



"Oh yeah!
Yes!"
- Bill
Consolacion

opinion: n. an idea or judgement held as true or valid

Campus events, not real issues on Massimino's agenda



From The Sap

Jay Sapovits

Goodie, Goodie, Gumdrops!

The UNLV students will be graced with the presence of Sir Rollie Massimino.

The subject won't be J.R. Rider. How dare his name be mentioned to the coach.

Nor will His Rolliness address the problems he had against Pacific, Long Beach State, or Fullerton last season.

Instead Massimino, who according to Program Advisor Becky Barnard, was asked to appear by the Fraternal Union, is expected to talk about getting involved in student life at UNLV.

Well, if I may be so brief as

to say, SPARE ME!

During the entire Rider scandal, which was the *worst* in the history of UNLV, the Coach was distant. He talked about nothing—at least nothing he didn't want to talk about, that is. It was the type of play-by-my-rules-or-I-quit attitude that starts fist fights between children on the playground.

And now in an attempt to make everyone forget broken promises, losing games, and academic scandal, Rollie speaks. No doubt he should dazzle the crowd with his dynamic speaking capabilities.

Despite his faults, he is charming and charismatic. Those qualities he can never be denied. These are the qualities you must sift through to find the hidden meaning or agenda in what Massimino says.

Unfortunately Massimino is from the old school of thought. He tells anecdotes and stories like he thinks you'd like to hear them, instead of telling them like they really are.

Times have changed around

UNLV and Massimino can save the rah, rah, rah, crap, too.

He's nowhere on the planet when Rider was hung out to dry by Vicki Bertolino. Now he's about to woo and rouse the student body into a frenzy. If Massimino thinks he can walk into the hearts of the UNLV students by saying all the right things then he must not value a UNLV education much.

The facts are the basketball team has become second tier, the attendance was down last year, and again the school is mired in controversy (these things don't just go away, even though the athletic program might think they do). So before talking about what he wants to talk about, Massimino must first dig up the old dirt and tell the students of UNLV, who so graciously pay his salary, all about the J.R. Rider scandal or save the students' time.

The only campus activity I remember Massimino interested in last year was J.R. Rider's homework. Massimino told the R-J he spent time with Rider and



UNLV basketball coach Rollie Massimino last season File photo 93

personally saw to it he did his work.

As for winning on the court Massimino has failed. Understand this, we're UNLV and we don't lose to USC in basketball. It's that simple.

Why should we as students care what Massimino has to say?

He lied to the students and the city the day he stepped on campus. Remember April 1, 1992, when Massimino so admirably said: "No way will any student athlete ever, ever embarrass this university."

Well, the Rider scandal did embarrass this university. And when the basketball program

was exonerated of any wrong doing the media coverage wasn't an eighth as large as when the story started. The local media doesn't like Massimino much. UNLV therefore, didn't get to much good press last season.

Rider himself even said he felt deserted by Massimino.

"I had a problem with Coach Mass for a very short period of time," he said. "When all the controversy happened, instead of staying down the middle, he kind of leaned towards their side to protect himself and the coaching staff."

But Rider shouldn't feel alone.

Massimino spoke of a family when he took the job at UNLV.

"When you're a family, you work for the common good of everybody," he said. "That's what we'll do here at UNLV."

The family Massimino spoke of, never included the students of UNLV.

Have fun at the Valerie Pida Plaza at noon listening to Massimino speak. Entertaining yes, truthful...

Jay Sapovits

Jay Sapovits is the Perspective Editor of the *Rebel Yell*. His column appears every issue of the *Yell*.

When pigeons... er, doves turn into hawks

JAMES YOHE
STAFF COLUMNIST



This is the first of a two part series by Rebel Yell columnist James Yohe outlining Bosnia, Vietnam, and President Clinton. In next Thursday's issue Yohe will discuss Bill Clinton's avoidance of the draft and other nations' intervention into Bosnia.

On a recent trip to the Midwest, President Bill

Clinton was asked a very interesting question by a high school student. "...how come he was considering sending troops to Bosnia, when he opposed sending troops to a civil war in Vietnam?"

In true "Slick Willie" style, he insisted that the analogy between Bosnia and Vietnam was inexact.

Inexact in what way? Bosnia has been a trouble spot for hundreds of years, while Vietnam was only a trouble spot for around forty years. They are both quagmires, ask the former Austrian Empire about Bosnia? In both countries, the imperialistic actions of major

European and Asian powers intensified these conflicts. The French, Japanese, and the United States all contributed to the rise of nationalistic feelings and the rise of Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam. Over centuries, the Serbs, Ottoman Empire, Austrian Empire, Nazi Germany, and the League of Nations have all occupied Bosnia and used force to prolong the ethnic strife. By using force, these powers failed to allow all sides to solve their grievances.

Thomas Jefferson, a forgotten and misunderstood American of the 18th Cen-

tury, once said: "Coercion never produces genuine belief in any truth, only free, reasonable thought can lead to honest conclusions."

Instead of allowing the Muslims, Croats, and Serbs to solve their own problems, the imperialistic occupiers of Bosnia forced peace on the people and allowed the divisions to smolder. Now they have erupted, Bill Clinton wants to send American men and women over to solve the problems that Bosnian men and women should be solving themselves.

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