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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

SENTINEL-VOICE EXCLUSIVE FOLLOWING UNLV'S RIDER-LESS LOSS TO USC, J.R. SPEAKS OUT ABOUT RECENT CONTROVERSY

By W.G. Ramirez

UNLV's senior All-American forward J.R. Rider, declared ineligible for Wednesday night's NIT opening round game against Southern Cal, was scheduled to speak out for the first time this afternoon at Attorney Steve Stein's office to members of the media on much of the past week's controversy.

Following the NCAA Selection Committee's decision to snub UNLV from the 1993 NCAA Tournament, the basketball program suffered an even bigger let down when Athletic Director Jim Weaver announced that due to further investigation into an alleged "academic scandal," Rider had been declared ineligible for the NIT Tournament. Deciding to put the NCAA Tournament issue behind them, the Rebels accepted a bid to play USC in the opening round. The following day, the Rider suspension was announced.

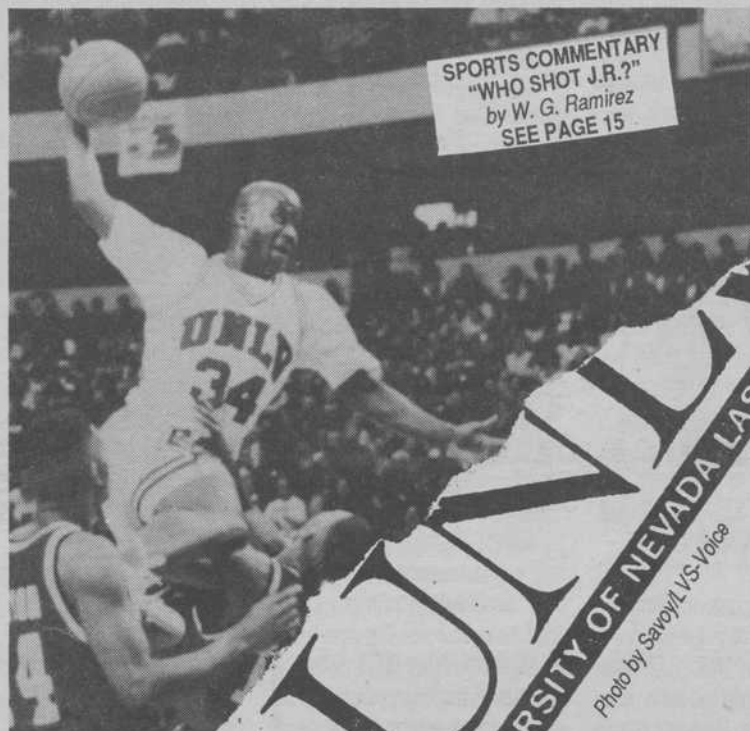
The 25th-ranked Runnin' Rebels had their season halted when the Trojans invaded the Thomas and Mack Center last night and toppled UNLV 90-74.

When asked by the Sentinel-Voice to comment about the recent controversy concerning his grades, following the game, Rider insisted that we should be present at today's press conference. Unlike the personal conflicts he has with members of the local media, neutral ground eventually led Rider to speak out to the Sentinel exclusively.

"All I can say, is I'm gonna stay strong through all of this," expressed J.R. After a deep breath and a shrug of his neck and shoulders, he continued. "I'm gonna do everything that the school, the Regents- everyone -the community, don't think I'm gonna do!!! I'm gonna go to school, I'm gonna stay strong. Be a good citizen!!!"

As he finished with his comments he looked up with a bit of disgust, but yet a bit of relief, which began his release of everything that has been bottled up.

Rider had been touted as one of the most underrated players in the nation, at the beginning of the season. As his (See J.R. Speaks Out, Page 14)



Hatchery Home Cares For Abused, Abandoned And Neglected Girls

By Bonita H. Armstrong

There is an old Negro spiritual that says "If I can help somebody as I travel along this way, then my living will not be in vain." If this is true, then the lives of the Hatchery Home Staff will surely not be in vain.

The Hatchery home for children is a non-profit organization dedicated to caring for abused, abandoned and neglected girls on a 24-hour basis.

The home was founded by Carolyn Oats in 1984 in North Las Vegas. Oats still runs the home assisted by a small staff. At present there are seven girls housed in the home.

"When I was a little girl," Oats said, "I always said I wanted to run an orphanage. That was what they were called back then. But, I knew I always wanted to work with children who had no one else to turn to. I wanted to give a family to children who didn't have one."

Oats says her appreciation for family came from her own family as she grew up in a small town in central Lou-

isiana. Her father was a sawmill worker and her mother stayed home with the kids for many years. She is the 12th of 15 children who were raised on the Louisiana farm.

"There were a lot of us running around down there. And we did what any other normal children did. We played and laughed and fought sometimes. But, I think the most important thing was that we were genuinely close and loved each other," Oats said.

"Sometimes I think people that have loving, caring families take it for granted. I did. But, one day I realized that there were children out there who didn't have the kinds of things I had. And I don't mean money or nice clothes, because we were poor and didn't have a lot. But, I mean they didn't have a family bond. They didn't have people in their lives that cared about them," Oats continued.

The Hatchery Home has had its fair share of ups and downs. The original building was destroyed by fire several years ago. The residents had to move

TONY BROWN TO BE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THE MOULIN ROUGE

On Friday evening March 26 at 8:00 p.m., Mr. Tony Brown, host of the popular Public Broadcasting System series "Tony Brown's Journal," will be the keynote speaker at a special program at the Moulin Rouge Hotel. The Moulin Rouge is located at 900 West Bonanza. The event commemorates the thirty-third anniversary of a landmark 1960 meeting at the hotel among local civil rights leaders and state and local officials which ended the policy of excluding Blacks from downtown and Strip resorts. A twenty-five dollar donation will be collected at the door and reservations are recommended. Proceeds will benefit the Moulin Rouge Preservation Association. For additional information and reservations, call the hotel at 648-5040.

Tony Brown has been the producer and host of "Tony Brown's Journal" since 1970, and he has recently become a commentator on



TONY BROWN

"All Things Considered" on National Public Radio. He is also the author of a syndicated weekly column in 130 newspapers across the country and a forthcoming book, *NO WHITE LIES, NO BLACK LIES— ONLY THE TRUTH*. In addition, Mr. Brown helped to found the School of Communications at Howard University and served as its first dean. In a segment of a recent PBS special on "The (See Tony Brown, Page 9)



The Hatchery Home has become a "true home" for abused, abandoned and neglected girls.

Photo by Savoy/LVS-Voice

in with Oats and her family while the new home was being rebuilt. Then there was the time the home was running low on single beds. Oats' children, Tasha and DeAndre, gave up their beds and slept on mats on the floor.

"Sometimes I felt like I was drown-

ing," Oats said.

The Hatchery Home staff consists of four people including Oats, one volunteer worker, two foster grandmothers, and a tutor. The director of the home is Sheila Lyerly.

Lyerly has been with the Home for (See Hatchery Home, Page 5)