

# Top Ten Requirements for New UNLV President

We need a president. In case you have forgotten, UNLV is still searching for someone to replace former President Robert Maxson. There are plenty of tasks for the new president to deal with, such as budget cuts, surging enrollment and the desperate need for a new library, to name a few. On top of that, the new president needs to have a plan to lead UNLV into the next century.



CHRISTOPHER MITCHELL

and kiss the athletic department's Nike's. Deny it all you want, but the athletic department rules around here and the next president should know that coming in. The Tarkanian regime regained power faster than Haiti's Jean-Bertrand Aristide and they won't be asking for the president's permission or blessing on much of anything.

8. Convince potential scholarship and big-money donors their cash won't be spent on secret contracts. Basketball donors are making their way back to the Thomas & Mack, but the long term effects of the athletic department's scandals will not be known until the donors interested in academics, not basketball, decide whether or not to break out their checkbooks.

9. Convince faculty and staff that raises are overrated. It has been three years since some staff members got a raise. Now the university is \$10 million in the red and raises probably aren't in their near future. The president will have to convince them that their contributions to academia and our future are what really counts. Good luck.

10. Must be willing to bow down to the "business men" sitting in Gucci row. "I'm going to make you an offer you can't refuse," is a favorite phrase of some folks that have returned to the T&M, so this is more of a tip for the president's own safety.

This is one of the most important decisions in the short history of this university. So here they are, my top 10 (sorry Dave, I couldn't think of anything better) requirements for the next president:

1. Don't screw things up as bad as President Kenny Guinn. I thought the interim president's job was to get things ready for the next president. Instead, Guinn, with "Tark" tattooed across his chest, sets out on a demolition course to knock off everybody tied to Maxson. But, he bungled Tim Grgurich's hiring and then tried to fool everyone into believing Athletic Director Jim Weaver's resignation had nothing to do with Grgurich. Nice try. His term can't end soon enough.

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

# Phillips Political Solutions for America on the Mark?

Arrogant Capital: Washington, Wall Street, and the Frustration of American Politics  
Kevin Phillips  
Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1994.  
231 pp.

Book Review  
JAMES LAMARE

of political change, sweeping into political power new faces with fresh solutions to our country's problems. These critical elections, such as the presidential election of 1932, have expanded the participatory base of the political system and shortened the distance between government and the priorities and preferences of the general citizenry.

Pinpointed for detailed analysis by Phillips is "the financialization of America." In a nutshell, Phillips contends that the profit needs of America's financial institutions have come to dominate the country's economic and political agenda. Making money off of money, risky investments (often offshore), and shaky derivatives has become the foremost goal of these institutions. Gone are the days when capital was pumped into the more tangible world of industrial development.

Phillips contends that the established political process is no match for the extant Washington power structure. In particular, separation of powers introduces friction and squabbling in government when decisive and coordinated action is required. The two-party system is "obsolete," serving mostly to protect the new establishment rather than as a mechanism that meaningfully links voters to policy makers.

Phillips offers some general proposals which, if implemented, would precipitate a national "revolution."

On Nov. 3, the *New York Times* reported on a recent nationwide survey about this year's elections. They found that a large number of Americans approaching voting were overwhelmed with a strong sense of political distrust and powerlessness and an edgy feel about the country's future. Political alienation, according to the *Times*, is as widespread today as it was more than a decade ago. What is wrong?

The cyclical dynamic of electoral change should be occurring now, but it is being stifled by several forces. Preeminent is the insular power structure that has become fossilized in the nation's capital. The power elite is not only out of sync with the nation's people, it also has created barriers and devices that thwart efforts at voter-initiated renovation and house cleaning.

The social costs of these practices include forcing America's work force to move from the manufacturing to the service sector, with an attendant loss of better paying jobs and valuable fringe benefits. To be sure, the speculative drive of the financial institutions has generated tremendous wealth, but only a few have directly benefited from this surplus and the economic chasm between this thin rich stratum and the rest of us has widened.

The proliferation of state and local political entities, encouraged by federalism, has created multiple layers of largely ineffective government. Finally, the judicial and legal system has spawned an overabundance of judges and lawyers and, more importantly, a very messy and costly litigious approach to settling important issues.

—Shifting power away from Washington D.C. by, among other things, rotating the nation's capital between that city and some other city ("say Denver")

Well-known consultant, columnist, and commentator Kevin Phillips diagnoses the etiologies of America's political ills and offers some remedies aimed at a cure.

Phillips details the development of fortress Washington through amassing a slew of demographics that document (1) the expansion of the administrative bureaucracies and legislative and executive staff planted in the city's governing circles and (2) the explosion of the "parasite culture" composed of lawyers, lobbyists, media personnel, and consultants and policy experts, who feed off and nurture politicians, their aides, and our institutions.

The Washington political establishment has aided and abetted the promotion of financialization. Copious campaign contributions from the investors to political decision makers have helped the fusion process. So has the direct and indirect lobbying efforts of the financiers. The result has been policies aimed at serving the narrow gauge interests of speculators, no matter what the cost to the nation at large.

Although much of what Phillips says about the country's problems is not new, he does present some intriguing case studies and interesting factual information to support his view. To offset the country's mal-

—Amending the Constitution to more unify the executive and legislative branches of government

Phillips' argues that the root of the country's political problems lay in the failure of the current electoral process to cleanse the political system of outmoded policies and entrenched leaders who are out of touch with the majority of the public.

For instance, he counts 61,000

lawyers and 91,000 lobbyists prowling in and around the District of Columbia. They intermingle and occasionally trade places with the hundreds of legislators and thousands of staff and bureaucrats that occupy the city.

—Reducing the importance of lawyers and litigation

—Enacting regulations that would curb the power of lobbyists (especially those representing foreign interests)

## Student Employment Needs Work

To the Editor:

In the Nov. 17 issue of *The Rebel Yell*, Christopher Mitchell stated in his column that the Student Employment Office would be able to accomplish more if they were furnished with a bigger staff and modern equipment.

As an exchange student from the University of Delaware, I would like to offer some similarities and differences between the offices at my school and the one here at UNLV. At the U of Delaware there is no job board—instead there are job books. These books are compiled and, for around \$4.50, are a useful tool for students and staff. These books have hundreds of jobs that students can apply for. They also include detailed descriptions of the jobs found within it.

With this system, a person working in the office can get more done each day because the student needs only to check the book. The system also gives an advantage to the student because they don't have to wait two to three days to get job references. You get information immediately, without bothering anyone.

## Letters to the Editor

If this system was used at UNLV, I wouldn't have missed out on two jobs. The system they use is not efficient or helpful. Let's change it, so the 20,000 students at UNLV have a better chance of getting a job.

Mindy Maslynsky  
Junior  
National Student  
Exchange Student

## Paradigm or Paradox?

To the Editor:

On Nov. 14th, another brave young man lost his life to AIDS. After a lengthy battle with the crippling disease, Pedro Zamora gave in to the very demon he fought for five long years. He was featured as one of seven people whose lives were chronicled on the MTV weekly serial, *The Real World*.

During his fight for life, Pedro dedicated his remaining days to AIDS awareness and the education of young people and the dangers of risky behavior. Although tragic in some sense, Pedro's death could be a parallel to some of life's anomalies.

There are many people who see life as only left or right; a day or a night; either black or white. Is it not possible for there to also be a medium or middle; a dusk or dawn; a gray?

Does 'alternative' mean wrong? Paradigm or paradox?

Can there ever be a time when people will always see the forest through the trees? Is there a glimmer of hope that someday all people will realize that even though we are different, we are still the same? With this type of thinking, it is easy to question why voters in the recent California election could be on the cutting edge of antidiscriminatory regulation one day, then destroy the value of those efforts with the passage of Proposition 187 the very next.

Those who knew Pedro, knew a strong, intelligent young man with a powerful message told through a sad story. He, like everyone else, had many dreams and many hopes and a vision of the future. Through his messages people were educated to the values of 'choice' and what it means to exercise that choice and the relationships of how choices affect other people. To those who did not know him, his death has little or no meaning at all. He was just another person who died.

David Turner  
Senior  
Hotel Administration

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Jim Lamare is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science at UNLV.