

'Contractgate' Claims First Victim

Behind one of these doors you will find the scapegoat that gets to take the fall for Rollie Massimino's secret contract.

Behind door number one we have former UNLV President Robert Maxson, now the president at Long Beach State University. Behind door number two is basketball coach Rollie Massimino. Athletic Director Jim Weaver is behind door number three, and last, but not least, we have former Vice President and Deputy to the President John Irsfeld behind door number four.

John Irsfeld come on down! You're the next contestant on "The Price is Right." That's right John, you get to pay the price for this mess.

For joining us, John, you get a one-way ticket back to the English Department, where you started your UNLV career. Yes, we know you have been a loyal employee for 25 years. Yes, we know you have been the vice president for the last 10 years. None of that matters now.

It is damage control time. So we'll fly you and a friend—take that back, we need to redecorate the basketball offices—we'll fly you over to the sixth floor of the Flora Dugan Humanities building where you can sit quietly and take the heat for the secret contract.

As a parting gift, we will also be reducing your salary. Thanks for joining us and don't let the door hit you on the way out.

For our other contestants, life goes on—as usual.

Maxson had already jumped to Long Beach State and rid himself of the mighty Runnin' Rebel basketball machine long before the secret contract was exposed.

Massimino has tried to maintain a low profile since "Contractgate" started. When the news first broke, he said he expected to be paid the money due him in the secret



On Target
CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL

contract. He has since flip-flopped and said he will honor his contract, the out-in-the-open state approved one, regardless of the secret contract's status. Of course he will. If he quits he won't get paid and that is a lot of money to walk away

from. Amazingly, Weaver has escaped scrutiny for the most part. After all, he is only the athletic director, how much could he have had to do with the basketball coach's secret contract?

Weaver and Massimino had a three-hour meeting with the State of Nevada Ethics Commission to discuss the secret contract last week, but don't expect them to get more than a slap on the wrist.

Which leaves us with our winner, Irsfeld.

Irsfeld is being demoted because of a conversation he and President Kenny Guinn had regarding Massimino's secret contract. It has been reported, including in *The Rebel Yell*, that Irsfeld denied knowing about the secret contract in their conversation.

Only two people actually know what was said in that conversation. "Dr. Guinn and I have a legitimate disagreement about our conversation," Irsfeld said. "I know what I said and he knows what he heard."

Irsfeld won't say what he told Guinn because he doesn't want to get into a war of words with him. "He is the president and I serve at the pleasure of the president," he said. "I want him (Guinn) to succeed and I won't say he is wrong and I am right."

Guinn said Irsfeld's demotion was due mainly because of a need to reorganize the department and not because of the secret contract.

Spare me.

They have found their scapegoat. In fact, they couldn't have chosen a better

Please see Irsfeld—5

Dorms Offer Unique View of Life

Everyone should live in the dorms.

Two reasons for it: One, living in the dorm is an educational experience, one that rivals sitting in the classroom. Two, on top of that, it's the ultimate bonding event.

Think about it this way: a freshmen like myself, in Tonopah Hall, lives with some 400 people. I spend 90 percent of my time on campus somewhere. Sometimes in class, sometimes in the dining commons, but usually in the dorm.

The dorms offer a wealth of resources. There is a lobby, a place to gather 24 hours a day. Without fail, there's always someone around to play pool with on Tonopah's infamous slanted table. Or you can lounge around on the couches, or go up to one of the floor lounges, designed for such purposes as quiet study or watching TV. Other dorms on campus have balconies, a bonus exit if you live on the first floor.

Another aspect of general dorm life is the food. Here you eat at the Dining Commons. All the food you can stuff down one face for a



Smart Remark
ANDREW MARX

nominal fee you have to pay anyway as part of residential life, so you take advantage of what the DC offers.

The food is usually decent (if not a bit soggy most days) and if not, well, In-and-Out is right down the street if one has extra cash.

When things go wrong, residents can turn to the RAs, who are around to help out in emergencies (for example, one hundred and one fire alarms during the year).

The RAs also encourage floor unity, check out the pool equipment after hours, and take complaints as they come in from residents, and then help the residents deal with the problems.

That's where the education comes into play. Living with a bunch of people requires compromise and cooperation between everyone. The RAs initially begin this compromising process and encourages it throughout the year. There is one RA on each floor, and to each floor, they contribute to a unifying force.

Nothing quite unifies residents like living on the same floor. The floor that parties together does

laundry together. Most floors have regular social gatherings, say to watch "90210," or a weekly food fest at the Golden Nugget. You eat lunch and dinner together and most importantly, hold floor meetings.

On the sixth floor of Tonopah, when someone whispers "floor meeting," half the floor scoffs. It's an ongoing joke there, and just one floor below, a floor meeting is an open forum for discussing "issues," and they actually hold a floor meeting once a week!

Most floors have instituted quiet hours when loud music can't be played. This is what meetings are for, to decide when is too early and when is too late to be blaring music. It's a "majority wins" situation. Other decisions come down as situations arise that need the input of the entire floor. And everyone follows the rules. That's something residents learn early on.

Within the floor are many suites. That's what they call four guys sharing a john and shower. In some suites, all the doors are locked and there's very little contact between suitemates. Others only lock their doors when they're on the pot, or have a member of

Please see Dorms—5



Families Undermining 'Family Values'

Why is it that whenever former Vice President Dan Quayle and President Clinton talk about "family values" they focus on illegitimate babies?

While I embrace their goals, I am bothered by a subtle demagogic racism that oozes from their sermons. There is always the implication that young black women started the sexual looseness, and that now, young white women are being copycats. How flattering to young black women to suggest that they invented (or first discovered) America's sexual revolution.

Then there is the not-so-subtle but foolish notion that through "welfare reform" the politicians can stop young women from engaging in sexual intercourse and getting pregnant. Even worse is the notion that if they deny food and shelter to enough babies and children their mothers will suddenly behave.

Here in the affluent suburb

Guest
Commentary
CARL
ROWAN

of Bethesda, Maryland, 16-year-old Elizabeth Clark was driving three friends on a partying spree in the BMW 325i given to her by her mother three weeks earlier. Clark

was with two 16-year-olds and one 15-year-old schoolmate and was driving illegally on a provisional license that forbade her to drive between midnight and 5 a.m. without a licensed driver age 21 or older in the front seat.

What's worse, Elizabeth Clark was drunk, her blood-alcohol level being .17, or almost double the Maryland threshold at which she became legally intoxicated. She lost control of the car, which was cut in half by a tree. One of her friends was killed and the other two were critically injured.

I cite this terrible accident only by way of reminding Mr. Quayle and President Clinton that America has changed for the worse in many ways that cannot be blamed on poor black teenagers or welfare mothers. Even in "traditional" wealthy families, parents feel they will be seen as unloving ogres if they do not give

their children a fancy car at age 16. I can remember when four sets of parents would never risk the nightmare of four young women driving off to guzzle alcohol and chance riding home with a beginner driver who was drunk.

Restoring some of the traditional family values is a legitimate dream, but in so many cases it is a futile hope. The unspoken custom now is to indulge our children in whatever excesses make them feel superior to their classmates and neighbors, whether it be the car they are allowed to drive or how much we overlook the hour at which they return home loaded with whatever amount of booze.

Not matter how many speeches Mr. Quayle and Mr. Clinton give about "family values," nothing will get better until we get racism and class bigotry out of the discussion and we get Americans to admit that they, not their neighbors, have undermined family values.

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The Rebel Yell

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