



letters

to the editor



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The mail brings in more 'Undercover Student' letters

Mountain of letters

Due to the heavy flow of letters to the editor about *The Tribune's* "Undercover Student" series, we will not be able to publish all of them. Many of the letters express virtually the same opinions, and for that reason we are trying to select some of the more representative pieces for publication. To all of our readers who took the time to write us, we thank you.

unsophisticated and boring to one of your intelligence and experience, though they do meet reliable national standards.

Come back to Eldorado honestly, Leslie: I invite you to march with the band from 7 to 8 a.m. in October and November on the out-door practice field, or grade papers with Oleta and me from 8 to 5 on Saturday and Sunday. Perhaps you'd prefer working out with any of the girls' basketball teams three hours a day and going home to enough homework to earn a 3.4 grade average.

Even Margaret Mead has been shown to have drawn some flawed conclusions, and she lived with the Samoans a lot longer than you lived with us.

KATHLEEN D. CHURCH
Eldorado teacher

The description of curriculum presentation in three classes (two of which are electives) is an unfair comparison. There are over 60 pages of class offerings in the Eldorado catalog with over 200 classes offered. Presenting this two-week farce as an expert expose showed poor judgment. If this report is to be set out as accurate, there is no way Eldorado (and APS) graduates have attained the ranking many hold in U.S. colleges and business communities.

SALLY A. FREW
Eldorado parent

One should know that every child enrolled in any school is not highly motivated. State law requires children to attend school until a certain age whether or not the child or parent wishes to comply. Certainly Leslie Linticum knows little of the makeup of the high school student.

Speaking of efficiency, have you read your paper lately? You could take a good look at late deliveries ... or none at all, improper sentence structure, misspelled words, and poor or no punctuation ... what is your excuse?

Please cancel my subscription. As of this date, I'm not interested in learning any more about the word "muckraker." I've read enough.

B. MCDOWELL
Albuquerque

I really felt that Leslie Linticum was putting down the APS system, based only on 11 short days of observation.

It is not difficult to understand her fun and games in class when her schedule is made up of light-weight classes. If she had taken some difficult required courses such as math, English or language, she would realize that high school students and teachers do not goof off these eight hours of the school day ... or maybe these would have been too tough for her.

SANDRA SERRANO
Albuquerque

The highest of praise to *The Albuquerque Tribune* for the very fine investigative reporting of Leslie Linticum as an undercover student at Eldorado High School.

Please don't stop this type of reporting! The appalling waste of the young minds at Eldorado High is nothing short of criminal!

It would appear to be a deliberate and successful attempt to produce a generation of young people in this country who are totally unprepared and unfit to survive in this highly competitive world we live in today.

Teachers such as these have failed not only their students but their country by their disgraceful, irresponsible and dangerous disregard for the young minds in their care.

L. JEREMIAH
Albuquerque

The "Eagle Talk" item was cute, and inaccurate. Ineffective and insufficient definitions of what more accurately could be titled "Teenager Talk" makes for bad reporting. "Morover," Ravens, Bulldogs, Mustangs, Hornets, Matadors, Vikings, "Sugar", Monarchs, Knights, Eagles and many other teenagers use these euphemisms.

How far under is "Undercover Student?" Could she have been "trashed" by discerning Eagles soon after her arrival? Leslie Linticum is certainly not "the cat's mow" of an objective journalist.

FRED D. BOROUGH
Albuquerque

Unbelievable! Paula Paul has been reincarnated as Leslie Taylor, undercover student. Just as the dust was settling from the last questionable newspaper reporting regarding Albuquerque Public Schools, you start up again with the same farce as the March winds and with the same results: irritation, disruption and no direction.

I object to a reporter spending "two weeks and a day" as a student and then feeling qualified to write a series about our children. (I read *The Tribune* every evening. Does that make me a qualified reporter?)

KAREN CASAU
Albuquerque

Your reporting was excellent! I have never read a series such as yours. Your reporting was an outstanding display of professional journalism.

Becoming an undercover student to get the real story displays true talent and commitment to a job you do very well. I hope your story motivates some parents to take a closer look at what really happens inside our public schools.

KEVIN H. KUTNINK
Albuquerque

Ah, Leslie, my dear. It's a cheap shot artist you are. Oleta Saunders, "the middle-aged woman in a baggy sweater," whom you savaged, has done more good for more people in her life than you will ever know. Because she does not teach according to your standard — a B.A. in journalism and sociology — may mean that she knows more about her students than your two-week insight allowed.

Of course, the public schools are flawed; we admit everyone, even those with an elaborate cover story. High school looks different after we have been to college and seen the world; the relative simple concepts which are taught here are admittedly

I am appalled at Leslie Linticum's biased views. Admittedly, everything she has reported seems true to what she has seen. However, I resent her insinuation that this is the case for the entire Albuquerque public high school system.

First of all, Ms. Linticum didn't carry the normal class load. Her classes appear to have generally been the average "graduation credit classes." Second, if she feels her experiences have been typical, I'd like to invite Ms. Linticum to attend my classes and associate with my friends. I work very hard in my classes and I feel that APS is providing me with an excellent education.

SUE PAGE
Sandia H.S. sophomore

Clearly posted outside every school in Albuquerque is a sign that reads as follows: "All visitors must report to the principal's office. Failure to do so would be in violation of city ordinance No. 2618, criminal trespass."

Anyone has the right to visit any school and observe any class with the above provisions built into APS procedure, and this takes place every day.

To the best of my knowledge, news people and others have always abided by this law. Your staff writer, Leslie Linticum, violated this law when she lied and enrolled in school in classes that she was not eligible for. She also committed fraud.

I feel that you and she are open to a class action suit that could be taken by those teachers mentioned and others that are affected because their job and promotion and salary will be in jeopardy for the rest of their lives by you and Leslie.

BOB WISE
Rio Rancho

I have been enraged, disappointed and hurt emotionally with *The Tribune's* "undercover" reporting.

I am a student body president at another school, and I know how hard students and faculty work to make their school the "best." Why can't you people help us out and print some "good" news about schools on the front page! The only thing you've accomplished is made one school look bad and probably sold X number of papers more. It is very sad to see a respected (?) newspaper make a cheap extra buck at the expense of others. Thanks for nothing!

PAUL LUCERO
West Mesa High School

Leslie Linticum did a very poor job. By enrolling in easy classes, hanging around the freak wall, and cutting classes, she hoped to find out information about Eldorado. She did — sort of. She found out all she wanted to know about students who enroll in easy classes, hang around the freak wall and cut classes.

BILL ARMSTRONG
Eldorado student