

## Letters to the Editor

**Editor's note:** Keith Ceci notified The Rebel Yell Monday that he did not author the aforementioned letters to the editor.

### Ceci's looking for excuses

To the Editor:

I was reading Keith Ceci's letter to the editor in Thursday's issue regarding his problems with the intramural officials. While I am a staff writer for the *Rebel Yell*, I am also an intramural official, and it is obvious to me that Mr. Ceci is clearly looking for excuses for the pathetic performance of his teams. He says that a bias exists in with teams that have off-duty officials on them. Is he suggesting that in an event that allows all UNLV students to participate, a certain few be banned because they need a job to make money?

Mr. Ceci complained about a rule in Oozeball that clearly he didn't have a clue on. Maybe if he had been able to read the rules provided to each team captain, he would have known that the official made the correct call in his particular game. And if he still disagreed, there is an appeal process that clearly wasn't followed.

Mr. Ceci also continued to ramble on about the flag football tournament and its rules against illegal contact. He wonders why players can't hit each other, but last I checked it was flag football, not tackle. He also says that he is surprised that players are even allowed to catch the ball. Well Mr. Ceci, that rule seems to be followed by your team, they never catch it. You say, "Maybe it's just me but flag football sucks this year", I say "Maybe it's just me, but you suck at flag football".

In speaking on behalf of all the officials, if you thought that the referees ganged up on you in Oozeball, you haven't seen anything yet. We know what team you are on, and I guarantee that if you manage to break any rules, be prepared to march off the 10 yard penalty against you.

—Eric Gruzen,  
junior, political science

### Ceci never completes requirements

To the editor:

As members of the UNLV athletic training staff, we would like to respond to the letter to the editor written by Keith Ceci.

First and foremost, for those student-athletes and coaches who had some concerns, Ceci is not a member of our athletic teams. Ceci is one of those hundreds of students who are athletic training majors who never complete the requirements for certification as an athletic trainer. This is not to be confused with those athletic trainers who work daily to provide medical services for the injured or ill student athletes.

Maybe if Ceci were to actually work as an athletic trainer, he would have a better understanding of team travel and reasons for leaving early, as opposed to traveling just for pleasure. In addition, coaches, student-athletes and athletic trainers give up many of their

weekends, holidays and school vacations because of their athletics, so why not give them some benefit for their efforts. It has nothing to do with winning or losing or the press you get.

How many students or student groups take trips on university funds which involve some recreational or leisure activities?

—Marna Youngberg, Lynette Harrod, Mark Knoblauch, Dan Newmann, Dennis Sunderman and Mike Garcia,

UNLV graduate athletic trainers, kinesiology

### Gun control unconstitutional

To the Editor:

Skoal! As an amateur wine taster, I find that "Lisa's Liberal Libation" contain a fruity bouquet of bombastic etymology and moldy philosophy reminiscent of the dregs of the River Thames. Specifically, I refer to the vintage laid down on October 22, 1996.

Lisa Gentile provides countless arguments as to why gun control is allegedly necessary, but does not really spend much time on the legality of gun control, aside from a useless butchery of the Second Amendment.

Put simply, national gun control, aside from regulating importation of firearms, is unconstitutional. Consider the Tenth Amendment, which many of our "leaders" conveniently choose to ignore: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

Defending oneself with a firearm is a power not delegated to the US by the Constitution, nor is it prohibited to or by the states. Americans, Ms. Gentile, do not need the permission of the Supreme Court to bear arms and defend themselves individually. They already have this power.

The powers delegated to the United States are not to be found in the Bill of Rights, which enumerates individual rights, but in the Articles of the Constitution, and in later amendments.

The only power that Congress even remotely has over the Second Amendment can be found in Article One, Section Eight: Congress shall have power, "To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the Militia, and for governing such part of them that may be employed in the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress."

Clearly, Congress has the power to provide for, or aid the militia (i.e., monetary appropriations), but not the power to govern the militia unless the militia decides to federalize itself. It does not say anywhere that Congress has the power to disarm the militia (i.e., the people, as a militia is made up of individual citizens), whose Second Amendment right it is to keep and bear arms, nor does it say that Congress has the power to determine what arms the people may bear. When the Tenth Amendment is taken into consideration, it is clear that the US government, should it ever decide to deprive Americans of their firearms, will be grossly overstepping its legal authority.

By the way, Ms. Gentile, ac-

ording to Article One of the Constitution, the national government has only five general duties: collect taxes, coin money, defend the nation's borders, ratify laws, and engage in international diplomacy. The responsibility of making the streets safe lies with the state and local governments.

—Lee R. Hocking,  
senior, communication

### A&E writer eats 'Crow'

To the editor:

I am writing in response to the article "Crow short of breath during Crow's intense performance," about the Sheryl Crow concert held last Saturday at the Hard Rock Hotel. Here, your writer has said the audience seemed dead and unappreciative of the concert. Perhaps this was true on the lower level of the club, but I just want to say it certainly wasn't true in the balcony! As a long-time fan of Sheryl, I jumped at the chance to see her in concert, and the only tickets available were for the balcony. I reluctantly took them, and ended up thoroughly enjoying the concert. Many people in the balcony, myself included, were dancing and singing along with Sheryl, and having a great time doing it. Perhaps I'm making a mountain out of a molehill, but I just wanted to say that the whole audience was not as dead as the article made them sound. Speaking for myself, I honestly can't remember when I've had that much fun at a concert. Sheryl is a very talented artist. She gave a great performance, and I know that just about everybody I could see in the balcony was as enthusiastic as I was to see her in concert.

—Allan North, sophomore,  
special education

### Elections like buying a new car

To the editor:

The elections were upon us during the fall months when the weather begins to turn chilly and the thoughts of Thanksgiving and Christmas linger. This year the elections coincided with the state elections which are every two years and the national elections which are every four years. The current year 1996 is the 220th anniversary of the United States constitution. I find this a good time to reflect upon the origin of our country's political system.

Do you think our founding fathers would approve of the current democratic process of electing our public officials. I wonder is this what they had in mind 220 years ago in Philadelphia.

Today's public officials that are campaigning for office bring to mind the same process as one would use as buying soap, toothpaste or a new car. They are neatly packaged by what they think voters want to hear and see. It is just like buying a new car. They are neatly packaged by what they think voters want to hear and see. It is just like buying a product on the shelf; you have to wait and see if it works when you get it home. If it does not work like promised and there are no other products available you are stuck using the same one. Do you think that is what is wrong with our current system. Are

we using the same product and other inferior products that do no work like they are advertised. Do we as citizens ever come across a politician who works well and gets a job done just like he promised.

Another question is what about all the advertising today's politicians purchase, is this what the political system is supposed to be all about. The current system seems to rely on the one who puts up the most signs, mails out the most pamphlets, produces the most radio and television spots all without leaving their office. I think many of us wonder where all this money comes from for these campaigns.

Some of the politicians during election years go out to the homeless shelters, the depressed and blighted neighborhoods, the sweat shops and the senior citizen centers only not to be seen until the next election. The years in between elections they are talking to big businessmen over \$100 lunches and dinners.

The year 2000 is fast approaching. Are we becoming more intelligent consumers or are we still buying the public relations persons' campaign. Do we have hope for tomorrow in keeping America the number one nation in the world.

The first look we will have to take is at our elementary, junior and high schools including our universities and community colleges. We have to make sure the students are being taught to help their fellow man, to express their ideas and be compassionate in their undertakings of them and finally to think more than just making money for their home, car and spouse, but to think about their community and neighborhood.

This is our current situation facing our candidates of tomorrow. We have to see if any of these future politicians running for student and state government have what it takes to lead our nation into the next century. I wonder if our founding fathers are watching us along with God to see if we as a people are becoming better or worse after 2000 years. Is our time running out? When you go to the polls or take your children to school keep these thoughts in mind.

—Bradly Smith,  
former student development candidate

### Sutherland's tone unprofessional

To the editor:

The tone of Scott T. Sutherland's article published in *The Rebel Yell* on Oct. 22, 1996 about the news conference with communication students was unprofessional. The undignified language would not have been used if he were writing about any man in any position (gardener, professor, janitor, dean etc.) on this campus. His language was demeaning and degrading to President Harter and he owes her a public apology. Mr. Sutherland, you have the right to disagree with Harter but do it with a bit of mature judgement and with some good ole-fashioned respect. I do not know what happened at that press conference, but your report of that event was one-sided and chauvinistic.

—Claytee D. White, student

### Reflections of Tom Blundell

**Editor's Note:** Tom Blundell, ex-Navy Commander, was a student and English instructor at UNLV for many years. He died of cancer at age 59. He will be buried in Arlington Cemetery.

To the Editor:

I talked to your wife the other day, Tom. She told me you had died peacefully, Friday night, Oct. 11, around 6:30 p.m. with your wife and family around you.

I remember when I visited you the previous Sunday with Carolyn Cameron, another fellow English instructor. I had missed Carolyn at our rendezvous point. It was a sunny day, with no hint that you would not be with us much longer. I bought a cheery yellow potted flower for you. (Yellow is for friendship, they say.) Carolyn noticed how happy you were to see me. I was shocked by your appearance. I knew you had lung cancer, but I had just seen you in June at John Newsom's farewell party. Then, you were still the tall, energetic, larger-than-life ex-Navy Commander who used to be my desk mate, Tom Blundell. I recall when I first learned you would share my desk in FDH 240. (FDH 240 has recently been usurped by the gods of technology for The Writing Lab.) Would you want some of the space I unnecessarily appropriated for my books? Would you take fault with the many calendars on "our" wall-calendars of Frida Kahlo, Amnesty International, Georgia O'Keefe, etc. You objected to none of my intellectual clutter. You were always the perfect gentleman, in tie and sports jacket, returning banter with John Newsom about your days in the Navy or spirited discussions about male/female roles in *The Odyssey* and *The Iliad*. And then after office hours, you would exuberantly announce, "I am off to play golf with Leon Coburn," (your professor friend in the English Department). You had bought a house near the golf course in the Northwest section of the city, but you only had a chance to enjoy the course a few times before you found out you had cancer. I attended your memorial services at All Saints' Episcopal Church Tuesday Oct. 15. You looked so handsome in your photos, one where you were dressed in your Navy uniform against the backdrop of the sea; the other at your wedding with your wife, Jan. In the eulogies, Leon Coburn so aptly described your view on life as "a cosmic conversation," that is continuously going on. You entered from the dark into the light, held your many conversations, and exited back into the Jark. Michael Dearmin, another of your close friends, emphasized once more your zest for life, and your great appreciation of food and conversation. As I return from the student union coffee in hand (you loved your coffee too) I half expect to encounter you walking of FDH. Why were you taken so soon, Tom? As one of your friends said at the service, the angels in heaven must have needed your laughter more than we do. But, oh, how we will miss you, Tom. Good-bye, dear friend and desk-mate.

—Louise M. Allen,  
UNLV English instructor