

## Letters to the editor

## To the Editor:

Many thanks to all university sponsors of the recent Candace Gingrich speaking engagement. As spokesman for the Southern Nevada Association of Pride Inc., I was gratified by the success and participation in the event. We at SNAPI look forward to bringing thought-provoking speakers to UNLV in the future.

I feel compelled to comment on one aspect of the well-written story in *The Rebel Yell*, (10/17). That is, the comments made by UNLV College Republican Club Chairman Vern Williams. The first thing that struck me was, "what a big title for someone with such a small mind." Vern talks about Candace "cashing in on her brother's good fortune"—hmm... sounds like an entrepreneurial Republican concept to me. Does Vern feel the same about the Christian Right poster child, Norma McCorvey of 'Roe vs. Wade' fame now that she has adopted their views?

My understanding of a college campus is that it is an institution of higher knowledge—of diverse people and ideas. The Gingrich speech was open to all on campus, in fact, to all in Las Vegas. There was an opportunity for anyone to voice their opinion in a public forum to Ms. Gingrich—she would have welcomed dissent. Perhaps, if Vern feels the issue was "one-sided," the UNLV College Republican Club chairman would like to discuss those issues in a public forum. I am available anytime and I await your invitation, Vern.

Lee Plotkin  
Spokesman  
Southern Nevada  
Association of Pride, Inc.  
(SNAPI)

## To the Editor:

On Saturday in Reno, my heart filled with pride and my eyes with a tear of joy when I looked behind me at the game and saw countless Rebel fans proudly cheering on UNLV. The UNLV flag was flying and university spirit was abundant. Undaunted by obnoxious and rude Reno fans, who continuously made obscene gestures, foul remarks and unsporting comments, UNLV fan support remained strong.

In four trips I have made north for this game, this year was unquestionably the best fan support I have witnessed. UNLV stood tall, both on the field and in the stands. It is sad, however, that what is now a strong rivalry in Las Vegas is a blood feud in Reno.

I witnessed one of our female alumni, who now goes to medical school in Reno, get hit in the face by a male Reno fan simply because she was wearing red; he then ran away.

I witnessed a Reno fan incite two UNLV students

over the game results and throw the first punch when our fans retorted his comments.

I watched a shirtless eight-year-old boy walk by three times with "UNLV sucks" written in blue and silver across his stomach. People wearing red were literally fearing injury after the fourth quarter.

I watched a male Reno cheerleader hit one of the UNLV Teke's with his megaphone, while he was leading the cannon out. I also watched gallons of beer thrown on our coaches and players as they passed the stands headed for the locker room and sidelines.

I heard a 70-year-old woman throw grape juice on the Rebel fans in Section G, row 13. I watched one of our girls cut gum out of her hair because someone squeezed it in there while she was in the beer line.

One of the craziest facts was the only time I saw a badge after halftime was to tell UNLV supporters to sit down or be arrested because the Reno people can't see.

To read the papers up north, all the fighting was our fault. Well, I wasn't in the press box, and I saw what happened around me. It makes my blood boil. Let's not forget Reno Coach Chris Ault's adding fuel to the fire by attempting to run up the score.

UNLV has a lot to be proud of both on our playing fields and in our classrooms. I am proud to have supported my alma mater and am proud of the spirit and restraint displayed by people in red that day...but, today, I am very grateful that I live in Las Vegas and went to and work for UNLV, not Reno. UNLV is Nevada, and if the actions of the fans who wore blue is any indication of how they want to represent our state to the world, I am indeed going to have an even bigger problem with UNR and their fans.

Congratulations Rebels! You played your hearts out. On Oct. 4, 1996 at Sam Boyd Stadium you will have revenge, and I am sure those who make the trip from up north will be treated much better than they cared to treat us.

Carl Cook  
Assistant Director Alumni  
Relations  
UNLV Class of '88

**Editors Note:** Fighting and rioting is nothing new between the red and the blue. Usually we call them "Bloods" and "Crypts." We criticize them for gang violence based on color-loyalty in the slums of L.A. And we scratch our heads, wondering where they learn this behavior.

## To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in response to the article entitled "400,000 blacks united for Farrakhan's million man march." I am disgusted and offended by the tone of this article.

Mr. Divich (the staff writer) wrote an article that is non-factual and very biased. I know for a fact that I was misquoted throughout the entire article.

I did not tell Mr. Divich 'I did not support the leader of the march,' nor did I tell him that I thought Farrakhan is radical. I told Mr. Divich that I did not agree with all of Farrakhan's opinions and that many people find him radical.

At no time did I say whether or not I support Farrakhan, and Mr. Divich should realize that just because you don't agree with someone's opinion does not mean that you have no support for them at all.

I don't think you can find anyone in this world who agrees with every opinion of another person.

Mr. Divich reported that I was troubled by Farrakhan's perspectives on other races. I stated that I did not agree with all his opinions of other races, but I did not say I disagreed with all of them either.

The tone in which Mr. Divich wrote my misquoted statements was one of total disagreement and disapproval of Min. Farrakhan and his opinions or beliefs. But if Mr. Divich feels this way towards Min. Farrakhan he should not try to express his feelings through me. (Mr. Divich, if you don't agree with Farrakhan come out and say it.)

Not only did my misquoted statements bring forth feelings of anger, the comments made by Mr. Smith (student featured in article) offended me and fellow black students. Mr. Smith stated, "They're all disillusioned (referring to black people, JUST SAY IT!) if they think that Farrakhan can show them the way to equality."

The question I pose to Mr. Smith is, "Who told you that black people chose Farrakhan to lead us to equality?" That is something the media stated, and the media is a great source of factual information. (RIGHT!) Mr. Smith is out of line when he states that black men went to march "inspired by hatred of whites" and some were there "to try and help down-trodden members of their community."

Mr. Smith, how dare you make such a statement when you are not a black man, and you will never face what a black man must go through living in this nation. On behalf of my black brothers, you are wrong!

We know what happens when you make assumptions, and you Mr. Smith, should think about that the next time you make such ignorant and essentially racist remarks.

Reactions to the Million Man March (not the 400,000 man march) are not based on factual reports such as the one by Mr. Divich and the media.

Carl Tolbert  
BSA Vice-President  
CSUN Senator

**Editor's note:** *The Rebel Yell* stands behind Mr. Divich's story.

## The new Greek mythology according to independents

Guest  
Column

KURT  
DIVICH

Amid the recent homecoming festivities has once again come the jealous cry from certain students who possess a disdain for Greeks and our current icons—the Homecoming candidates.

As our respective Greek letter organizations send their best to compete for the traditional Homecoming hardware, I find it sad that the candidates, usually leaders in their respective groups, abandon their letters for the days preceding the vote because they feel they cannot win if they are openly associated with a fraternity or sorority.

They're probably right. During the election itself, the fraternities and sororities will maintain their allegiance to their own representatives, thus semi-canceling each other's vote. This leaves the great voting block of independents as the deciding votes in many instances.

Which brings us to the point that normally active and proud, Greeks stand outside the student union making every effort through their flyers and the context of their speech to look independent. But we can't blame the candidates. This is just what they have to do to win. Rather, we should try to discern why the independents have a problem with us.

I have been proudly affiliated with Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity for many years, and also have the honor of representing all fraternities, at least in some capacity, as the current president of the Inter Fraternity Council. Based on that, I would like to respond to the accusations and misrepresentations I hear from the non-Greek populous.

The big one: "You're just buying friendship." Most Greeks have heard this remark before, probably throughout their own rush when friends and acquaintances attempted to discourage them from making the decision to pledge.

We don't buy our friends. We buy the opportunity to do things with our friends. My dues don't pay for my brothers Chris Snowden, Doug Larson, and Jeff Smith to be my friends; it pays for the parties, the athletics, and other events that comprise the Greek experience. If you took the fraternity away, Chris, Doug, and Jeff would still be my closest friends—there's no fee I must pay regularly to maintain that.

Then they say we're elitist, that we think we're better than everyone else. They're right to some degree.

Not only does my organization and every other one think that they are better than the rest, they assume that they must be better than you because you don't have the courage to join.

Now wait a minute before you return to your position of professional Greek hater, I can explain. Each of our organizations puts their new members through an educational pro-

cess that you know as pledging. During this process, we strive to instill in our new members the values and ideals that separate us from other Greek letter organizations and from the independents.

The independents see this from the outside and they call it childish hazing. An informed perspective sees it entirely differently. When you see pledges from Kappa Sigma, TKE, or Sigma Chi dressed in ties in the student union, it's not just a petty assignment rendered by the older guys. We want them to know that as Greek men we walk with dignity, pride, and honor. If we wanted just to have them complete some trivial task, we'd make them stretch condoms over their heads—that, at least, would be funny. Our intent is never to demean, but to educate.

We make them take short tests on the history of our organizations. Again, the outsiders cry that this is just unnecessary harassment by the house. Wrong again.

We feel that you cannot truly join and commit to an organization you know nothing about. None of the sororities or fraternities were founded in the same manner. Nor do they cherish the same principles and ideology. That's what fuels the pride we all have in our organization that outsiders so much resent and detest.

That pride is what you see as elitism. And of course, we all feel it. There is a degree of pride, and I guess superiority, that comes from being surrounded fraternally by men who have been through the same process you have gone through, believe in the same ideals you hold dear and constantly endeavor to further your mutual success.

So really, we're not just making them memorize insignificant facts and details. We'd give them a phone book if that was our intent.

Everything we do is for a reason, even if our new members don't fully understand until they become initiated brothers and sisters. The problem is the same attitudes and outward appearances that we need to make us strong internally often repel those on the outside.

But the only way to rectify those misconceptions is to go Greek. And we do want you. We, as Greeks, want motivated, well rounded leaders, committed to their own education and the prosperity of our organizations. So instead of making the snide remarks as a new and enthused PIKE yells from the stage at Tom and Jerry's, investigate, discover and join. You might just see what we're all so damn proud of.

That's really the only way to know what we're about. The view's just not that clear from the outside.

—Kurt Divich is  
a Staff Writer  
at The Rebel Yell.