

Editorial

Our Choice: Phillips

With the General Election less than three weeks away, *The Rebel Yell* would like to offer its endorsement in the regent races.

After a series of interviews, a debate, and a question and answer session conducted by the UNLV Alumni Association, we have decided to endorse Dave Phillips for Sub-District A, who has the insight, skill and sincerity necessary to lead the system in a positive direction, resulting in stability and benefits for all.

In August, the UNLV Alumni Association held a question and answer session and invited all regent candidates to attend.

Dave Phillips, a UNLV alumni, and a graduate of the Howard University School of Law, was one of those who took the time to attend the event. Phillips demonstrated that he is able to think on his feet as he expertly fielded questions from the executive board.

Phillips' achievements include: U.S. Marine Corps Prosecutor, Hearings Officer, Wash., D.C., Board of Governors, National Bar Association, and also served as attorney for Jesse Jackson for President in 1988.

His opponent, Linda Howard, conversely, canceled an hour before the alumni event. She has a two-year degree from the Community College of Southern Nevada. While some of UNLV's brightest students have transferred from CCSN, we feel it's ludicrous to elect her, or anyone else as regent, without, at minimum, a four-year degree.

Last week, *The Rebel Yell* and CSUN sponsored a debate between the four candidates vying for the two regent positions. Although all the candidates were contacted weeks in advance and confirmed, Howard canceled just days before the event, denying voters a chance to see where she stands on the issues.

Her cancellation of both events not only demonstrates a pattern of unreliability and disregard for the voters, it does not augur well for her position as regent.

It is clear to us Dave Phillips is the person for the regent position of Sub-District A.

Next week: our choice for Sub-District D.

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.

Massimino Departure New Beginning for UNLV

Standing at last Friday's press conference, announcing the end of the Rollie Massimino experiment, I almost felt sorry for him.

Here was a man who had been broken. A week of long negotiations and intense pressure had weakened his voice and left circles under his eyes. His hair was tweaked and unkempt as he strolled into the Thomas & Mack Center to speak to the media he had treated so poorly these past two years.

As he began to speak, all the fire and fight he had shown since his early days at Villanova were gone. The voice wasn't strong. He spoke, sounding as though he might breakdown. Instead, he was diplomatic, saying things just didn't work out at UNLV.

Massimino was exactly right. He was not the answer, and in the end he accepted it. With a little help and \$1.88 million, of course.

Throughout this newspaper, you'll read what Massimino did wrong and how it shamed UNLV. But the big question is, where do we go from here?

That direction seems to be former UNLV assistant coach Tim Grgurich. Grgurich has often been called the brains behind the Tarkanian era. If anyone can turn around the program, it is him, and there are two reasons why.

First, Grgurich understands UNLV traditions. Being a part of the Runnin' Rebel basketball glory years, he knows the people of Las Vegas and the students of UNLV. He knows what they want,

Straight From
the Gully



SCOTT
GULBRANSEN

and he can give it to them.

Second, Grgurich has a recruiting pipeline. He has connections in Southern California that will land UNLV the type of players they need to return to the top. In Massimino's two years at UNLV, he never signed a recruit out of that talent rich area. Grgurich will and that will strengthen the program quickly.

The one negative that will come with Grgurich, if he comes, will be his association with former UNLV basketball coach, Jerry Tarkanian. UNLV President Kenny Guinn said he felt it was unfair to judge Grgurich guilty by association, and he is right.

There is a faction on this campus who really believe that Tarkanian and his former staff were as evil as Satan. These are the same people who would like to see all collegiate athletics chopped down to the level of intramural sports. Their opinion is tainted and selfish.

UNLV's Director of Athletics, Jim Weaver, announced a new system, a sort of checks and balances, that will make sure UNLV's basketball program is abiding by NCAA regulations. That system will produce two reports yearly, which should appease those in academia that believe the program will run wild.

What we need to do as a university is put the past behind us. When I say the past, I mean the whole past. The Tarkanian and Massimino era's are gone, and we should only take from them what lessons we need to. If the next coach is Grgurich, or any-

one else for that matter, we need to back him and look toward the future. The old wounds need to be healed, and healed quickly.

It would be nice to say UNLV was put on the map for academic excellence. The truth is, it wasn't. Kids in Philadelphia or Los Angeles are walking down the street wearing UNLV hats and T-shirts. And it's not because they know the university has a good hotel school; they're wearing them because of that red banner that hangs at the T&M. They are wearing them because of people like Larry Johnson, Stacy Augmon and Isaiah (J.R.) Rider.

Whether you like it or not, UNLV is known for basketball, and that's what America knows UNLV is good at.

That is not necessarily a bad thing. Why not have people become interested in your university through sports and then introduce them to your academic excellence? Both of them can work in conjunction to produce a positive school image.

The turnaround of the UNLV basketball program will provide something the students of this university need—campus pride. I've spoken of the apathy that plagues our campus before, and I truly believe that if the students have a good basketball team (along with our resurgent football program), some of those things will change.

Whatever the case, an ugly time in the history of our university is behind us. Let's make sure that it stays where it belongs—in the past.

—Scott Gulbransen
is the Opinion Editor
at *The Rebel Yell*.

Will We Ever Learn from Our Past?

The past two weeks have cleared up any misconceptions I might have had: big-time college athletics are about money.

Rollie Massimino wasn't exactly personable, and in a previous article, I asked Rollie to take responsibility for the basketball program's troubles or move on. Now, he's been bought out for all the wrong reasons.

Massimino wasn't bought out because the university wanted to field a better basketball team for the students to rally behind or because of his team's poor performances in his two seasons here. He was bought out because the basketball scholarship donors that buy season tickets for \$1,000 each weren't writing checks like they used to.

Tim Grgurich. The mere mention of his name had those same donors flooding the Thomas & Mack Center with calls for tickets. At the time this went to print, it wasn't clear if Grgurich was in or out as coach. One thing is clear though, the boosters are yearning for the days of old.

The days of old they remember, are the days of Jerry Tarkanian's Runnin' Rebels dominating college basketball. They say no one had ever heard of UNLV until the basketball team slam-

On Target



CHRISTOPHER
MITCHELL

dunked this university into national consciousness.

No one had ever heard of Chernobyl either, but are people lining up to relive that catastrophe?

Grgurich, an assistant under Tarkanian for 12 years, is unanimously hailed as a great basketball coach. If hired, he will put the Runnin' back into the Rebels. He will be able to recruit, and he will win games. He will probably run a clean program.

Was that an NCAA investigator that met Grgurich at the airport?

He and Tark were cleared last week of any wrongdoing by the NCAA, but don't kid yourself, something was amiss in that program. When three Rebel basketball players are photographed with a known sports fixer, something is wrong. Grgurich wasn't the problem. The problem was the slimy characters that surrounded the program. And now they are hoping to slither their way back to the Mack.

Isn't the basketball program still on probation? By even considering Grgurich, the message is clear, UNLV needs the basketball program to generate big bucks by any means necessary. Duke University does things

the right way. They are a private school and their athletic programs live off of donated money. The basketball team plays in an arena that holds just over 9,000, and yet the front row is filled with students, not donors.

We've got an arena twice as big, yet our front row is filled by "Gucci Row." We've got no school spirit, because the students know it isn't their basketball team. Even when the Rebels were national champions, the T&M wasn't filled with students, it was filled with big-money, season ticket holders.

The bigger-than-life basketball program is a Vegas show for donors first, students second. Fireworks, glitz and high rollers are what the boosters and community want from UNLV basketball.

That is not what the university needs. UNLV needs to rid themselves of those who don't care about the university as a whole.

That would leave behind only the donors that care about the university, and it would leave UNLV with a basketball team it could call its own. The team can play in the North Gym if it has to. At least then, the basketball program could take its proper place within the university.

—Christopher Mitchell is
an opinion columnist
at *The Rebel Yell*.

The Rebel Yell

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS
4505 MARYLAND PARKWAY
LAS VEGAS, NV 89154-2011

PHONE (702) 895-3878
FAX (702) 895-1515

JAMES EMBREE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

KATIE LAND
MANAGING EDITOR

THOMAS LACY
NEWS EDITOR

SCOTT GULBRANSEN
OPINION EDITOR

PAUL GUTIERREZ
SPORTS EDITOR

JOHN QUINLEN
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

LESLIE LITCHFIELD
PHOTO EDITOR

MICHAEL RAY CARRIGAN
PRODUCTION MANAGER

JAN WILLIAMS
COPY EDITOR

MARY HAUSCH
FACULTY ADVISOR

LORI CALLISON
BUSINESS MANAGER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED AND FEWER THAN 300 WORDS. THEY MUST INCLUDE NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER. WRITERS AFFILIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS MUST INCLUDE CLASS AND MAJOR, OR FACULTY OR STAFF POSITION. TO SEND YOUR LETTER VIA THE INTERNET, ADDRESS IT TO: rebelyel@nevada.edu