

# Tarkanian more innocent than not

by David Packer

It simply amazes me that so many people, including many UNLV students, assume that Tarkanian must be a cheater. But anyone who takes just a little time to look at the NCAA's investigations of Tarkanian at Long Beach State and UNLV must seriously question the foundation on their perception of Coach Tarkanian.

On Jan. 6, 1974 the NCAA stated that the violations that occurred at Long Beach "were among the most serious which it has ever considered." Roscoe Pondexter, Glenn McDonald, Ernie Douse and George Gervin were cited for having other students take their college entrance exams. This is an incredibly serious and damaging charge, yet the evidence was, at best, contradictory and unsubstantial. Long Beach officials provided reports from a hand-

writing analyst and test psychologist who confirmed that these student-athletes had indeed taken their own exams. Pondexter and McDonald received a restraining order in state court to restore their eligibility because the charges against them were dismissed due to insufficient evidence, yet the NCAA charges stuck.

Of the 74 charges Long Beach faced, only 23 related to the basketball program, yet Tarkanian would be forever linked with committing the most serious charges ever. The test score citing somehow overlapped to total 14 violations instead of four. Tarkanian was not able to find out the basis of the charges against his program, nor which individuals and incidents the charges referred to.

The NCAA pursued Tarkanian at UNLV culminating in the 1977 charges that destroyed

UNLV's basketball program for close to five years. Once again, rumors and hearsay outweighed concrete evidence. The most serious charge against Tarkanian, and the supposed reason the Rebels can't play in the tournament 15 years later, is that Tarkanian arranged for David Vaughn to receive special treatment and a grade from Harvey Munford's "The Role of Black Development in America" class.

Specifically the NCAA charged that Vaughn was in the class "with the understanding that the student would not have to attend class or complete any work." The NCAA's only evidence was a claim that Munford had admitted the violation. Yet UNLV's attorneys provided an affidavit from Vaughn denying the charge, letters from students in the class who stated they saw Vaughn attend class and a

polygraph and voice analysis that supported Munford's statement that no special arrangements were made. The result: guilty.

The other major violation cited was that Tarkanian had arranged for Rebel recruit Robert "Jeep" Kelley to fly home free in November 1973 and that Kelley was reimbursed by Tarkanian in cash for his return trip. The only evidence was from NCAA investigator David Berst who claimed he "recalled" having a conversation with Kelley in which Kelley told him that Tarkanian made the arrangements. Once again, UNLV investigated these serious charges and presented a sworn affidavit from Kelley denying the charges, a deposition from Kelley's trip, a letter from Kelley denying the charges, a deposition from Kelley's high school principal and coach who stated they arranged Kelley's trip, a

letter from the high school athletic director stating that he purchased the ticket and a copy of Schenly's High payment order requesting the \$135 "in payment for traveling expenses, RJK," and a cancelled check from the school's bank account for \$135.

Despite the evidence UNLV was found guilty and because of that Elmore Spencer, Melvin Love, J.R. Rider, Dedan Thomas, Dexter Boney and other Rebels can't play in the tournament for charges that were unsubstantiated and that prior Rebel teams were already penalized for. There are many more examples that illustrate the NCAA's treatment of Coach Tarkanian yet Tark is still labeled a cheater by those who simply base their opinions on image rather than reality.

David Packer is a  
MBA Student

increase.

Luis Atehortua  
Accounting

Dear editor,

I am writing this letter in reference to the article written in the Feb. 11 issue of the *The Rebel Yell*. The article was titled "Might a good god punish a good mortal?"

In this article, Larry Thiel was quoted as saying evolution is true. I was a student at the forum titled "Would a good God send a good person to hell?" sponsored by the Rebel Christian Fellowship. I feel the speaker was misquoted.

What the speaker did discuss was that evolution might be true, or it might not. The fact is that the bible does not say. He then quoted Galileo who said, "The Bible says how to go to heaven, not how the heavens go."

Caryn Young  
Communications

Dear editor:

I am writing in reply to an article in the *The Yell's* Letters to the Editor, written by Meredith Britton. I happened to be in Frazier Hall when this incident occurred and it appears that Britton does not know her facts. The treatment of Martha Santoro by University Police and the registration personnel was her own doing.

What about our frustration when someone spills coffee on the floor and is yelling even when the police arrive? I have dealt with the University Police and they are "real" police officers and very professional. So, before you call someone a "rent-a-cop," get your facts straight. If registering for school frus-

trates you to screaming, you are going to find life too much to bear.

W.B. Winston, student

Dear editor:

On Wednesday, Feb. 19, 1992, I became a statistic of crime. Afterwards, I started to wonder why. How could this happen to me in broad daylight?

You see, my mountain bike was stolen. My chain was broken and my bike was stolen from the bike racks in front of Wright Hall.

You want to know something? This all could have been avoided, in my opinion.

I was standing outside the student union building talking with a friend at about 12:05 p.m. I said to my friend, "Hey, that looks like my bike!" There was a man on a grey mountain bike observing the bikes on the racks between Wright Hall and Beam Hall. He wasn't looking for space, there was plenty of that, he was looking for his next victim. I then ran down to Wright Hall to be absolutely certain that this was indeed my bicycle, and to my dismay, it was. I tried to make it back to the thief to let him know how I felt about him riding it, but he took off heading south on Maryland Parkway.

Immediately I contacted campus police. They were very helpful. They contacted Metro to be "on the lookout." The campus police then told me that there have been many victims of the same crime on campus as of late.

Occasionally, when the thefts of book bags is particularly high in the library, there are very noticeable warnings everywhere. I did not see the same warnings for bicycle riders near the racks. I feel as though I should have been warned with a message from someone that simply stated, "Even if you lock your bike

with a chain, don't feel secure. Someone is breaking chains and stealing bikes in broad daylight." Instead I feel as though I was allowed to walk into a trap. What else goes on on campus that we don't know about?

Had I known, or had the other late victims been properly notified of this problem, we could have walked to classes or hitched a ride and still had possession of our property.

Kurt Munroe  
Sophomore, Political Science

Dear editor,

Isn't it amazing what a difference 24 hours can make when creating images? On Feb. 6, the university was fortunate to receive favorable national exposure with the Presidential visit. One day later, an angry anti-gun control mob flocked onto the campus and created quite a different image, which unfortunately has already received national attention. What was fortunate was that the ugly image reflected the city of Las Vegas and not on the academic community at UNLV.

What was especially disturbing was the fact that this mob was fired up by three state Assemblymen. James McGaughey, Las Vegas, stated we must be ready to fight "forces" in this country that may want to take us over. Who are these sinister unnamed "forces?"

Was McGaughey referring to majority forces he doesn't agree with, domestic subversive forces, or underground alien forces? If he was referring to forces he doesn't agree with, this sounds like sedition. If he was referring to subversive forces within the United States or alien underground forces, I would hope we could trust our military to take care of the situation.

To suggest that handguns will save

the country in the event of an attack by internal or external "forces" is ludicrous. McGaughey is living in a fantasy world if he believes otherwise. Moreover, McGaughey must understand that freedom exists in the heart of man and not in a finger on the trigger of a handgun. If he doubts this statement, I hope he reads our Constitution or has witnessed recent events in the former Soviet Union.

While other countries are finding solutions to their problems, we are drowning in a sea of debate concerning emotional issues. This is being accomplished with the assistance of politicians who are diverting our attention from the real issues and unfortunately the real threats to our national security.

Ron L. Mayfield, Jr.  
Graduate Student

Dear editor,

The notice that you and your staff have restored the original name of UNLV's newspaper was a pleasure to receive. As a former member of the Board of Regents, and former UNLV Student Body President, I support your decision.

*The Rebel Yell* was established in 1955 to represent the views of the Nevada Southern University's student body; a group of innovative students with the courage of a rebel. Today, the student body remains the same, and so it is fitting that the original name be restored.

Please extend my best wishes to your staff for a successful year at *The Rebel Yell*.

James H. Bilbray  
Member of Congress