



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear editor,

I am writing in regard to the Second Amendment rally that was held at the campus on Feb. 7. I was an organizer of this event and I feel that it is time to set the record straight.

First of all, there were two events scheduled for the night of Feb. 7, the Second Amendment rally, and the Brady gun control lecture.

The Second Amendment rally began at 7 p.m. and lasted until 8 p.m. It was attended by 500 people of all ages and creeds. We had a cross cultural group of citizens that is representative of the community of Las Vegas. We had no incidents and we were praised by the University Police for our cooperation in keeping this event well managed. I was in charge of security for our rally and it was extremely well mannered and polite. We had six speakers that spoke on the importance of the Second Amendment, and why we must defend it from any encroachment.

The Brady lecture took place at 8 p.m., after our rally had concluded. It was attended by 200 to 300 people. The lecture was open to anyone that had obtained a ticket. It also had a group of citizens that was representative of Las Vegas. It was supposed to be a lecture and question and answer session. The theme of this session was to encourage the encroachment of Second Amendment rights and responsibilities. They cut their lecture short simply because the audience had some dissenters. They could have continued the question and answer session, but they decided they would not answer questions from the public. They chose not to speak.

In short, those are the facts. To claim that the audience was a mob, you would have to condemn the citizens of Las Vegas as a mob. This is not only unfair but patently false. To claim that the Bradys were somehow denied the right to free speech is also untrue since they gave that right up when they decided not to speak.

To those in the anti-rights crowd, I present you with this challenge: I will debate you anytime, anyplace, anywhere. If you have the courage to let the truth come out, then let's go for it. Otherwise, be silent you givers of lies.

James Hartley,  
graduate,  
computer science

Dear editor,

I grew up 100 miles from this great university. For the past 10 years, I have been aware of the extreme

contributions that Coach Jerry Tarkanian has made to the sport of basketball and to UNLV. I am in no way a Tark supporter. I am just one of the many who hates to see an injustice take place.

We are all correct when we say that we are tired of the Maxson-Tarkanian controversy, but do we do anything about it? What can we do about it? One thing we can do is to let our opinions be heard through our student newspaper, *The Rebel Yell*.

Robert Maxson has stepped over his boundaries. I always thought the job of the president of a university was to oversee the academic concerns, deal with the budget and schmooze the alumni. When did his job become "setting up" a fellow educator and then forcing a resignation.

Jerry Tarkanian has accomplished his job. He has turned the UNLV basketball program into a legendary success story. He has taught every one of his players the ingredients necessary to win in basketball and to win in life.

Through the controversy and four years of an intense NCAA investigation, Tarkanian has triumphed. And what is his reward? The libelous accusations from a man who should be grateful to have such a coach at his university.

Those students out there who feel this is none of our concern should re-evaluate their feelings. Usually, at a university, it is the football team which brings in the revenue. Possibly, Jim Strong will someday achieve this. For the moment, it is our basketball team which brings in the money.

Because of this much needed "extra" revenue, the basketball program has assisted in keeping the tuition rates low, and in making UNLV an attractive place for one to continue with education. Think about it folks. For the past 19 years, Tarkanian has been a percentage of the bank here at UNLV. I for one, am grateful.

No one should have the right to make UNLV their private playground. It is unfortunate that Robert Maxson has not realized this earlier. It is also unfortunate that it will be we, the students and faculty, that end up literally paying for his mistakes through budget cuts and tuition hikes.

Dr. Maxson, I am appealing to you. Find it within yourself to admit your mistakes and come to a quick and amicable compromise. Stop worrying about saving face and think about the university and the students. Coach Tarkanian has been a beloved institution at this university and city for 19 years. He can't lose.

Lena Margita  
Political Science

# What commercials would look like if they were realistic

by Dave Barry

I like beer. On occasion, I will even drink a beer to celebrate a major event such as the fall of communism or the fact that our refrigerator is still working.

So you'd think I'd be receptive to TV beer commercials. Most of these have the same plot. Some guys open some beers, and instantly the commercial is overrun by friendly semi-naked young women resembling Barbie, but taller and less intellectual.

If you just got here from Mars, you wouldn't know from watching these commercials that beer is meant for internal consumption. You'd think it was a chemical Hot Babe Attractant, similar to what moths use to locate each other so they can mate. You'd think that the Swedish Bikini Team was constantly prowling the countryside, sniffing the air for a whiff of Old Suburbs Of Cleveland Beer or whatever brand it is they're allegedly attracted to.

What bothers me is, in more than 20 years of opening beers with guys, I have never seen the Swedish Bikini Team show up. Almost always, the teams that show up in beer-drinking situations consist of guys who have been playing league softball and smell like bus seats. Maybe, to avoid misleading consumers, the beer manufacturers should be required to make realistic commercials. For example: (As the commercial opens, some guys are sitting around in the woods, holding cans of beer.)

First Guy: You know, guys, it just doesn't get any better than this.

(Nothing happens.)

First Guy (raising his voice): I SAID, YOU KNOW, GUYS, IT JUST DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS.

(Nothing continues to happen.)

Second Guy: There sure are a lot of moths around here.

Third Guy: This beer tastes like llama spit.

Speaking of realism in advertising, Michael Jordan should be required to make a commercial in which he tries and fails to jump over the pile of money that Wheaties pays him to pretend that breakfast cereal has something to do with basketball ability.

And while we're at it, I want somebody to explain the current magazine ad campaign for Timex watches. You probably remember the old Timex ads, starring John Cameron Swayze, in which a boat propeller, or a jackhammer, or a British soccer fan abuses the watch. The technicians would hand it to John

Cameron Swayze, who would hold it up to the camera and say in a dramatic voice: "It broke." At least that's what I assume happened the first 35 or 40 times. But eventually they'd get a watch that was still working and John Cameron Swayze would say: "Takes a licking and keeps on ticking!"

That was an advertising campaign that I could understand without the aid of narcotics. These ads consist of photographs of people wearing Timex watches; superimposed on each photo is a paragraph telling you about some horrible thing that has happened to the person. For example, one ad features a photo of an attractive woman with the following paragraph which I swear I am not making up:

"Louisa Murray was eating a sandwich when a bowling ball fell off a ledge three stories above and hit her in the head. Doctors gave her a one-in-a-million chance, but she fought back and last spring graduated from college. The ball did leave a little dent in her head. Louisa is wearing a striking Timex women's fashion watch. It costs about \$50."

When you, the consumer, read this, a number of questions naturally come to your mind, including:

—There was a bowling ball on a ledge?

—Was this a suicidal bowling ball?

—Or was she eating the sandwich at some kind of new theme restaurant? ("The Eat 'n' Get a Skull Dent Cafe.")

The ad offers no explanation. Other Timex ads feature a rock climber who "fell 85 feet and landed on her tailbone;" a man who "was attacked by a 1,200-pound Great White Shark" that "tore open his entire upper torso;" and a scuba diver who "was sucked into an offshore water intake pipe for a nuclear power plant." Each victim is modeling a Timex watch. I don't know about you, but the message I get from these ads is: "Wear a Timex watch, and SOMETHING VERY BAD WILL HAPPEN TO YOU." At the drugstore, I find myself edging away from the Timex display case, which I figure must be a powerful disaster magnet. Any moment, a Great White Shark could come lunging out from behind the counter, holding a bowling ball.

I don't mean to suggest here that all advertising is misleading or incomprehensible. There are many informative ads for excellent products, especially the products advertised in this newspaper, all of which I personally recommend and endorse and use in my home. So do my frequent house guests, the Swedish Bikini Team.

Letters to the Editor should be 250 words or less. *The Rebel Yell* reserves the right to edit all works submitted for style and length. All submissions should include major and class standing, or position.

Send correspondence to:  
The Rebel Yell—STS, 4505 Maryland Pkwy.,  
Las Vegas NV 89154, or bring your letter directly to us on the third floor of the Moyer Student Union in Room 302.

