

# UNLV basketball will survive the events of the past year

BY PAUL GUTIERREZ

Well, it's the end of the year. And what a year it's been for UNLV athletics.

Unless you've been locked in a compound in Waco, Texas for the past year, it would be virtually impossible not to have heard about the latest UNLV basketball program folly starring first-year head coach Rollie Massimino, athletic director Jim Weaver, J.R. Rider, Vicki Bertolino and of course, President Robert Maxson.

It's hard to believe that almost two months have passed since news of the Rider

academic scandal splashed across the front pages of the area's newspapers. It seems just like yesterday when friends and foes alike were praising the academic advances of the soon-to-be All-American.

But when push came to shove, Rider was left stranded in the national spotlight, not unlike the deer that becomes frozen in the headlights of the mountain traveler.

Then questions of airline tickets to redshirt freshman Kebu Stewart came to light followed by complimentary motel rooms to Rider's parents. Harassment allegations

## Commentary

against UNLV President Robert Maxson are just the latest in a long line of problems that many believe stem from the basketball team.

Again, as they were in the Tark vs. Maxson feud, the factions are distinct and still fighting.

It appears as though the constant bickering and controversy finally took its toll on the team. It used to be that Runnin' Rebel teams thrived under pressure and controversy but this year's team folded under the immense tension.

"At one time we were 16-2," said UNLV point guard and Honorable Mention All-American Dedan Thomas following the season-ending loss to Southern Cal. "I don't know what happened at the end of the season.

"I don't know if it was too much (controversy) or if the magnitude of the problem was too big."

One thing is obvious, the

university has been brought down to its knees with the latest set of allegations. And the logical thing to do is to clean house. But that would be too easy.

Ironically, Rider hit the issue square on the nose with comments he made in his press conference: "A punishment is needed," he said. "This punishment should be borne by the university administration and not just by myself and my teammates."

"The fact that certain individuals within the higher administration of the university would turn their back on me and my team in order to protect their own guard, to protect their own reputation, speaks clearly of these individuals."

Though he doesn't come straight out and say it, it sounds as if Rider is speaking of both Massimino and Maxson. Both individuals pride themselves on their academic reputations. In fact, wasn't former coach Jerry Tarkanian ousted because of problems such as these?

If anything, this latest fiasco in the never ending athletics

vs. academics scenario shows that the Tark-Maxson feud was indeed a personal vendetta by both parties and not just by the former coach. And it does not bode well for Massimino either, who in his first press conference on campus, said no student-athlete would ever embarrass the university.

"This is what the media should concentrate on," Rider said. "This is what the people of Las Vegas should concentrate on. This is what must be corrected for the university to prosper."

"Without this cleansing, the university will never succeed."

True, the issue is tired, but heads being buried in the sand is not going to accomplish anything.

Yes, the university, and the basketball program in particular, will survive the slings and arrows of this latest escapade. But not without the cleansing that Rider spoke of a month ago in his attorney's office with the bright lights in his face and a captive audience in front of him.

—Paul Gutierrez is sports editor of The Rebel Yell

## Faculty, students say goodbye to Steve Carp

BY NICK HALEY

### Commentary

Among a crowd of students heading to class in the humanities building, Steve Carp's wide-eyed, distant gaze gives the appearance of a campus visitor who has lost his way.

His casual attire and Sacramento attache look better suited to the Thomas & Mack Center or maybe a betting parlor—certainly not a building full of classrooms.

But as a beat writer of the Las Vegas Sun for the past five years, covering among other things the UNLV sports scene, there's no doubt Carp knows his way around the campus. It's only been for the past two academic years that he's been known as Professor Carp, teaching journalism classes, Sports Journalism and Sports Feature Writing.

The classes have offered students a look at one of the most popular and most read sections of the daily newspaper. In addition, the class was supplemented by guest lecturers such as University Legal Counsel Brad Booke, Wally Matthews of New York Newsday and Colin Cowherd, sports director of the local NBC affiliate.

At a young, unheralded school of communication studies, these classes have offered specialized instruction in a distinct journalistic field, creating a niche on which the department could grow. With so few universities around the country offering such a program, UNLV would have the opportunity to provide a degree program in a field that not only needs one, but has so few around the nation to speak of.

Unfortunately, for the many communication studies majors on campus who are interested in pursuing a career in the

sports media, the classes face an uncertain future.

The Greenspun School of Communication's Curriculum Committee has already decided the classes will not be offered next semester and, assuming they'll be offered in the future, they will be combined into a single course for the Spring semester.

Why? Not out of lack for popularity. According to Carp, the class filled up the first day it was offered on campus and has continued to operate at full capacity since.

Many Carp alumni were disappointed to hear about the cancellations. Rebel Yell Sports Editor Paul Gutierrez said he was disappointed by the committee's decision. Many of the Yell's current staff writers and some who have already graduated learned their trade from this program.

The same thing can't be equalled in a regular news-writing class—sports has a style all its own.

Gage Chapel, the exiting chair of the department, said he favored keeping the classes and supported expanding into a whole program. We can only hope his replacement will feel likewise.

It's a shame that we're losing the classes that students obviously want. If it's a lack of funds, we can understand that. The excuse we won't tolerate is a non-athletic oriented faculty dismissing a sports writing program as frivolous or impractical.

Let the students decide which classes remain. After all, it's our degree.

Nick Haley is a staff writer of The Rebel Yell

## CBE

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faculty/staff team went to the semifinals the following campaign.

The CBE turnaround came full-circle in 1991 as they went undefeated en route to the championship and duplicated the perfect season feat in 1992. This season, CBE (8-1) lost its first game in three years when the Hawaiians won their regular-season confrontation, yet they still managed to record its third straight title.

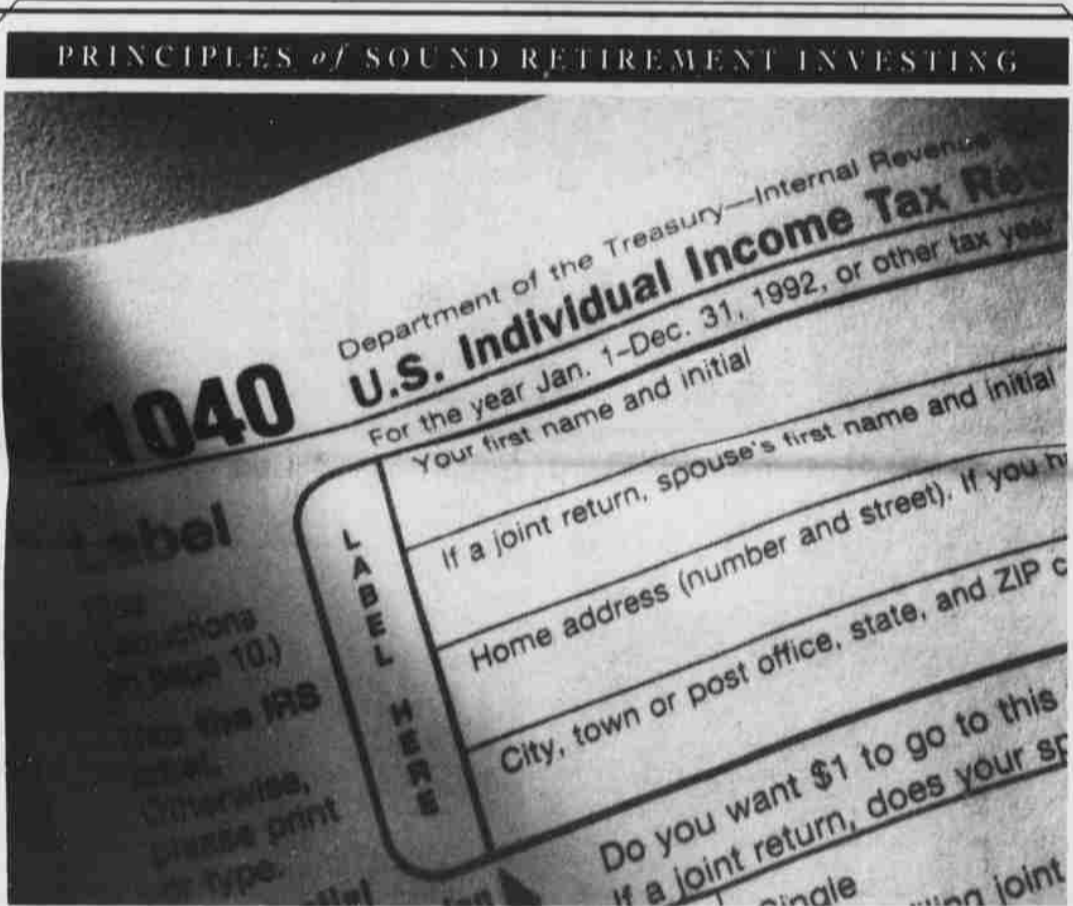
"I'm afraid some of us are in the twilight of our careers," Schibrowski said when asked if he thought CBE had started a UNLV Intramural dynasty.

Two CBE athletes, Schibrowski and teammate Rich Wassmuth, have been with the squad all five seasons.

Schibrowski had been a part of a faculty/staff softball team at the University of Wisconsin in the 1980s. Then, upon being hired at UNLV, he chose to start up a similar squad here.

"It's a source of great camaraderie," Schibrowski said. "I think it is good for university spirit to have these students playing against the faculty."

—Scott Haverlock



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