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Opinion

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Page 3

Conflicts tarnish Rider investigation

Why can't this university conduct one investigation that could be held to the highest scrutiny? The J.R. Rider "academic dishonesty" investigation was, and is, a total farce due to various conflicts of interest.

Patricia Wright, a paralegal and wife of assistant coach Jay Wright, one of the people former professor Vicki Bertolino alleges called and asked her to give Rider a passing grade, sat in on the investigative meetings conducted by Oregon State University President Emeritus Robert MacVicar and Lloyd Peterson.

If that isn't a conflict of interest, then what is? Wasn't there a paralegal in all of Las Vegas that had no connection to the case? There's no conspiracy theory here; nor is this incident "sinister," it's just not on the level and leaves a question of credibility.

In addition, UNLV Faculty Senate Chair Robert Skaggs sat in on several meetings. Whether or not he is Maxson's "best friend" is of little consequence. Skaggs is an outspoken Maxson supporter. That in itself is a conflict of interest. He should not have been there.

According to *The Las Vegas Review-Journal*, Skaggs of all people, said there was no conflict of interest when Bertolino questioned Patricia Wright's presence at the meetings and asked that the meeting continue.

The conflict-of-interest police would be all over this farce if anyone involved in the investigation understood ethics. The magnitude of this investigation is such that it should have been conducted in a squeaky clean manner so that there could be no question of its legitimacy.

This university will never remove the dark cloud from above its head and move on in a positive direction while conducting investigations in this Mickey Mouse fashion.

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.



Who knows Maxson best?

BY BODDY SCALLION

I don't proclaim to know politics, but I do claim to have common sense, and I am extremely concerned about the current situation involving President Robert Maxson.

First, *The Rebel Yell* ran a story that said, UNLV students, by an overwhelming majority, feel that Maxson "should go." Then, a story was published that said 80 percent of the faculty is "behind Maxson." Finally, all I hear in the news is how the regents are voting whether or not to "keep Maxson."

Now, of the three groups mentioned above, which one is probably the least biased, and at the same time, the most realistically aware of the direction in which this university is headed?

First, about the students. . . Of the students questioned in *The Rebel Yell* poll, how many of them actually deal directly with Maxson? I don't know, but I am going to take a risk and say maybe 20 percent (and that's being extremely generous).

I believe that students are responding, not so much to Maxson's administrative policies and decisions, but to impressions of the university's reputational climate. This troubles me because the media has a strong influence in affecting climates of opinion. This is not to say the student body's opinion of their university is not valid. It is! All I am asking is for us to question and realize how those opinions were developed.

Second, about the faculty. . . The faculty's job is to teach. Therefore, I am going to assume they are aware of and concerned with the policies affecting that responsibility at present and for the future. Ultimately, Maxson is their boss, but many of the faculty are protected by tenure.

I am going to say the large majority of the professors on this campus do not have direct ties to politicians or "big-shots" in our community. Therefore, it is absurd to think their opinions of Maxson are not academically justified or there is some huge conspiracy on their part to protect

Maxson's position.

Third, about the regents. . . Outside of the hierarchy, what direct dealings do they have with our education here? How many students know their names? How many times have you seen a regent on campus? How would you know if you saw one? Further, what does a regent do? Do these regents have political affiliations with powerful people in Las Vegas?

The regents' positions are nothing more than manifestations of an academic bureaucracy. And as far as what a regent does, I'm not sure, but I think they were elected to run this university and work with or oversee Maxson. These regents are some of the most politically-active, politically-connected, and politically-minded people in Las Vegas.

With this in mind, is it not possible that they may have some personal agendas? (Come on, we actually have a regent who has a small-scale version of the Thomas & Mack Center in his backyard. I know that shouldn't matter. But could it?) I am not saying the regents are not looking out for the students' best interests, as much as I am pointing to the fact that it's possible that some of these people may be making very biased and subjective decisions. (Call me crazy for being wary of politics and politicians!)

I am not advocating any specific action or alternative other than critical inquiry and thought. Just please look closely at some of the potential reasons each group could have in arriving at the different opinions they have concerning Maxson's fate as our university president.

Of these groupings which is the most informed, the least biased and yet still concerned about this institution's future and the most aware of which direction we are really headed?

Scallion is a graduate student in communication studies

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.

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.



Facts prove Maxson is a quality leader

There have been several allegations flying around regarding the integrity of President Robert Maxson. I have found these opinions seem to be lacking one thing: evidence. The time is now to set the record straight by providing verifiable facts about Maxson's tenure as president at UNLV.

Since Maxson assumed the position on August 1, 1984, the university community has seen a myriad of prestigious accomplishments.

Since 1984, 35 new buildings have been erected on the UNLV campus, the number of research

facilities has increased from nine to 29, student enrollment nearly doubled from 10,000 to 20,000 students, ACT scores rose from 1.7 points below the national average in 1983 to .7 points above the national average in 1993, 13 academic programs were accredited and 26 new degrees were offered, housing capacity rose from 250 in 1983 to 1,100 in 1993, there has been a 500 percent increase in research expenditures, and an unprecedented scholarship program from all Nevada valedictorians was instituted in 1985.

Is this the track record of a failing leader? I think not. And don't think Maxson's accomplishments are all in the past. Scheduled to be built by 1994-95 is a \$21 million classroom complex, a \$12 million physics

building, and a \$12 million architecture building.

Unlike many of Maxson's critics, I actually attend classes at UNLV. And as a student, I am proud of the accomplishments of UNLV under the leadership of Maxson. Before jumping so quickly to oust the man who made UNLV what it is today, I ask that you first consider his accomplishments.

Maxson has never lost sight of his goal to make UNLV the best academic institution possible. Furthermore, the facts I have provided show that he is clearly succeeding at this pursuit.

*Brian Devine
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