

Future of band's basketball 'Godfather' theme in limbo

Athletic director says music should not be 'attached' to individuals.

BY DANIEL W. DUFFY
MANAGING EDITOR

A representative from the band department said he was told by Athletic Director Jim Weaver at a post-season basketball meeting that the pep band would no longer be playing *The Godfather* theme before basketball games.

However, according to Weaver, a decision has not yet been reached.

"I don't remember making that statement," Weaver said. "To my knowledge, a final decision has

not been made."

James Perez, a graduate assistant for the band department, represented the department at the meeting.

"I don't think we'll be playing *The Godfather* theme next year," said Perez, who along with graduate assistant Carl McCurry is overseeing affairs for the band department while Director of Bands Tom Leslie is on a tour of Japan with members of the marching band.

According to Perez, Weaver wanted to stop using *The Godfather* theme because people had expressed concerns for relating a theme to an individual coach. Weaver confirmed this notion.

"I think we need to not neces-

"Based on what little I know, and I know nothing for sure, I find it highly unlikely that the athletic department would make that kind of decision without first consulting the band director."

Tom Leslie,
director of bands

sarily attach music to individuals but to the institution," Weaver said. "I am leaning that

way because of concerns expressed, but before we make the final decision, I want to get input from all the people involved.

"I have a clearer understanding of why people have those concerns after talking to them about the history of Las Vegas."

A number of issues were brought up at the meeting, including parking problems due to construction and how congested seating arrangements affect cheerleader safety.

"There were a number of items we wanted to review," Weaver said. "The musical effort is just one of these areas."

From Japan, Leslie said, "Based on what little I know, and I know nothing for sure, I find it

highly unlikely that the athletic department would make that kind of decision without first consulting the band director.

"However, if a decision has been made regarding the removal of *The Godfather* from basketball games, I wonder why this decision was made while the band directors were on tour in Japan and unavailable for discussion on such an important decision?"

Assistant Director of Bands Tony LaBounty, who arranged *The Godfather* theme for the pep band, is also in Japan.

Weaver said meetings will be held in the off-season before a final decision is rendered.

Oust sports—not president, out-going chancellor says

Dawson denies his resignation comes after signs that regents want him replaced.

BY ERIN HIMES
STAFF WRITER

Chancellor Mark Dawson has a simple solution for curing all of the problems plaguing UNLV's athletic department—elimination.

"If we have to get rid of athletics for the sake of academics then that is what we will do," Dawson said. "I wish I had a better answer, but I don't. I believe people are jumping on the bandwagon in putting the blame on (President Robert) Maxson. What they don't realize is all the good Maxson has done for UNLV."

Dawson's suggestion comes after the wake of the J.R. Rider

scandal and the controversy surrounding Maxson's reign as president.

"When Maxson came to UNLV there was one dormitory on campus, now look at all the new housing," Dawson said. "Nevertheless, people continue to downplay Maxson's role in the creation of a real university."

Additionally, Dawson said athletics did not build the new buildings on campus, nor did it provide over 100 new faculty positions.

"Please don't get me wrong," Dawson said, "there was no one prouder than myself when UNLV won the NCAA championship, but to say basketball supports academics is absolutely absurd."

"Moreover, if anybody chooses, they can go to the controller's office to see how much money the basketball program brings in and how much they spend. There's

"I believe people are jumping on the bandwagon in putting the blame on Maxson. What they don't realize is all the good Maxson has done for UNLV."

Mark Dawson, chancellor

not a lot left over."

UNLV golf coach Dwaine Knight said the elimination of athletics would have a devastating effect on endowments given to UNLV by the alumni. Athletics, Knight said, are an important means of outreach to university alumni.

"The golf program alone has received large donations that

have not only enabled the golf program, but have also filtered into academics," Knight said.

Knight said athletic programs provide viable career choices as well as offering students a chance to pursue their dreams.

Mike Tobin, an economics major, said the elimination of athletics would be a temporary solution to a long-standing problem—that problem being accountability.

"If the other sports departments can keep close tabs on their players, then there is no reason the basketball department can't do the same," Tobin said.

Dawson will ask the Board of Regents at its April 8 and 9 meetings to accept his resignation as chancellor. He said he is stepping down because he is ready for something new and wants to become an accounting

professor at the University of Nevada, Reno and the Truckee-Meadows and Western Nevada community colleges.

Speculation pointed to Dawson being removed in an effort to bring new people to higher education in Nevada. Dawson said the speculation was not behind his decision to resign.

"This is a personal decision that is best for me," Dawson said, adding the job would be less stressful and he would have summers off.

Regent Daniel Klaich, a Reno attorney, is interested in becoming the next chancellor of the University and Community College System of Nevada.

"I believe Mr. Klaich to be a very bright and capable candidate for the position," Dawson said. "It's time for a change. I've been doing this for a long time. It's time for a new leadership,"

Destiny

from page 1

from outside special interest groups," Maxson said. "When we made the effort to bring sports back in by eliminating Coach (Jerry) Tarkanian this became a very painful process. The university was divided. The change in direction of athletics is the cause of the controversy."

"Coach Tarkanian was not

fired because of the recruiting violations," said a source within the administration. "The straw that broke the camel's back was Richard 'The Fixer' Perry. He brought Lloyd Daniels to Jerry Tarkanian."

"When someone (Perry) like that, who is in the mafia and is a known criminal, tries to get involved with our program that is the main reason for removing Tarkanian and changing the direction of athletics."

Photographer

from page 1

promises to this woman; promises made sight unseen," Barrett said. "All this man wanted was a young college woman in which he could prey upon."

After reviewing the information and delving into Nelson's background, Barrett decided a

sting operation was necessary.

Barrett contacted a female Clark County Deputy Constable to pose as an interested model.

The constable contacted Nelson who said he was very anxious to meet with her. Barrett said Nelson indicated he preferred secluded settings like Death Valley and the Canyon Lands in Utah for his photo shoots. He asked her if she would camp out overnight and that confidentiality was necessary if she decided to accept the job.

During their hour-long phone conversation the constable told Nelson her dance class ended at 7:20 p.m. and she didn't have a car. According to Barrett, Nelson very hastily said he would give her a ride.

At approximately 7:50 p.m. Nelson, driving a gold, 1977 Chevy van, bearing Colorado license plates, arrived at the P.E. complex where University

Police made the arrest.

The police are currently investigating the contents of the van.

"We found some incriminating nude photographs as well as inventory that indicates Nelson was living in the van," Barrett said.

Nelson will be charged with operating an agency without a Labor Commission license and operating a business without a Clark County business license.

Barrett says anyone who has suspicions about phony modeling advertisements to check with the Labor Commission.

"There are a number of these scams happening around the country and people have to be very cautious when answering (them)," Barrett said.

Anyone who can offer additional information about Nelson is asked to call University Police at 895-3466.

The Rebel Yell

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