

Congress, The Founding Fathers and Term Limits

The issue of term limits for Congress has now been pushed forward to the '96 election. Failing to get two-thirds majority, the House of Representatives couldn't get this Contract With America item through.

Granted, most of the blame lies with the Democratic members. However, enough Republicans defected so that victory was denied.

Watching the debate, I had to laugh. Members who were against term limits thundered on about how "...this body needs statesmen; it needs leaders; you can't get such people out of the phone book." One esteemed representative opined that the House needed "...someone with experience; someone who understands and respects this process and how this body works."

Oh I see. You and I are too stupid to enter the hallowed halls of Congress because we're not career politicians. We couldn't possibly be capable of knowing what's best for America because we don't really know how the whole political process works. Well, guys, here's a hot news flash for you: We're the ones paying the bills so we're the ones who know what's best for us! In fact, by virtue of the fact that we are NOT politicians, we could do a better job. We know what needs to be done and we'd do it period. There would be none of this game-playing and absurd power-wrangling.

Rep. Bob Dornan (R.-Calif.) was bitterly disappointed. He made an excellent speech after the vote about how hypocritical those who voted against term limits were. I salute him. (By the way, Rep. Dornan is voluntarily stepping down after he serves 12

Guest
Commentary

DIANE
AMANTEA

years—Bravo!) One of the strongest arguments against term limits seemed to be, look at what happened this past election. If the public doesn't

like who's in office, they can simply vote them out. The fact of the matter is, there have been so many laws passed regulating elections and campaigns that it's very difficult to challenge an incumbent, whether inside a political party or out. The laws are such that an incumbent's re-election is almost a sure thing.

Notice, I did say, almost. As we did indeed witness with the last election, many incumbents were booted out. However, also in the last election, many incumbents ran totally unchallenged because of those skewed laws I mentioned. You very conveniently just didn't hear about that.

Another thing which really tickled me about the term limit debate was when the Constitution was trotted out. You know what that is—that sacred document everyone seems to be an expert on. The reasoning was that our Founding Fathers, in their infinite wisdom, established a perfect system and it shouldn't be tampered with.

Oh please. As I mentioned before, legislation which has already been passed by Congress has already bastardized that process. Also, when our esteemed Founding Fathers fashioned that document, Congress did what it had to do in a matter of months and then went home to pursue their real occupations. There were no astronomic salaries or pensions, either.

Now that was a system!
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It's Time to Merge; Not Separate

The letters pour in like a busted dam. The cries of racism and "insensitivity" fill the page.

This has been the case several times this year concerning columns that have run in the Opinion section of *The Rebel Yell*. Whether it be offended gays, Mexican-Americans or African-Americans, they all voice their opinion when they feel they have been discriminated against in pages of the *Yell*. As a journalist, and a strict believer in the Constitution, I applaud students' reaction concerning the printed material in our student newspaper.

But what I don't understand is why people seemingly are "waiting" to be insulted. It is as though different groups wait until something is written about them that is unfavorable and then they go ballistic crying discrimination and deploring the writer as a "racist" or "queer basher" or "ethnocentric."

When did America become so spineless?

While some of these complaints do have merit, most seem to jump on a bandwagon that easily cries foul at another person's views. The perfect example is opinion columnist David Kanaan. Kanaan wrote a piece regarding Mexico and NAFTA that many Latino students found offensive. They voiced their opinion (which you can see below in the form of letters) and quickly labeled

Straight From
the Gully



SCOTT
GULBRANSEN

Kanaan "insensitive" and "unfair." While they raise some valid points, much of their offense could be very easily washed away by just asking the writer what he meant. As young, learning writers, we don't always make our point clear enough for all to understand. That's why we're here — to learn from our experience. So

before you go head-on into labeling someone, give that some thought.

There is no question that there are people ignorant enough to believe everything they read. But not everyone looked at Kanaan's column and thought all Mexicans were dirty, sweaty and poor. All ethnic groups should have the strength to overcome stereotypes and promote their true ethnic identity. The same can be said for gays, the disabled or any group that faces adversity. No matter what your background, you should combat ignorance with education. Stop worrying about what each individual thinks. There is no way to change everyone's mind.

It is ironic that these same groups did not complain earlier in the year when some African-American students were upset over a column written concerning O.J. Simpson. They felt it was offensive but no one else complained.

What's my point?

Simple: many of these groups claim they are discriminated

against, and, in most cases, they are. But why don't they practice what they preach? If your a Latino student and you read a column that is offensive to gays, why don't you complain then too? Aren't we all part of one human race? Shouldn't we be color blind, sexual-orientation blind, etc.?

If African-Americans, Mexican-Americans, Cuban-Americans, Chinese-Americans and all the other ethnic groups get offended when their group is misrepresented, why don't they stick up for one another?

When gays on campus, and in Las Vegas, misunderstood one of my columns, no heterosexuals or minority groups joined them in their attack on my views. When Mexican-Americans complained about Kanaan's column, no African-American or Caucasian students wrote letters.

It is time to truly believe in the ideas that these groups are based on — we are one race of human beings not separated by color or ethnic background. It is important to recognize our differences and celebrate them. And, when one of us is offended, we should all band together.

But, that will probably never happen. Instead, we, as students and a society, continue to separate ourselves into gender-only, race-only or ethnic-only groups. They may be important to celebrate our own individual cultures, but all peoples should join together — not pull apart.

—Scott Gulbransen is
the Opinion Editor
at The Rebel Yell.

Boixo's Failure Paves Way for Newly-Elected Student Officials

This week, the students of UNLV will put the hope of this institution in the hands of three newly elected student government officers. As officers of

these important positions one simple fact remains: does student government represent the opinion of the entire student body. And despite the difficult circumstances, I honestly feel that current vice president Andre Largomisin and student senate president Willie Romero did their best to serve the students. So for those individuals that are vying for these important offices, I sincerely wish you the best of luck.

Others involved in student government haven't served their constituents as well. Just when you thought CSUN President Stephanie Boixo learned her lesson on credibility and her responsibility to her fellow students, the snake strikes twice. After getting in some hot water over unpaid parking tickets, Boixo again had a lapse of the senses.

Apparently, at last week's Senate meeting, Boixo approached the senate and asked for a non-official and consensus vote on the option of the proposed tuition increase. She informed the senate that she would relay this message to the Board of Regents that were scheduled to meet this past Thursday to possibly vote on the issue. A full discussion took place where each senator had the opportunity to voice their concern. After the vote had taken place, two-thirds of the sen-

Eye of
the Rebel

JOE
AYSON

ate opposed the increase in tuition. At that time, the entire senate expected Boixo to carry out their message to the Regents meeting.

With the opinion of the senate in mind, Boixo approached the Board of Regents to discuss the issue. She stated to the committee that she was in fact in favor of the increase. She mentioned that she had met with Chancellor Jarvis and other university officials to discuss the issue and felt that the increase would be good. After stating her opinion, she only briefly discussed the opposition of the UNLV student senate and did not completely explain their concerns regarding the possible increase.

Senators expressed their disappointment over the actions of the CSUN President.

"I honestly felt that she thought the senate would be for the increase," said Scott Schwartz, Senator for the College of Hotel Administration. "To her surprise, she was wrong. Her opinion doesn't over-rule an entire Senate."

Why would Boixo approach the senate on an issue then fail to mention their views? Did she rightfully justify the opinion of the Senate? Or was she trying to "get in good" with Chancellor Jarvis and other university officials? This is coming from the president of the entire student body, a position that is in place to voice and represent the students.

As president of the student body, it could be at times difficult to make correct decisions on

important issues such as these. And it is the right of that individual to voice their concerns. Yet, it is also this individual's job to report and voice the opinion of the entire student body. And with more than a majority of senate opposing an increase, you would have thought that Boixo would take the time to express that opinion.

Instead, the opinion came from an individual that didn't have to pay a single dime for her tuition this past year. Last year's CSUN president, Joel Kostman (now a *Rebel Yell* staff columnist), lobbied against the increase in tuition. He rightfully voiced the concern of his constituents.

Boixo gave the false impression that the students supported the increase. Now, with the vote to increase our tuition over and done with, we all must pay for her near-sightedness.

When the new leaders of our school take office in May, hopefully every one of those individuals remember their responsibility. At times, the job could get rough. Yet it is up to these individuals to always voice the concern of the students. That is what we elect them to do. That is something our elected peers cannot overlook. Just remember the CSUN motto: students serving students.

If president-elect John Pida, vice president-elect Joe Mills and senate president-elect Pat Smith live by that slogan, things should be just fine.

—Joe Ayson is
an opinion columnist
at the Rebel Yell.

UNLV Student Senate Meeting Schedule

The Rebel Yell encourages all students to attend UNLV's Student Senate meetings.

Monday, April 17,
6:30 p.m. MSU 201

The Rebel Yell

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS
4505 MARYLAND PARKWAY
LAS VEGAS, NV 89154-2011

PHONE (702) 895-3479
FAX (702) 895-1515

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EDITOR IN CHIEF

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