

Letters to the Editor

Weaver's Resignation Long Overdue

To the Editor:

Ding-ding! Once again UNLV finds itself mired in controversy as it wages its latest war with former coach Rollie Massimino.

One can only wonder what goes on behind closed doors as the participants trade blows, leaving the rest of us reliant on local news for information on our own university. I have to wonder why, after a relatively quiet summer, that all of a sudden decisions have been made to oust the head coach hours before the start of the practice season. Is the difference UNLV's president, Kenney Guinn? Regardless, the name UNLV is again being used in sentences that all end in question marks.

What infuriates me most is that many of these questions can be answered. Sadly enough, those who should be

in the know, the students, are the ones truly left in the dark. I wonder if the big boys, as they wrestle over six-figure deals and egos, ever consider the lowly college student, who, not only takes pride and pleasure in university athletics, but will always have UNLV's reputation indelibly imprinted across their foreheads and resumes.

And by the way, what kind of tenure has Athletic Director Jim Weaver had anyway? Weaver continues to bounce in and out of the fire without as much as a scratch.

Now we hear that former Tarkanian assistant Tim Grgurich might be our next head coach.

But what's going to happen after the first recruiting violation or ticket scandal? Where are you going to hang them out to dry, Jim Weaver? Your clothesline is already full.

Kurt R. Divich  
Senior  
Communications

Space—It's Important to Us All

I'm not talking the final frontier, I'm talking the area that separates you and me. I'm talking about you stepping too close to me, invading my space.

Space invasion works on two levels. The first type is offensive liberty. "Offensive Liberty" is your right to do whatever until it offends someone else. Then, they can take "offensive liberty" action against you—in the form of a lawsuit, or perhaps just telling you off.

Offensive liberty is how our society operates. I have three examples.

The first is religion in a school. There was a religious picture donated to a public school. A student decided he was an atheist, and shouldn't be subjected to a picture with religious connotations on property owned by the government. This seemed to the student like an endorsement of the religion, and so, he sued.

Another example involves Ted Nugent, lead singer of *Damn Yankees*. He promoted a "save the environment" campaign, and offended some extremist who disagreed with him. The extremist sent Nugent a death threat, trying to get him to shut up.



Smart Remark  
ANDREW MARX

Finally, a guy discovered his friend was macking on his girlfriend. Rather than being angry with the girl, he got mad at his friend and proceeded to thrash him while chanting, "Don't mess around in my territory."

In each case, one can make decisions on who was truly at fault. It's more important to say that people like being tromped on.

I'm no different, but in each case, I think the offended party overreacted. As far as suing someone is concerned, this country is far too happy with this method of resolution. People feel it's their right to sue, but unless it's to solve a legitimate financial dispute, it's really too vengeful. Revenge is not a good reason to take someone else's money.

Beating someone up is not a viable solution. I can sympathize with the emotions behind that situation more than I can relate to the atheist being influenced by a picture, when he already stated he didn't believe in God. That's poor logic, but since he brought a charge against a school, it became a touchy issue, giving the student's argument

more validity than it would otherwise have had.

There is another type of space invasion that is just as prominent as offensive liberty, with equally dangerous results. It's rumors—talking behind people's backs. What makes this type worse is that the person being talked about cannot defend themselves. At least with offensive liberty, the offended party can fight back.

Rumors and bad-mouthing sucks, but it persists, because everyone has to know what's going on. And if they get the information from a less than legitimate source, assumptions, wrongly made, can get people mad at others for no reason.

People need to get off their high horses. The "whatever works for me is okay" attitude has to go. You can't say "I'm right, you're wrong, get lost." It's just basic respect for others, because you can't completely avoid contact with other people.

So let's make it easier on each other. It's a simple solution if you think you're invading someone's space.

Step back.

—Andrew Marx is an opinion columnist at The Rebel Yell.

Loneliness Is Something We Could All Do Without

Someone to hold me. Someone to call me. Someone to understand me. When that ever-familiar feeling of loneliness creeps up behind me and forces me to look into its face, I become overwhelmed with emotions. I could write poetry for hours. I could listen to Mariah Carey for hours. In fact, I do. Soul-searching and meditation become daily routines. But so often when I look to members of the opposite sex for that comfort, I am disappointed, and I don't know why. I cannot help but wonder if it's always the guy who's wrong, or if I am doing something wrong as well. I've been wondering for a long time. I still don't know.

No, I am not a basket case. No, I am not lovesick. But I am going to contrast the mood of the previous paragraph with the moral of this article.



Life Speak  
KUWANNA DYER

In spite of these dependent emotions that tend to envelope me from time to time, I have learned the importance of self-sufficiency. I learned this the hard way. After a sophomore of dances, parties, and being on the phone all night, my junior year was spent totally alone. My only actual communication with peers occurred between my classmates and I, who were in the I.B. Program. During the entire year I had only one source of inspiration—and he has since left me to attend Stanford. Believe me, when you eat lunch with people you barely know, go out with (only) your family, and hear the phone ring once every two to three weeks, you learn to stand alone. I really didn't have a choice.

An important factor of relying on yourself is pride. So what if

other students laugh at you because you're eating your lunch alone. Let it go. I made the mistake of letting these fools influence me, so my lunches were spent in the library. Excess pride is bad in that it turns into conceit, yet I suffered because I had no pride. I thought that it was my fault that no one wanted to socialize with me. And that's why I eventually began to rebel.

Another thing that deserves to be mentioned is the importance of watching your back. Whether you're a loner or a social butterfly, do not be quick to trust anyone. Get to know people before you hand over your feelings and your time. You'd be surprised how fast your so-called "friends" will stab you in the back. Don't misunderstand; I'm not saying that your friends will do this. I'm just cautioning you not to be as naive as I was. Trust me, that's lethal.

I do realize now the vitality of bouncing back from a failed relationship. I've been confused about Gabe for over a year now; when he asked me to the movies last Saturday, I thought that something positive was finally going to happen between us. The two of us have been through so much since we met in September 1993. We've gone from flirting through physics class to encouraging each other at track meets to totally cussing each other out in physics class. One day I thought I was in love—the next day I wanted to kill him. He's one of those guys who loves to play relentless games with girls, only to become extremely judgmental when he goes out with them. I guess I didn't make the cut; he hasn't called me since last Saturday.

I guess I'm trying to say that it is important to know when to hang on to a relationship, and when to move on. I've made my decision: 5-4-3-2 his time is up. It's probably one of the best decisions that I'll ever make.

Recovery is a slow process. Healing takes time. But being strong on the inside can ease this process. No one ever said that breaking up was easy to do, because it isn't. What could I possibly say to ease the frustration of others like myself? I can't. That's entirely up to each individual. Be strong.

I would, surprisingly, like to emphasize the importance of friends. It is necessary to be careful, yet you shouldn't view everyone you know as a potential backstabber. It's good to have friends, male and female, to help you along in life. It's okay to rely on friends and social acquaintances; that's what friends are for. Still, just as the squirrel stores up nuts for winter survival, you must store up an impeccable (not conceited) pride that'll get you through the winter, should it come.

—Kuwanna Dyer is an opinion columnist at The Rebel Yell.

Let TV Stay in Ito's Courtroom

Judge Lance Ito has called a hearing for Nov. 7 to determine whether he should throw television cameras out of the courtroom during the double-murder trial of O.J. Simpson.

Judge Ito should forget the idea of imposing a television blackout for these reasons:

- 1) The cameras in the courtroom are in no way responsible for the television and newspaper stories that have irritated Judge Ito, Simpson's defense lawyers and in some cases the prosecution. Emotional stories about Simpson as a wife-beater, stories about Nicole Simpson's blood being on O.J.'s socks, stories about extramarital affairs by both Nicole and O.J., and other leaks make a fair trial very difficult to achieve, but that is no reason to deny the people a chance to watch the trial on TV.
- 2) The Media Circus outside the courtroom is not caused by CNN or Court TV coverage, both of which have operated in ways that do not lessen the dignity of the court.
- 3) Simpson is entitled to a speedy, public trial before a group of his peers. "Public" now means, in a case like this, a national, even international community.

Guest Commentary  
CARL ROWAN

4) Television coverage provides America and the world with fascinating illustrations of what the Bill of Rights and the rest of the U.S. Constitution really mean. It would be almost criminal to deny lawyers and law students a chance to see the courtroom jousting over Fourth Amendment protection against illegal searches and seizures.

Through television we can ponder what value the jury should give witnesses who already have used their First Amendment right to give—or sell—television interviews and magazine stories about the role that racial passion will play in the case. We need to hear the lawyers and scientists battle over whether DNA is still part witchcraft, or so reliable that a decision regarding guilt in a murder case can be based on it.

5) Many journalists will write many columns and do radio and television commentaries about this trial, the judge's demeanor, the performances of individual lawyers, the veracity of police witnesses and O.J.'s testimony or his failure to take the stand. It is eminently desirable that we write on the basis of what we have seen, not a summary provided by some



reporter whose skill and reliability are not known to us.

6) This case illustrates more graphically and painfully than any I recall, just how diverse the media in America is, and how wide the gap is between those who are responsible and those who are crassly irresponsible. This case will remind us that the guy I regard as an unprincipled money-grubber is as protected by the First

Amendment as I am.

In a high-profile trial featuring high-tech evidence, we must not restrict coverage to the pencil-an-pad technology of the Clarence Darrow era. It would be best if, having cooled down, Judge Ito canceled the Nov. 7 hearing and went on with the business of getting the real trial underway.

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