

# WHO SHOT J.R.????

By W.G. Ramirez

KTNV-TV Channel 13 Sports Director Ron Futrell summed it up perfectly Tuesday night when he said, "J.R. Rider did not come up with this 'scheme,' somebody, somewhere..."

Just stop right there. Somebody, somewhere!!!

In the latest escapade at UNLV, senior All-American J.R. Rider was declared ineligible for last night's NIT match-up against USC because of an alleged "academic scandal."

Welcome to Vegas, Rollie!

Things just wouldn't be the same without a bit of controversy with the Runnin' Rebels. This time Rider is the target, and we have a case of 'Who Shot J.R.'

Was it J.R. himself? Could it have been Vicki Bertilino, J.R.'s English teacher? What about Administrative Assistant Tom Pecora and UNLV compliance officer Jaina Preston? They allegedly "pressed" Bertilino into giving J.R. a passing grade in order for him to be eligible for the season.

We can't leave out Bruce Pascoe. The R-J Sports Writer that put everything in black and white. It was Sunday's R-J that caused Athletic Director Jim

Weaver to pursue an in-depth investigation on the matter. Add Weaver to the list. So who really did shoot J.R.?

This particular situation can

## COMMENTARY

be interpreted in a number of ways. You can look at it in each of the person's eyes named above.

Granted, J.R. indeed had his privacy invaded by the R-J, and would not be out-of-line in claiming defamation of character. Now in the same respect, Pascoe was only doing his job by reporting the news. As big as this has gotten already, its obviously proven its worth as being newsworthy. So go figure, who's right? Who's wrong?

Mr. Weaver, another person who was simply doing his job. Face it, if it gets to the point that the institution's Athletic Director has to act on it, he is making the best decision that he can see. That's why he is the Athletic Director.

Moving on to Mr. Pecora and Mrs. Preston. Maybe they didn't come across the way Bertilino says, only those three know, but their involvement alone should require some sort of explanation.

tion. Why would Bertilino come up with such statements? What exactly was said? And how was it directed?

Now we come down to the

final two - J.R. and Vicki. After bringing it to the attention of the R-J that she questioned the work done on papers turned in by Rider, the scandal began.

If it bothered this lady that much, why did she wait until now to bring it up?

If everything she said is true, and she was "pressed" into passing J.R., why did she agree to it in the first place, if she was gonna retaliate with a knife in the back?

Well J.R., you're left.

I had a chance to speak with

J following the USC game last night, and he seemed in high spirits. He was pretty pumped about delivering a speech to the media this afternoon. As he was continuously approached by members of the media, the same line came out, "just come to the press conference, you'll hear it all."

J.R. and I eventually were alone coming out of the tunnel into the T&M, when he revealed a brief message to the city through the Sentinel (See Front Page Story).

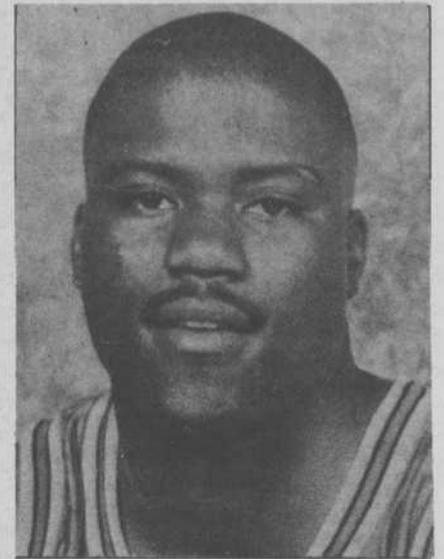
J - I hear where your coming from. But in the long run, when its all said and done, I believe you yourself shot J.R. The minute you agreed to any misrepresentation of who wrote your paper.

If you did write it, only you

know deep down that you did. If you did not do it by yourself, then you also know deep down that it was the wrong move. Turnover. Traveling. Double Dribble. TECHNICAL!!! But you know what, some of the other things we talked of, which we agreed would be between us, and just your attitude Wednesday night, shows that

your gonna be alright. You know what's going on. Just do what you gotta do.

As for everybody else, start scheming on a new subject. It'll



J. R. RIDER

be no time at all that J.R. will be playing on TNT's NBA Game of the Week and there'll be new controversy at the T&M. UNLV... the saga continues.

# TOMMY SHEPPARD: TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

By W.G. Ramirez

When the 1992-93 men's basketball season began, it was already known that then Sports Information Director Joe Hawk would vacate his position in the middle of the season. Well things happened quicker than expected, and Hawk was out as S.I.D.

Assistant S.I.D. Tommy Sheppard, who had just finished up on the gridiron as the UNLV's football team publicist, stepped

up to the role and took over as men's basketball's S.I.D.

Sheppard, a 1991 graduate of New Mexico State, handled the "promotion" well and continuously kept things organized for all of the media, on the local and national level.

Following a strenuous season that saw UNLV lose more games than they have in the past 2-1/2 years, Sheppard proved that he has survived the campaign and has come out

standing tall. Following a week of turmoil, after nearly a controversy-less season, Sheppard's attitude was absolutely positive following UNLV's season-ending loss to USC 90-76 Wednesday night.

If there was one thing that made the season complete, it was the final week of controversy, concerning the NCAA Selection's Committee decision to leave UNLV out of the tournament, and the J.R. Rider ordeal.

In a positive manner, Sheppard summed up the season like this:

"It's been a very trying time in this transition period, but everything is going to work out for the best. Coach Mass runs an exemplary program and is a tremendous influence on the players. Jim Weaver is impeccable. With their leadership, UNLV will be alright, and be back on their feet."

Sheppard was assisted by Jim Gemma and Chris Johnson.

# MADNESS

(Continued From Page 14)

Spats finds Duke and Indiana battling it out for the regional final with the Blue Devils coming out on top.

"I felt that the Blue Devils' early exit from the ACC Tournament gave them more time to heal for the big dance. If Alan Henderson isn't 100% for the Hoosiers, Duke will return to the Final Four."

As expected for the past few weeks, Michigan and their domineering starting five, were shipped out West as the region's #1 seed. Arizona and Vanderbilt fall in behind them at #2 and #3 respectively. The team that always seems to find their way to the Sweet Sixteen and Elite Eight, causing problems for higher seeds is Georgia Tech. If they were to survive two victories, Michigan would be their likely opponent in the regional semi-final. The team to watch in this region will be Vandy. They're a spunky team with a hot hand in Billy McCaffrey.

Spats likes Michigan and Arizona with Temple a slight dark-horse. If the Owls were to get by Missouri, they would most likely face Arizona in the second round.

The final region, the Southeast finds two of the most strongest teams, not to mention hottest in the country. #1 seed Kentucky and #2 Seton Hall are the unanimous choice for regional final. It could come down to who shoots the lights out, Jamal Mashburn for the Wildcats or Seton Hall's Terry DeHere. Both are dangerous basketball players, and would definitely be a great matchup to see who heads to the Final Four. The winner of the opening round matchup between Florida State and Evansville could be the spoiler for someone down the road.

High percentage winner Spats loves Kentucky, reiterating the fact that Jamal Mashburn is a dynamic player.

Spats' Final Four outlook at this point is North Carolina v. Duke and Kentucky v. Michigan. And his winner... catch ya in a few weeks.

**SUBSCRIBE NOW!!!**

**Get Your Copy of the SENTINEL-VOICE MAILED DIRECTLY TO YOU WEEKLY!!!**

**SUBSCRIPTION FORM**  
**SENTINEL-VOICE**  
 Nevada's Only African-American Newspaper  
 Published every Thursday

1 year — \$25.00     6 Months — \$15.00  
 PLEASE START MY SUBSCRIPTION IMMEDIATELY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order payable to Sentinel-Voice  
 1201 So. Eastern Ave. • Las Vegas, NV 89104

*The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice is Excellent for the Thinking Person!*

**Using Our Great Heritage To An Even Greater Future.**

*The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice serves Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Reno, Carson City, Sparks, Hawthorne, Henderson, Tonopah*

**ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS PAYABLE IN ADVANCE**

Second Class Postage Paid at Las Vegas  
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Brown Publishing Co.,  
 1201 South Eastern Avenue • Las Vegas, Nevada 89104