

Foster Just Another Media Victim

Once again media hypocrisy finds another target.

Henry Foster (no relation) is up for the prestigious position of Surgeon General of the United States. Unfortunately, his position is in jeopardy, not because he didn't pay his taxes or because he is keeping an illegal immigrant as a nanny, but because for over 20 dedicated years he did his job. And now his integrity is in question on the single complaint that, in the past, he had performed legal abortions. No matter how many abortions he did conduct, it should not be an issue. Typically, as with most minor controversies, the media gets a hold of something and won't let go until the story is blown out of proportion and the real issues lost in the debris.

When Foster was first approached on the number of abortions he had performed during his career, he was expected to immediately come up with an accurate figure. In order to appease the media, he came up with the incorrect number of 12. Why reporters even posed the question to Foster, a highly esteemed professional, should be an obvious indicator as to what they were really after. It is clear that they wanted to incite a debate. To Foster's credit, he must have very few skeletons in his closet if this was all the "dirt" they could find.

These media types don't only include reporters but any public figure that is willing to open their big mouths and insert both feet.

Visions
SHIFON
FOSTER

A good example is Newt Gingrich, who recently tried to throw stones publicly at Foster in order to distract people from throwing stones at his own fragile glass house.

In the past few years, how many fine public servants have been dismissed or overlooked based on the fact that they are human and in the past acted a little less than saintly? Supreme court nominees, senators, even presidential candidates, the list can go on. The truth is, the kind of people that don't lead perfect lives are the exact people we need in office. They know and understand the reality of actions and consequences. It is the quiet, perfect examples of politicians that we all need to keep an eye on.

There is little doubt that the media is an integral part to any public official getting elected. However, it is apparent that ever since Kennedy held a televised debate with Nixon, the media has been trying to pick our officials for us by distorting the issues. What's really sad is that most of the time they succeed.

Stick to the issues please. Why does it really matter that they had an affair four years ago, or they smoked marijuana in high school as long as they don't do it in office?

It is no secret that when it comes to politics Americans take the easy way out. Either people don't bother to vote, or, if they do vote, they pick the candidate with the nicest tie or fall for the best sound bite of the campaign. Are



they good at what they do? Are they dedicated to their work? Do they have integrity? These should be the first questions we pose to a nominee or candidate.

Even though Foster has changed his original number of abortions from 12 to 39, the real number has nothing to do with how well he can perform as Surgeon General. No matter how much the pro-life movement despises abortion, it is a legal procedure, and, as a women's health care provider, he had an obligation to his patients to do his job. Those who oppose his nomination with the objection that he took part in abortions, should go to the high court of the land and try to overturn the *Roe vs. Wade* decision.

As of now, these people act as if Foster wants to put a message on the side of cigarette cartons advising women to go out and get an abortion.

Let's be real. Unfortunately, this is how we lost our last Surgeon General. The media refused to be realistic when Joslin Elders suggested that the current American curriculum on sex education was inadequate and needed to be updated for our ever-changing times. She never suggested teaching masturbation in the classroom during her infamous last press conference. It was a reporter who stood up and disrespectfully asked her the question in such a fashion that she had no choice but to agree with

him. Hence, her public coffin was sealed.

The question is, will Foster be forced to face such scrutiny? If he is appointed, will every word that comes out of his mouth be tainted and twisted in such a manner as to divert the public's attention away from the real issues at hand? The time is long overdue. We must not be so easily swayed in believing everything that we hear and see from the media. As constituents and tax payers we should stop looking for the quick and easy answer.

Only then can we take our own feet out of our mouths.

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

Letters to the Editor

Boixo believes she is superior to students

To the Editor:

Words cannot express the contempt and dismay the students of UNLV must be feeling towards their student body president, Stephanie Boixo.

Is it possible for any human being to have the audacity to actually believe that he or she (in this case Boixo) is above the other students? Although Boixo may be student body president (hopefully not for much longer), she cannot waive her responsibilities to obtain a student parking sticker and pay any fines that may come her way. If every other UNLV student is required to have a parking permit, to park on campus, and pay fees for tickets, then as a student, so should Boixo.

Boixo has dishonored herself and disrespected her university and the students she represents. To reiterate the words of Opinion Editor Scott Gulbransen, there is no room for at UNLV for Stephanie Boixo; nor is there any room for her accomplices.

Stephanie Boixo deserves nothing from UNLV except impeachment. Or maybe she needs a cup of coffee so she can wake up to reality.

Julie King
Sophomore
Psychology

To the Editor:

The story regarding Stephanie Boixo and her actions concerning her parking tickets is quite disturbing. It seems that her actions constitute a gross misuse of the power granted to her. She has used her influence to side-step the fines. She was also able to have a wheel boot removed without paying her fines.

Because of her title, Ms. Boixo believes she is exempt from the basic rules under which all students must live. This kind of abuse cannot be al-

lowed. If the students and administration of UNLV allow Ms. Boixo to deny her responsibility, we are in effect allowing the student body president to exist above all the rules.

Ms. Boixo's statements about her responsibility in paying the fines show how ignorant she has become. She believes that she is above the law. Ms. Boixo is first and foremost a student. She must be held accountable like all other students. If I were to get more than \$200 in parking tickets, I would have to pay it then—not later.

Boixo should take care of her responsibility in regards to her parking fines. She should then resign and allow someone with credibility to step up and lead student government correctly.

Whiting Sutter
Senior
Political Science

To the Editor:

As a person who voted for Stephanie Boixo, I am disappointed to see what she has become.

I voted for her last year because I believed her when she said she wanted to do things for the students at UNLV. That was all she talked about in her campaign. She was going to plan good activities and spend money wisely for her constituents.

Here we are almost a year later and she has done nothing she set out to do. Instead of trying to help students like myself, she has fixed her own tickets and cheated everyone of us. How can she look anyone in the eye again?

During a time when most people distrust the political system as it is, Boixo comes along and reaffirms those attitudes. I also agree she should quit her job as president as soon as possible.

I hope the students of UNLV learn from the Boixo incident. She obviously lied to each and everyone of us. I hope she gets what she deserves.

Lee Kleinmaier
Junior
Political Science

Administrators are true criminals

To the Editor:

While there is no denying that our student body president (Stephanie Boixo) used her political position to earn favors, the real story is the unethical behavior of the two administrators involved.

I have not had too many interactions with Dr. Ackerman or Chief Hollenbeck but, if they were involved, they should be the ones to quit. After years of infighting between administrators and supposed crooked athletic department employees, isn't it ironic that we are finding out that those very administrators who pointed the finger have all been found out to be cheats themselves?

I say we clean house. Get the weasel Ackerman and the fat-cat police chief Hollenbeck out of here. They both belong with Maxson at Long Beach State. I'm sure they would feel more comfortable in the criminal environment.

T.Y. Humner
Senior
Communications

Student laziness the real parking problem

To the Editor:

It seems to me that all this whining about a "parking problem" has ruined our ability to park for FREE at an urban university, a privilege relatively unheard of at similar institutions across the US.

It is more of a walking problem. Some people are genuinely afraid to use their legs! So what if one has to park at the T&M for classes anywhere in the north end? Vegas has wonderful weather to please us for the paltry 6 to 8 minutes it takes to walk there.

Although there is less land now than there was before, there are still enough spaces to go around for everyone if people compromise by getting to campus earlier. Some would blame the parking situation

for their tardiness rather than themselves.

It's basically a penalty brought on by people who think that there should be spaces waiting for them five minutes before a mid-morning class which meets less than 100 yards away. If I was a faculty member, I would be steaming. I shouldn't have to pay for another student's laziness!

Paul Villaluz
Civil Engineering
Sophomore

Orwellian contract an attack on Constitution

To the Editor:

Beware Americans! The new Republican Contract with America is pushing and testing the very boundaries of all progress that has taken place in this country over two centuries. The tenants of equality that have been hard fought and won by such esteemed people as the framers of the Constitution, Abraham Lincoln, the suffragettes, Martin Luther King Jr., Franklin Roosevelt, Lyndon B. Johnson, and an unending list of others are being challenged.

Maybe George Orwell was correct. Soon Big Brother (read wealthy, white, male) will be enforcing one religion, overseeing our sexual lives, and choosing (by means of a supposed "racial" intelligence) which educational opportunities we may pursue. If current trends continue, we may even see women's right to vote repealed.

Listen carefully to all the suggestions being bandied about by our so-called government representatives. The overwhelming feeling that I get is that, as a country, we will be moving backwards toward a prehistoric society. I can just picture men carrying clubs and living in caves!

Becky Norris
Senior
Education