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Opinion

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Academics aren't the first priority in athletics

Let's face it, J.R. Rider is doing what he's paid to do. Whether anyone wants to admit it or not, he's here to play basketball. Yes, he is a student of this university, but why shouldn't he be allowed to pursue his career goal like any other student.

This is not to make light of the educational opportunities he's been provided with. But as long as he fulfills the academic requirements to keep his scholarship should he be forced to attend class?

True, he is in an enviable position: Imagine getting paid to say you're a student without the hassle of attending classes every day. Despite the advantages, some people contend that he is being taken advantage of and cheated out of an education.

But let's take a closer look.

Rider is looking forward to a lucrative career in the NBA. Maybe he doesn't see the need to over-exert himself with schoolwork.

That should be his choice. His coach and this university had been—prior to the furor prompted by Regent Carolyn Sparks' comments in the Feb. 11 *Rebel Yell*—allowing him to make that choice.

However, if he decided to skip a few games to study for a test, it would be a completely different story.

We need to decide just how important academics are in the athletic curriculum of student athletes. Rider isn't the first to pull a stunt like this and he won't be the last until our athletic program changes it's priorities.

It's not unheard of for a coach to actually maintain academic progress reports on student athletes for a certain period of time when they skip classes unnecessarily.

But until such a program is put in place, let's stop blaming Rider for slipping through a loophole.

KUNV's Marathon '93—more than a race

Marathon '93 is off and running. KUNV's fundraising event annually brings in more than \$30,000 in donations for Las Vegas' only true community radio station.

To the college student, KUNV offers an alternative to all the mainstream radio garbage. It is the only true cutting edge station in town for rock music and was recognized nationally by being awarded the '92 Gavin Report College Station of the Year. Because it's a non-commercial radio station, listener's aren't bombarded by annoying ads. But, as a result, KUNV depends on listener contributions to augment its budget.

Like Public Broadcasting, KUNV is dedicated to bringing the citizens of Las Vegas a wide variety of programming. KUNV provides students and the community with an opportunity to expand its horizons with shows like "Women's Voices," "Awareness" and "Exotic Excursions."

Without support from the community, KUNV could not continue to provide the city with the best possible programming. Do your part to keep the air alive.

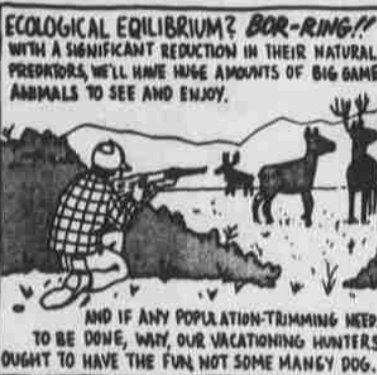
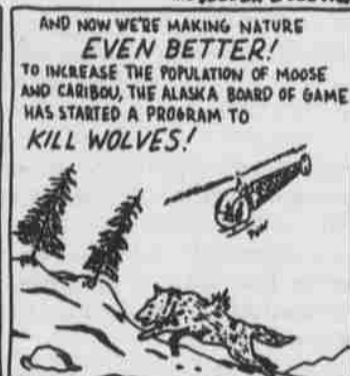
Let's support our "World of Choice."
Listen up and make a contribution.
Call 895-1234.

The above is the opinion of The Rebel Yell. All other inclusions on the opinion page reflect the opinions of the author or artist indicated and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Rebel Yell staff.

TOM the DANCING BUG



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Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor submitted to The Rebel Yell should be 250 words or less in length.
The Rebel Yell strives to publish all student submissions. However, we reserve the right to edit letters as necessary.

Please send letters to:
The Rebel Yell-STS
4505 S. Maryland Pkwy.
Las Vegas NV 89154
Or stop by MSU Room 302.



Precautions keep nuclear medicine safe

I was pleased to see an article by Melanie Schoenfeld (*The Rebel Yell*, Feb. 23) on the Radiological Sciences department, especially the positive information conveyed concerning the Nuclear Medicine Program. I was director of that program back in 1975.

I wish to clarify a couple of matters touched on in that article looking from my current point of view as the Radiological Safety Officer for the university. I imagine that the first question a reader might have is, "If radioactive materials are so harmless, why are they locked up?" The answer is that we follow, with good reason, a philosophy of keeping exposures to persons and releases to the environment "as low as reasonably achievable" or "ALARA."

One of the basic methods is to keep strict control of the materials, including any containers, plastic gloves, and anything else that may have become contaminated with the materials. It may be debated whether this degree of control is reasonable in many specific cases considering how little radiation is involved. But an effective program requires simple, uniform precautions be taken—always.

Dr. Meyers could, but does not, drink the radioactive iodine! It is not allowed, and is obviously not a professional thing to do. Also, a professional should never take it upon one's self to allow unauthorized access to potentially hazardous materials or avoid any of the redundant safeguards placed on them.

It was said that "...the materials are concealed and locked up in the room." This is not true. The room is conspicuously labeled as are the storage locations and the individual containers. We who work with radiation are concerned that under no circumstances will anyone unknowingly be exposed due to our activities, even if most people are unknowingly exposed to radiation from natural sources all the time. We hope many readers will be curious to learn more about the nature of radiation and the science and technology of its use. These are very safe, and safety-conscious, professions.

Thomas Graham
Radiological
Safety Officer

Students don't come first—but they should

This letter is in response to the article in the March 2 *Rebel Yell* regarding the fraternity that was escorted out of the Utah State basketball game.

What is this university coming to? Now they're kicking students out of a basketball game because the scholarship people could not see—because students were standing and cheering our basketball team. What's wrong with this picture? This tells me who is more important at this institution.

If these so-called fans wanted to see the game so badly, why didn't they stand? I would have gladly given them my seats—section 214, Row R—in exchange for their seats. In fact, maybe next year the athletic department could give the whole bottom section to the students and put everyone else upstairs. This is supposedly our school—I think. No, that won't work because in this town money talks and the students come second.

People say it's so tough to play in the Thomas & Mack Center. This is surely not because of crowd participation. Maybe if more people like the members of Delta Sigma Phi would get more emotional during the games, one day the T&M could also be known as the Thunderdome. When I watch other collegiate games and see thousands of students surrounding the court I say to myself, "One day maybe that could be UNLV." I'm sorry to say though, this will not happen, at least not while I'm at this university.

With this university growing at its current rate, it's time to give the school back to the students, before we lose total control of it. Maybe one day the students will come first, instead of those people who say they're interested in us and the school.

Chris Parker
junior
business management