

## Letters to the Editor

This letter is in response to the Opinion Page column entitled "Pet Peeves: no care required" by S.T. Sutherland, published in *The Rebel Yell* Sept. 5.

### Reader takes exception to column

#### To the Editor:

Having read the article published by S.T. Sutherland, I am filled with wonder and awe. I find myself amazed at the mindless pap and drivel that masquerades as collegiate journalism. True, this is only the "Opinion" section and everyone is entitled to his/her opinion. Yet wouldn't it be wonderful if those opinions published showed substantive thought or even some creative effort on the part of the author?

It is indeed sad that a certain instructor of the author had to tell her students that "gentlemen will remove their caps." Yet it is sadder still that those gentlemen actually had to be told. I didn't know that the rules of civility and propriety have been re-written to exclude the topic of uncovered heads indoors. I must have missed that revolu-

tion. I take exception to the concept that morality and etiquette have become antiquated. Decency never dies, only decent people. How sad the parents of Mr. Sutherland must be to realize that they have failed in this area of his upbringing. The only saving grace in this episode is the refreshing idea that Professor Hilgar is refined enough to include Mr. Sutherland's ilk under the category of "Gentlemen."

Further, I have struggled with his references to some location on the UNLV campus. I have consulted with the Official map distributed by the university and can find no reference to any location even remotely associated with the nation of Egypt. There are several locations where quite nice views of the Luxor Hotel can be had but nothing starting with the initials "B.F." Either this is a typographical error or a feeble attempt on Mr. Sutherland's part at grade-school humor.

All in all, I believe that 42 column inches of stream-of-consciousness meandering is simply an example of when editors have space to fill and nothing to say.

Sincerely yours,  
Bruce Parshall  
Junior  
English Major

#### And Sutherland replies...

Dear Bruce,

Sorry, but there are no nice views of the Luxor, it's an eyesore from any angle. I'm also sorry that it seems you have no sense of humor, grade-school or otherwise. Despite the tone of your letter, some valid points were raised.

You must have missed the first issue of the paper, though. My introductory article said that I write as much as an artist as I do a journalist. Is it my fault that the only forum left for student writers to publish their works at UNLV is the newspaper? Write your next letter to your precious English department about that one.

I guess I am guilty of putting more effort into the execution of that article than the substance. However, I viewed the taking of a fairly mundane topic and making it an interesting read a challenge to my craft. In that, I feel I was successful. And I've gotten good

feedback on it from other writing colleagues.

You say there wasn't much creativity involved. It probably would appear that way to a surface reader. Was I wrong to hope that most students, especially an English major with junior standing, would have the education to read between the lines and catch the real issue? It wasn't the fact of the hat, Bruce; it was that our First Amendment Rights have been trampled by an instructor abusing academic privilege. Let me spell it out for you: we're talking freedom of speech. Self-expression has been upheld by the Supreme Court. Academic privilege ends where the Constitution begins. I guess you're more interested in hearing yourself spout off than you are in fighting infringements on our liberties, no matter how minor that trespass may appear.

What are they teaching you over there, anyway?

Now Bruce, I never received a handbook on these "rules of civility and propriety," but let

me put your fears to rest: my friends and family suffer no embarrassment on account of my manners. I think you may be talking about *common custom*, which as far as I know, still requires removal of hats in nice restaurants and people's homes. I respect and honor that. But a college campus in a desert environment where a dress code doesn't exist, but remains informal and unregulated may be another story. Just look around you at the student body. How many tuxedos do you see? Count the hats on people's heads. Looks like many students would agree with me. I could be wrong, but you think about it, okay?

Bruce, I'm usually suspect of high-toned letters or other work full of "In-deeds" and "Ilks" and smug-sounding sentence constructions, but I enjoyed your letter. Really.

Thanks for writing!  
-S.S.-

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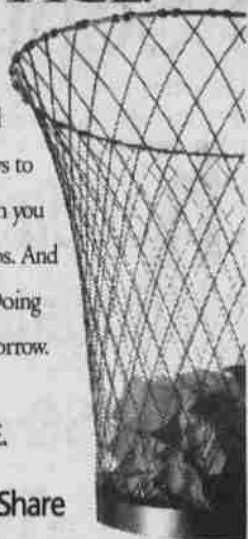
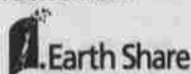
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