

Hard on Crime: An Unconstitutional Charade

Most Republicans now ripping apart last year's Crime Bill seem brainlocked on the notion that if we just build enough prisons there won't be anyone left on the streets whom we need to fear as potential muggers, robbers and rapists.

Tell them that we quadrupled the U.S. prison population and that the crime rate went up and you will get the seemingly plausible explanation that if we had not locked up three times as many people there would now be three times more criminals on our streets. That is tolerable math based on faulty reasoning.

A greater logic tells me that if you see that more and costlier prisons and other places of incarceration do not produce a drop in crime, there must be other things this society is doing wrong. There have to be more complicated reasons why we suffer from more and more lawlessness of violence and passion.

The conservatives who are now changing the law to inspire more arrests, allow easier convictions, give longer sentences, grant fewer appeals and sometimes banish paroles believe almost exclusively in punishment as the antidote to lawlessness. They scoff at social programs designed to prevent crimes, trivializing most things short of capital punishment as "midnight basketball" and "too expensive."

Others of us say that if in anger and tunnel vision we abandon anti-drug efforts, job training and, yes, "midnight baseball," all we will do is create larger armies of hopeless American outcasts who will

Guest
Commentary

CARL
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turn to crime to express their rage.

The most frightening aspect of this "hard on crime" charade in the House is the willingness of some

would-be prison wardens to transform the U.S. Constitution into a straitjacket and a set of handcuffs and leg irons. Some Republicans are so fanatical in their efforts to wipe away the "advantage" of those who are accused of crime that they want to give the police search-and-seizure rights that Americans learned to abhor when warrantless agents of a rapacious British king were bursting down the doors of homes of Pilgrims.

Those who think approval of police-state tactics today will abolish crime and produce an era of American tranquility are tragically wrong. What they will get is a brutally larger war between the alienated Americans (including those addicted to criminal behavior) and the platoons of Dirty Harrys that we unleash. Ordinary Americans will be trapped in the middle, victimized by their timid abandonment of a Bill of Rights that has long kept us the freest people on earth.

The anti-crime panic spreads crazily in the House, partly because of strident and unthoughtful leadership. We must hope that more realistic members of the Senate will thwart the wilder representatives so that our constitutional protections do not get trampled under a mob bent on locking up even the least threatening of the aggrieved citizens among us.

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Romar Right Choice for Runnin' Rebels

Now that Tim Grurich has abandoned his team and the university, it's time to find his replacement. And, once again, sports becomes news at UNLV.

Over the next few weeks you will be assaulted with rumor upon rumor about who the next coach of the sinking program will be. Names already mentioned include former Rebel players Sidney Green, Reggie Theus and Ricky Sobers. Other names from outside the program include Utah State's Larry Eustacy, San Diego's Brad Holland (fans will remember Holland from his Cal State Fullerton days) and UCLA assistant coach Lorenzo Romar.

Both Holland and Eustacy would not be bad choices. Holland has a record well below .500 but has never had much to recruit with. Anyone who has been to the Titan Gym knows it is the biggest piece of junk in the Big West Conference. Eustacy has done an excellent job at Utah State recruiting to one of the most boring schools in the nation. The Aggies won the Big West this season and Eustacy is an excellent game coach.

But there is only one candidate that I feel can truly put UNLV where it needs to be. That person is Lorenzo Romar.

Romar, the number one assistant at UCLA, is the right choice for a multitude of reasons. First, Romar is one of the best recruiters in the country. He is the one who recruited the O'Bannon brothers, George Zidek, Shon Tarver and J.R. Henderson. He has the West Coast connections that could put UNLV back in the Top 25. Also, with the coaching change occurring so late in the

Straight From
the Gully



SCOTT
GULBRANSEN

recruiting year, Romar would bring perhaps a couple of the kids that were headed to UCLA. No matter what anyone says, some basketball players pick a specific school because they feel comfortable with the person who recruited them. If Romar becomes a Rebel, a few Bruin recruits will follow him to Las Vegas. Instead of taking

five years to return to respectability, under Romar the Rebels could be back in two.

Romar is also a good choice because he is an ethical man who believes in college athletics. In his time at UCLA, he has had no scandals concerning his student-athletes. People who have been around Romar describe him as a hard-working family man who believes in the ideal of college athletics. He believes in school first and has a desire to see his kids graduate with a degree. That is exactly what the doctor ordered for UNLV.

For years the Black Coaches Association has cried foul saying that African-American coaches are not given the chance to become head coaches at high-profile programs around the country. Georgetown's John Thompson has been one of the more vocal African-American coaches speaking out on the subject.

UNLV has an opportunity to show that it judges its coaches on potential and hard work, not skin color. For UNLV to hire an African-American coach would be a huge step forward for black coaches all over the nation.

Romar would also bring a deep sense of tradition with him. Having been a coach at UCLA, he knows what tradition is and would bring that with him from Westwood. The connections he

has made at UCLA will help the UNLV program for years to come.

It is clear that, if UNLV can steal him away from the #1 UCLA program, Lorenzo Romar is the best candidate to take the UNLV job. He would bring integrity, talent and a winning attitude to a program that desperately needs all three.

The Side Dish...

Just a few thoughts on some other happenings around UNLV:

Joe Mills, a candidate for CSUN vice-president, didn't like last week's *Yell*. In that issue, *Yell* columnist Joe Ayson called Mills on the carpet for making some anti-Greek comments to prospective student voters. Mills was angry and has threatened to sue the paper unless the story was retracted. Wake up Joe, you might want to talk to an attorney before you start threatening a lawsuit...

Did everyone see Stephanie Boixo's letter in this issue? She's her own worst enemy...

People who met UNLV President-elect Carol Harter said she was nice, interesting and has some good ideas concerning the problems at the university. Unfortunately, I had class both times she was on campus. I hope that future visits by our future leader are a little later in the evening so students who have school during the day can attend...

Has anyone seen the *Perfect Match* on UNLV-TV channel 4? It seems to me that a show that is basically a recycled *Dating Game* is a waste of student's time. Why not challenge students with a news magazine program or a show that concentrates on what is happening on the campus of UNLV?

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

UNLV
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA LAS VEGAS

Student Senate
Meeting Schedule

The Rebel Yell encourages all students to attend UNLV's Student Senate meetings, which will resume meeting after Spring Break.

Monday, March 20,
6:30 p.m. MSU 201

Monday, March 27,
6:30 p.m. MSU 201

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Just Call Us 'Scandal U'

It seems like every time the student body turns around, someone new is trying to stab us in the back and rob us. When this

began is anyone's guess. However, in the past few years these muggings have become more frequent and in the public eye. No longer are regents and faculty trying to take things away from us in the cover of bureaucratic red tape. Now private citizens are getting in the act by the light of day in front of our faces. It is now becoming an all out public frenzy on who can be next to use and abuse the UNLV first for their own egotistical and financial gain.

At the turn of the decade, UNLV seemed to have everything going for it. We had won an NCAA basketball national championship and school morale was at an all time high. Like wishing for the good old Reagan years, we all wish for the good old days of Tark the Shark.

My how the mighty have fallen.

Every time we turn around there seems to be a new scandal, a new scam discovered, a new knife sticking in our side. The knife to be twisted every time we

Visions

SHIFON
FOSTER

mention that we go to UNLV and someone laughs saying "isn't that where...?" There isn't anything worse or more damaging than

going into a job interview and having the interviewers spend the next 20 minutes asking you questions about that secret Massimino deal. You know where you'd like to stick those questions!

Making jokes and asking students dumb questions about the state of our school seems to be the new public past time. Doesn't the public realize that it is the future graduates of UNLV that will have to suffer for all the public embarrassment that this school has to endure.

And what about the students just starting out here? They are losing more than public support. It has become a matter of finance. For example, just recently, Elaine and Steve Wynn have taken away their scholarship funds that total almost \$2 million. So much for their dedication to academics. Now that their boy Maxson is gone and his playmate Massimino has taken a \$1.8 million hike, they figure why stick around if they can't control us anymore.

Why can't they ignore public

opinion and the bad press, and just want to help us? No public accolades, no fan fare, just a bunch of very grateful students that will hopefully get a good education and have a chance to go out into the world and make this institution proud. Is that really too much to ask of someone who got to blow up his own hotel and star in a movie?

And what of the latest fiasco with the return of Tim Grurich? Wouldn't it be nice if we could all get jobs that pay a big amount up front and then two weeks later claim we can't continue and then turn around to receive workman's compensation benefits? Must be nice. What would happen if we all did that?

Didn't he realize that literally thousands of people were depending on him? If he didn't think he could handle the job he should have said thanks, but no thanks.

We can only pray that Carol Harter will put a stop to all these embarrassing shenanigans. Hopefully she will be a strong, no nonsense leader that can lead us out of this growing melee before we lose the rest of our funding.

—Shifon Foster is
an opinion columnist
at The Rebel Yell.