



# The Rebel Yell

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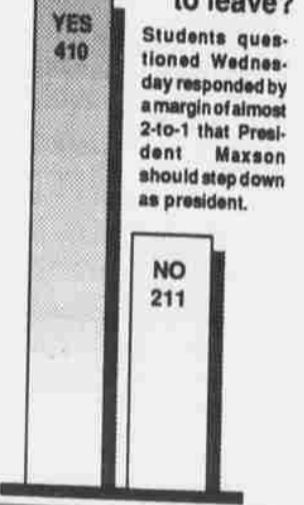
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## Poll results

### Is it time for Maxson to leave?



Students questioned Wednesday responded by a margin of almost 2-to-1 that President Maxson should step down as president.

## Students say Maxson should go

### A poll finds 66 percent of the students questioned believe President Robert Maxson should leave.

BY THOMAS MOORE  
NEWS EDITOR

Popularity is not an attribute that President Robert Maxson can brag about right now.

After the current wave of problems that have besieged UNLV and its athletic department, the press, the regents and now the students of UNLV are, to a certain degree, questioning

whether or not he should leave. In an informal poll, conducted by *The Rebel Yell* Wednesday, a majority of students said they thought it was time for Maxson to leave.

Students were asked one simple question: "Is it time for Maxson to leave?"

The response was telling. Out of 622 people polled 410 said yes.

The poll reflects an ambiguity about the relationship between Maxson and the events of the last few weeks and Maxson's tenure over the last few years.

Some students polled felt Maxson might be unfairly tak-

ing the blame in this instance, others thought he should have left when the first controversy arose.

"Every time something happens Maxson is the first one blamed," Michele D'Ambra, a senior in criminal justice said.

Charlie Browning, a communication studies senior, felt differently.

"I feel that Maxson should have resigned when the Tark mess surfaced," he said. "If you are going to eliminate the disease, you have to cut out the roots. Maxson is the root."

*The Rebel Yell* found many of

the people who answered yes felt like Browning did. They were adamant about their position asking if he could "be put down for four or five of those," while the people who replied no to the question tended to appear more sympathetic.

Regent Lonnie Hammargren said he had been talking about Maxson's resignation with many people including several regents. He even went as far to say that if Maxson does not resign on his own there will be a move amongst the regents to force him to leave.

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## Scandals could delay budget

BY THOMAS MOORE  
NEWS EDITOR

Although the shock waves from the scandals at UNLV have unsettled university administrators and regents alike, their effects are not limited to the area surrounding Las Vegas.

Although some people disagreed, one university regent has said any debate over funding for UNLV and higher education by the Nevada State Legislature (in Carson City) could be delayed.

Regent Lonnie Hammargren said it is urgent that the university system investigate the scandal surrounding academics and athletics because no work on the budget will be done until the mess is cleared up.

"I have good information that nothing about the budget will be decided until this issue is resolved," Hammargren said.

At least one university leader said that Hammargren is wrong

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PHOTO BY ROB WEIDENFELD

### Ticklin' the ivories

Planist Etsuko Koba rehearses with one of UNLV's jazz combos.

## Academic dishonesty routinely covered up, regent says

### Investigations into the J.R. Rider scandal have been inadequate, Regent Lonnie Hammargren says.

BY THOMAS MOORE  
AND JAY SAPOVITS

A new wave of accusations are being leveled at the university in light of the recent controversies, this time by one of the regents.

University Regent Lonnie Hammargren has said the J. R. Rider incident is not isolated but rather the norm at UNLV. He also said academic dishonesty is rampant and routinely covered up.

"A lot more academic fraud than you've seen already is going

on," Hammargren said. "The idea that (the school makes academics a priority) was just lip service."

Hammargren said not only has there been a continuing problem at UNLV but that Rider was made the scapegoat in the latest fiasco. "There are no innocent lambs although J.R. has been the sacrificial sheep," he said.

University officials have denied the accusations, albeit with varying degrees of temperament. The most vehement response was from Athletic Director Jim Weaver. Weaver said the idea of a cover up is unthinkable because of the way the department has been run since he started.

"I can assure you that we have not covered up," Weaver said.

*"The idea that (the school makes academics a priority) was just lip service."*

Lonnie Hammargren, university regent

Ever since we were here I've tried to deal with things up front. Never once have we tried to cover up."

Robert Ackerman, vice president of Student Services, while less adamant also denied the accusation.

"We've had some incidents of academic dishonesty almost ev-

ery semester I've been here. This is the first time it's involved an athlete," Ackerman said.

If there is a problem it might lie somewhere between the beliefs that fraud is rampant in athletics and that it is a rare occurrence. A university official, who wished to remain anonymous, said the problem could be deciding what is cheating and what is not.

"It is hard to draw the line between how much assistance is too much assistance," the source said. "Sometimes a tutor will end up doing too much work out of frustration."

Regardless of whether fraud has occurred it is Hammargren's contention that the university's previous investigation have been,

at best, inadequate.

Hammargren questioned the initial investigations of Rider (held previous to his homework's appearance in a local paper) and called them a waste of time.

"Why did he come out with this lousy two-day investigation," Hammargren said. "It was a cover up the first-time around—of which there are many."

Others, including Carolyn Sparks, chair of the Board of Regents, said the investigations done by the university should be adequate. Sparks went as far to say the athletic department is capable of investigating itself.

Hammargren disagrees with that notion. He said even the

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# LAST DAY TO DROP: FRIDAY