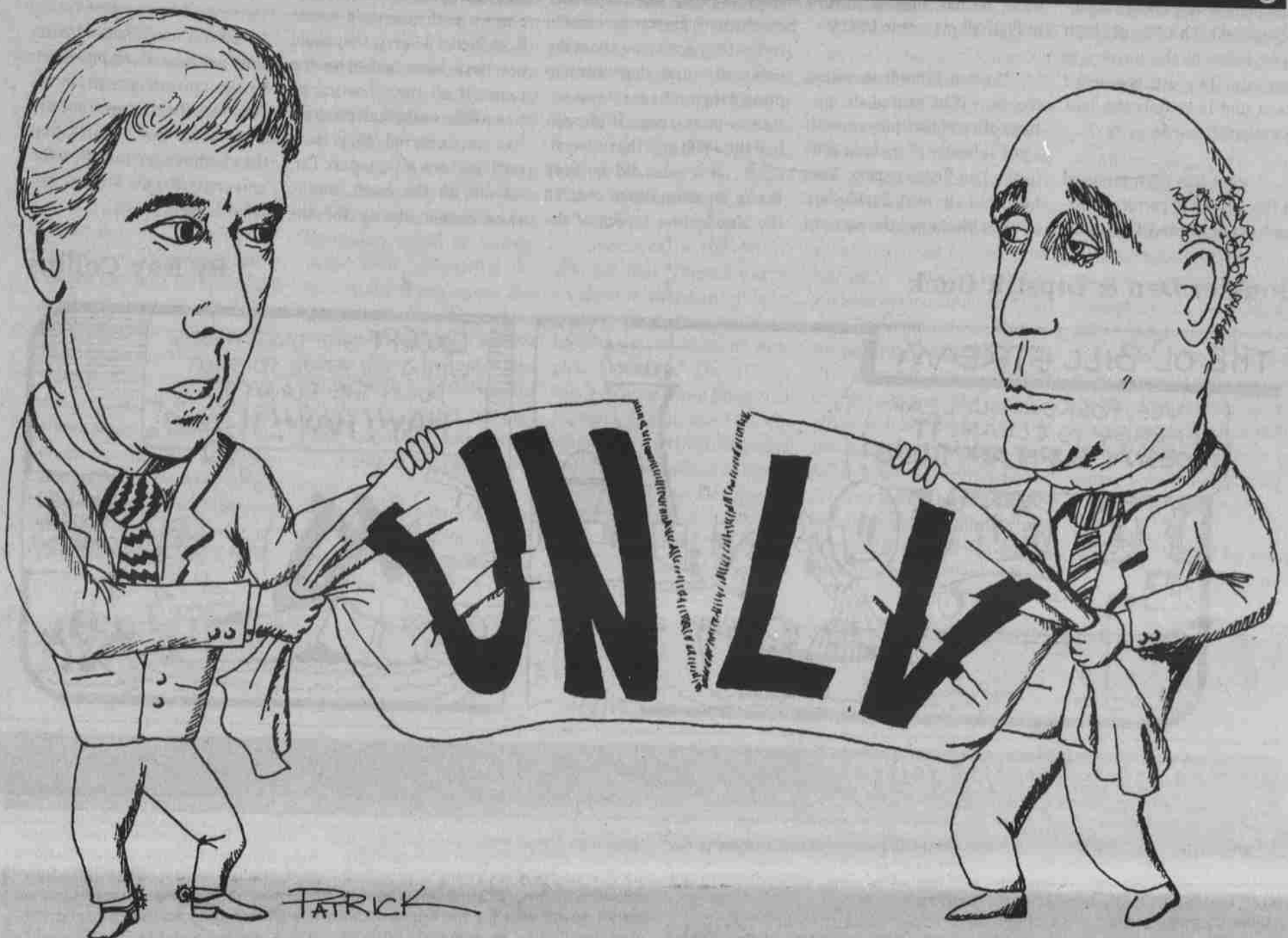


Opinion

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THE REBEL YELL

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On the Bob and Jerry show, who's the cat and who's the mouse?

by Rick Nielsen

As a student with a long academic road to hoe, the ramifications of the lingering feud between administration and basketball are past the stage of being amusing, interesting or even newsworthy. The outcome however, is still a "major" concern and the pivotal factor in an important decision that every student should be seriously considering.

Is UNLV the kind of higher learning institution that I am to be proud of attending, or is it nothing more than an oversized playground where immature children resort to dirtclods and name calling at the expense of 18,000 or 20,000 uninvolved, innocent students?

At this point the barrage of media, both pro and con, has buried the truth so deep that if it ever came to surface, it would be no more believable than ed-

ible nuclear waste pellets.

Who is to blame? Who is right and who is wrong? Who cares?

Two wrongs have never, and will never, make a right.

What we need is my new improved version of NCAA. Let me explain this more fully. What we need is a Necessary Compromise of Academics and Athletics.

Something has got to give, and it cannot be at the expense of this university's credibility. It does not matter who was here first. It does not matter what put us on the map. Our ultimate motive and eternal goal is to be a unified and dignified university which attracts the best students and which not only deserves, but commands,

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respect.

Right now we are definitely not in command of anything except a circus, and we are fast becoming a laughing stock.

Now on local TV, Tark has announced his desire to become a member of the Board of Regents of this university and to use his 24 years of educational expertise to, hopefully, turn around our "academic dilemma." At least that frees up the headcoaching job. Perhaps Bob can take over there, and let's see, how about Fred from GMF Motors for university president: "If I can finance him, and I will, I can finance You-NLV." (A

game of musical chairs, played to When the Saints Go Marching In.)

I think Jerry would have an easier time getting his old job back. But since he really doesn't want it, what is the point of another ride round the media merry-go-round?

This country is founded on the ability of strong-willed, intelligent-minded individuals of differing opinions and opposing viewpoints, who have conceded bits and pieces of their own personal beliefs in return for the betterment of the whole: in other words, compromise.

No one is more proud to be a part of the Runnin' Rebels and Coach Tarkanian than I. And no one can say that Maxson has not given his very heart and soul to improve and earn UNLV the status it so rightful-

ly deserves. Together they have made immense contributions to the reputation of UNLV, so why all the cat-and-mouse animations.

I may be totally naive to even think that these long standing differences could ever be resolved. But at the same time, the loss of either one of these university icons will have extremely detrimental effects in both academics and athletics.

I don't know what is behind the forces that have torn and shredded this place I have come to love, but a university should be for the advancement and benefit of its students, not the personal whims and gains of a select group of elitists.

Please, for the sake of every student here, stifle the animosities, accusations and atrocities and give back our embattled university before it's too late.