Senate meetings in the MSU. You can call Berkley.

**Kerry Brown**  
student senator,  
College of Health Sciences

### Church of Christ member has seen both sides

In response to the religious cult article (*The Rebel Yell*, Oct. 8), I would like to share my experience before and after becoming a member of The Greater Las Vegas Church of Christ.

One year ago, before the church arrived, I, like many today, believed that members were brainwashed, manipulated, etc. I had read about the church in circulating literature. I actively warned others about the "coming of the cult." At that time I was attending Christian Interservice meetings and teaching Bible studies at a local church.

After The Greater Las Vegas Church of Christ arrived in Las Vegas, I was invited to the church. Because I was very secure in my Christianity, I went to see for myself what the uproar concerning this church was all about. It just took one visit for me to see that the people were very different from what the articles portrayed.

The way they interacted with one another clearly demonstrated a genuine love—a love that I have never seen outside of my own family. After further observation, I realized another difference. They were actively living out the truths of the Bible.

Today, I've been with the church for 10 months. As a member of Phi Kappa Phi and a senior pre-med student with a 3.4 grade-point average, I can rightfully say that the church encourages all of the campus students to excel in our studies.

My purpose in responding to the article is not to retaliate or sling mud, but simply to present further insight. I will not, however, rationalize my commitment. As one who has been on both sides of the fence, first fighting against, now fighting for, I have based my decisions on my own observations, rather than the interpretations of the media, literature or hearsay.

**Dennie Saldares**  
senior,  
pre-professional biology