

letters
to the editor

More 'Undercover Student' letters

We cannot blame the "undercover" reporter, Leslie Linthicum, for her misrepresentation of the overall populace of Eldorado. How much can we expect a new student with an out-of-style hair, Big aviator glasses, and half-rusty primary prayfulness to learn from her peers in a week and a half.

DAN SCHWED
Eldorado student

Teachers need support and constructive criticism, not clever innuendo and "trickery." Is it any wonder that many talented average students choose other careers than education? If the public wants to see this trend reversed, attitudes toward teachers need to change. Research in education indicates such a change would have a positive effect on teacher performance.

JANIE KNEEN-PAUL
Former teacher

Congratulations to The Tribune and Leslie Linthicum for the "Undercover Student" series! If I had a child at one of Albuquerque's high schools today, I would remove him or her and find a school that demanded discipline and respect from the students and did not tolerate drugs or alcohol on campus.

If no such school exists today, I'd have to band together with other parents to pressure our public school system to pay attention to what we want for our kids. How can we blame this on the schools, "society today," or the drug peddler? How can we wait any longer for turning the schools around? I imagine principals and teachers are praying for parental pressure. Without it, they are going to continue to leave "the system" to the poor weak teacher that takes the abuse and disrespect the students are allowed to dish out.

MARY JANE ROSE
Albuquerque

Leslie Linthicum used to students' names, but felt justified in so identifying teachers, whether in a complimentary or very critical context. I am a teacher who knows the strain of being "on stage" every period, every day, every month. Our performance varies; we are not machines humming along at an even (monotonous?) pace. The students know this, better, I think, than the reporter. Nor are teachers dealing with smaller machines geared for uniform behavior, as they well know.

NANCY LEWIS
Albuquerque

I have always believed that mankind is basically good, but the endeavors of Eldorado High School students, staff and administrators have enlightened my belief in the goodness, compassion, love, trust, understanding and dedication of all people, especially young people.

My husband, Lonnie Juarez, was a teacher at Eldorado High School. He was diagnosed as having terminal cancer in the summer of 1981. Although the devastating illness prevented his return to teaching, it did not prevent the students, staff and administrators of Eldorado from giving encouragement, support and love to him. The school newspaper staff sent him the school newspaper; students phoned, sent cards, letters and gifts, and visited him. The faculty telephoned frequently, visited him, sent him invitations to department meetings, sent and brought cards, assisted financially, and made every effort to donate their sick leave to him.

A joint effort by faculty and students for added financial encouragement to Lonnie began in November, shortly before Lonnie's death on November 26. They rallied behind a drive entitled "Give Lonnie a Lift." Numerous activities and events took place during this drive — a goal was set and all participated in a unique, united effort. The overwhelming result of their endeavors was presented to our family in December in the form of a check for \$10,000 — the money to be placed in a trust for our three children.

I just want people in Albuquerque to know that

Let's hear from you

The Tribune wants to know what's on your mind. How do you feel about what's going on around Albuquerque? In New Mexico? In Washington?

The Tribune welcomes short letters of original comment. Sign your letters, and we agree to include your address and a phone number where you can be reached during the day. We will print only your name and city.

We reserve the right to edit your letters. Write Letters to the Editor, The Albuquerque Tribune, P.O. Drawer T, Albuquerque, N.M. 87103.

There are positive results from the public schools — from Eldorado High School. The students and faculty at Eldorado are compassionate, loving, caring and concerned about fellow human beings. What greater gifts can a faculty instill in students? What greater learning can take place?

GAYLE JUAREZ
Albuquerque

Likes editorial

I read with great interest and appreciation your editorial on natural gas prices on March 2.

As an interested observer of the natural gas dilemma for some years, I was delighted with your clear evaluation of the current natural gas situation.

As a consumer of natural gas, I have watched the unnecessary increases of my gas bill. As a small producer of natural gas, I have understood the reasons behind it and have been doubly frustrated. It is easy to blame the industry. The reality is that the consumer and the natural gas industry have been the victim of government interference for decades. The problem of the producer and the consumer is the same one viewed from different ends of the pipeline.

The solution is to deregulate natural gas in a responsibly phased way. The prices will settle lower just as oil prices have.

While politically dangerous to the administration, President Reagan has, once again, taken the unpopular path to do what is necessary.

Your editorial will give your readers the perspective needed to support this long overdue solution.

FRANCIS C. WILSON II
General partner,
Wilson Oil Company, Ltd.
Santa Fe

Teacher shallow

I find Eldorado teacher Ron Lipka's views on Richard Stevens' column shallow. The idea of Eldorado's student body being too busy with academics to support basketball is nonsense. When No. 1-ranked Eldorado played at Sandia, the Eagle crowd was embarrassingly small, while Sandia students (rated No. 1 academically by APS) showed up in force.

Lipka also wrote that Eldorado's students "participate in life to the fullest," yet he, this season, refused to allow the No. 1-rated baton twirler in New Mexico to twirl for his marching band. His excuse was that "twirling was out of style." Since when is talent and being a winner out of style?

Mr. Lipka said "life is not a spectator sport," yet he has turned a world champion twirler into a spectator. If Lipka wants to point a self-righteous finger at Stevens' comments he should first do his job by helping Eldorado students "live life to its fullest."

MARY FRANCES OLIVER
Albuquerque

letters
to the editor

Colson good man

Congratulations on your editorial supporting Gary Colson in the March 7 Tribune.

You hit the nose right on the head as to why he should be given another chance.

I feel certain that two years from now, everyone will be glad that Gary Colson is the basketball coach at UNM.

FRANK BRIDGERS
Albuquerque

It was very enlightening to us to see your editorial supporting the University of New Mexico and Coach Colson in their efforts to establish an honest, winning basketball program. While Coach Colson is at our school, he deserves and needs our support. It is always harder to do something than it is to criticize it.

We think the emphasis is right. Winning is great and all of us enjoy being associated with winners. But, winning at all costs is wrong as evidenced by the mistakes we have made previously at UNM. We think Athletic Director John Bridgers and the athletic program in general are headed in the right direction.

JOHN AND MARGI BLACK
Albuquerque

Leash laws

We were pleased to read Lt. Col. Shore's letter in the March 9 Tribune with his comments on dog obedience training, the leash law and pet therapy programs.

The leash law is probably the most violated ordinance on the books as pet owners fail to keep their pets "on their own property unless being walked on a leash." Greater responsibility on the part of pet owners in obeying this law would preclude many stray animals, some of whom will be injured in traffic. Obedience training is highly desirable, and enhances your enjoyment of your pet.

EDMUND J. EVANS
President, Animal Humane Association

More on abortion

Why are you so opposed to parental notification if a parent's daughter is going to undergo a surgical procedure, for that is what comprises an abortion. Every surgical procedure has its hazards, no matter how simple the surgery is or is professed to be.

Also, the parents are merely "notified." If the minor daughter insists on proceeding with her abortion, the parent cannot do a thing to prevent it if opposed, nor can the parent help her make her choice of doctor or hospital. Planned Parenthood is behind this move making this a deliberate attempt to destroy familial relationships and trust.

As for the feticide law, you completely ignore the fact that it is a well-established scientific and biological fact that life begins from the moment of fertilization. Leading world geneticists have testified to this fact. The unborn baby in the case of the feticide accident was a few days past "due date." This meant it could have been born alive momentarily had the accident not killed it. This is no "anti-abortion device." It is simply a statement of irrevocable fact!

ALDONA S. JAMESON, R.N.
National Association Pro-Life Nurses

Most physicians will not see a minor patient without a parent present. No physician will perform surgery on a minor without a parent's written consent. Why do we make an exception for the surgical procedure called abortion?

Every abortion has at least one serious consequence: the death of the unborn child. If we say a minor can make a life or death decision for her baby, by what rule of logic do we also tell her she cannot drink, drive or vote?

DOUGLAS A. BRINSON
Albuquerque

FULL DISCLOSURE by AUTH + SEAP



today in history

A LOOK BACK — In 1922, Mahatma Gandhi was sentenced to six years in prison for civil disobedience against the British rulers of India ... In 1937, an explosion at the Consolidated Public School in New London, Texas, killed 294 people, most of them children ... In 1962, France and Algeria signed a cease-fire agreement ending a seven-year civil war and bringing independence to the North African country ... In 1975, it was revealed the CIA had financed the building of a multimillion-dollar salvage ship for use in a 1974 attempt to bring up a sunken Russian nuclear submarine in the Pacific Ocean.

BORN THIS DATE — Grover Cleveland, 24th president of the United States was born on this date in 1837.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY — President Grover Cleveland said, "Your every vote, as surely as your chief magistrate, exercises a public trust."

Albq a cesspool

This is an open letter to Mr. and Mrs. Ross Montoya, Ellia J. Trujillo and all of their ilk who reside in Albuquerque.

I am 54 years of age, born in Clovis, and have lived in Albuquerque since age 2. During those years, I have watched our once beautiful city not only deteriorate into a slum, but I also believe it could very well qualify as a cesspool.

Mr. and Mrs. Montoya and Ms. Trujillo have reacted to the criticism of Mr. and Mrs. Palmer in the age-old Albuquerque tradition, i.e., the Mexican-American vs. the Anglo from the "outside." Their only defense against the truth has always been the same, and I suppose it will never change — "if you don't like it — leave! We don't want you anyway!" What infantile thinking!

My advice is this. Take an extended vacation and visit the rest of our wonderful country, leaving behind for a week or two the confines of this Mexican-American Peudal State. I assure them, it would give them a whole new perspective on how the rest of the "50" live.

JAY W. MCFARLAND
Albuquerque