

## Maxson passes the buck, again

While addressing a faculty forum last week, President Robert Maxson once again refused to take responsibility for anything.

True he can't know what each and every student athlete is doing, but as soon as the J.R. Rider-"academic dishonesty" controversy broke, Maxson should have first investigated the situation himself before pleading ignorance and bringing in outside help.

The "let's-put-the-blame-on-subordinates-or-Jerry-Tarkanian-supporters" routine is getting pretty old. Last year it was Brad Boone for the videotaping scandal (why is this man still employed by this university?), this year it's academic advisers in the athletic department. Who'll be next? It's almost fashionable to be a scapegoat at this university.

Maxson is a university president, not the head of a P.R. firm trying to smooth things over with rhetoric. You would never know this by his current wave of denials and Ronald Reagan-esque replies of "I don't know." If the president of the university doesn't have any answers, who does?

Maxson said the results of the student poll conducted by *The Rebel Yell* which said he should step down as president by a nearly 2-to-1 margin hurt his feelings. But he said he understood why students felt this way. During the forum, Maxson seemed to infer that Tarkanian supporters passing out leaflets that suggested administrators were going to shut down the basketball program was

enough to scare students into voting against him. Afterward he said he didn't mean to link the two, necessarily. However, this is another example of redirecting blame.

When is Maxson going to stop blaming everything on Tarkanian and his supporters and start taking responsibility for the university? That's like Bill Clinton laying blame on David Koresh and his fanatical followers in Texas for the deficit and problems in the health care system.

For argument's sake, let's say that Maxson weathers this current storm and continues to run the university. Will he continue to blame everything that goes wrong on Tark supporters five or 10 years down the line?

Maxson seems to quick to label people. Everyone does not fit neatly under labels like "Pro-Tark" or "Anti-Maxson." For even running this editorial, *The Rebel Yell* will probably be classified as a Tark supporter in his eyes.

Tarkanian who? That is all in the past. Let's move on.

What's more important is: Who's "Pro-UNLV"? The individuals' concerns are secondary.

This is not to suggest Maxson is the root of all these maladies. But this university needs a fearless leader who is ready to tackle problems head-on. It's time to stop passing the buck to certain fanatics, who anyone with a shred of common sense, completely ignores.

## UNLV needs an independent newspaper

The Student Senate will vote Wednesday on whether or not to continue funding *The Rebel Yell* at the current rate.

The resolution the Senate will be voting on was prepared by Senate President Bud Benneman, who is also chair of the Rebel Yell Advisory Board. It was then revised by the advisory board. It calls for the student fee allocation to *The Rebel Yell* to remain static at 8.75 percent of the Student Government fee allocation.

It would also dispense with the page currently granted to Student Government's Office of Student Information. The cost of the space alone is \$10,080 a year—20 percent of the amount received from student fees.

Under the proposal, *The Rebel Yell* will furnish the Student Senate with a financial statement at the beginning and end of each semester for the purpose of accountability. Additionally, these statements will be published in the paper for students.

Student Government, however, has come forth with another proposal. But this new proposal would change the structure of the advisory board, leaving open the potential for one student group to load the board. That could be dangerous to the pursuits of free journalism on this campus. It's critical that the current board makeup remain intact.

The year the resolution passed, *The Yell* received approximately \$17,000 more from Student Government than it does now. That year the paper finished \$4,000 in the hole.

During the 1991-92 year, the first under the resolution, the paper—despite the recession, business personnel problems and a beginning balance of minus-\$4,000—finished in the black. Spurred by that year's financial difficulties, the Rebel Yell Advisory Board

selected a business manager to act as chief financial officer for the paper.

The questions the senators must decide are: Should the students of UNLV have an independent newspaper? and Is this a reasonable amount of money to spend on it?

This semester the paper will receive approximately \$22,500 from student fees. With an enrollment of 18,126, the cost per student is about 2.6 cents per issue.

These fees cover printing costs.

With the business manager and the formation of the advisory board, *The Rebel Yell* is developing the necessary infrastructure to continue at its current growth rate.

True the paper is far from perfect, but anyone who has read issues from years past can see that vast improvements are being made. Gone are the days of petty name-calling between *The Rebel Yell* and Student Government.

A cutback in fees could potentially cripple the growth the paper has seen in the two years since it's emancipation. As it stands, *The Rebel Yell* is in desperate need of equipment maintenance as well as updated phone service. A loss of revenue at this point would be a giant leap backwards.

The senators who will decide this resolution's fate have perhaps a more personal relationship with *The Rebel Yell* than does the average student; that's a natural occurrence between a government body and a newspaper. But it's also reason to see that the separation be clear and permanent.

Free speech doesn't truly exist when a newspaper has to answer to a government body. The paper should not be accountable to Student Government, but to the students themselves.

## University just a tool

BY KURT R. DIVICH

I'm tired, tired of lots of things. I'm tired of waking up at 8 a.m. and of being groggy when I get home at 2 a.m. I'm tired of taking exams with questions the instructor never bothered to cover in class, and I'm tired of that geek in my biology class that wears his headphones full-blast during the lecture. I'm also tired of seeing the degree I'm working so hard for marred and stained by people who didn't go to UNLV, or for that matter can't name five people who do.

These people who perpetrate to defend the honor and integrity of UNLV are simply using our little college as a weapon of choice in their battle. "What battle?" you ask from the cave you're locked in. How about the one with Jerry Tarkanian, President Robert Maxson, any regent, Roland Massimino, and Steve Wynn to name a few.

Rumor has it Nintendo bought the rights and is in the process of creating a video game. In it you can choose from any of the aforementioned characters and proceed on a journey where you'll get the basketball team probation ruin, a chance to recruit, make up jokes about academics with UNLV as the punchline and inevitably fight a creature named Nevada, Las Vegas and punch him in the black-eye that was just starting to fade.

If you can't tell, I'm a little tired of my degree (and with it my professional future) being kicked around in the dirt as the big boys brawl.

And don't tell me it's the basketball program's fault. If football was the big money in Vegas we'd still be hearing about quarterback John Ma'ae punching an assistant coach last year.

Did I hear someone say something about J.R. Rider? They knew Rider wasn't going to make the dean's list when they recruited him, they just didn't care. He can shoot, play defense, and run the break—classroom skills would've been a bonus. That's why he took all those off-the-wall classes last summer. Not so he'd be closer to his degree, so he'd be eligible. As if you didn't know, Rider, they used you and then sacrificed you as a "step in the right direction," Latin for "we can make no more money off of you."

I just saw the news and the latest was possible sexual harassment charges by Dina Titus against Bob Maxson. I guess I better call Nintendo and tell them to update the game.

Nah, never mind. They're probably as tired of all this as I am.

 **The Rebel Yell**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Rebel Yell Advisory Board is now accepting applications for editor in chief for the 1993-94 school year.

An application and the advisory board policy can be picked up from the Greenspun School of Communication Studies or Mary Hausch.

Applications should be dropped off in the Greenspun School of Communication Studies c/o Mary Hausch by April 15.

Applicants should be prepared to be interviewed by the board April 22.