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Lobbyist resigns amid negative publicity

by Ched Whitney and Cynthia Salinas

The controversy over paying a lobbyist \$5,000 between Regent Shelley Berkley and Student Body President Joel Kostman has taken a new twist.

Gary Milliken, hired by Student Government in September, resigned Monday. Milliken said he resigned because of negative publicity surrounding his hiring.

Questions arose during the Nov. 18-20 Board of Regents meeting in Reno.

Regents said a lobbyist hired by Student Government could damage the university system's plan to approach the 1993 Legislature with a common goal.

"If I would have kept the position, people would have continued to argue about me," Milliken said. "I don't want to be the center of controversy."

Milliken, originally hired to lobby for increased scholarships and decreased tuition costs, said he was experiencing a decrease in his efficiency as a lobbyist due to the negative publicity.

Berkley, who has been the most adamant in criticizing the hiring of Milliken, said she ap-

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Gary Milliken, lobbyist

preciates his effort but feels that UNLV's Student Government is in no position to spend student funds in this manner at this point.

"We would be delighted to use Gary Milliken's skills as a lobbyist on the system on behalf of the students," said Berkley. "(But) I felt at a time we were so desperate for money it sent the wrong signal."

Both sides charge each other with fueling the controversy.

"Shelley is mad because she did not receive the student recommendation during the regent

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Happy Holidays



photo by Rob Weidenfeld

'Review-Journal,' UNLV Foundation probed at hearings

by Thomas Moore

The *Las Vegas Review-Journal* and the UNLV Foundation were examined as a parade of characters testified before the legislative committee looking into questions surrounding the resignation of former basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian Tuesday and Wednesday.

Brad Rothermel, former athletic director; Robert Gore, former director of the UNLV Foundation; Bob Sands, former sports columnist for the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* and Vice President Lyle Rivera, current director of the foundation, testi-



fied before the subcommittee.

Rothermel responded to subcommittee counsel Sharon Green's questioning, and said at one point President

Robert Maxson asked Rothermel about firing Tarkanian.

"Early in Maxson's tenure he asked me if I had any evidence that could lead to the resignation of Tarkanian," Rothermel said.

Green questioned Rother-

mel about his powers as athletic director. She asked if Maxson ever talked enthusiastically about the basketball program.

"No. Never," Rothermel said.

Rothermel replied negatively when asked if he ever heard Maxson publicly support the program. If true, this supports the theory that Maxson had it in for Tarkanian and the basketball program from the beginning.

Rothermel's reply contradicts Maxson's sworn statement that he had supported the program and Tarkanian for some time. Maxson said he supported Tarkanian even after his resig-

nation and said he thought Tarkanian's last year would be a victory lap.

The functions and operations of the UNLV Foundation, a private non-profit organization, intended to be a fundraiser for the university, were also examined at the hearings.

Accusations of the mismanagement of real estate holdings, conflicts of interest, and slush funds have surrounded the foundation since Tarkanian's resignation.

Gore did little to answer the improprieties, but spent most of his time explaining his role in the foundation and the route gifts take from donors to UNLV.

Gore spoke anecdotally, telling the subcommittee how Maxson had refused his suggestion that the foundation reimburse Maxson for travel expenses and said, "Bob, I don't want to nickel and dime the foundation."

The first day ended in verbal fireworks when the chair of the subcommittee, James McGaughey used his closing remarks to accuse Donald Klasic of "staying up nights thinking of ways to thwart the subcommittee."

Klasic responded angrily by shouting that McGaughey was

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