

letters to the editor

letters to the editor

Readers feel sorry for Sophie Martin

I find it incomprehensible that a jury of intelligent women and men could find Sophie Martin guilty, if they indeed believe her story. Can they truly believe that defending her life and the lives of her children is first-degree murder? Should she have waited to defend herself until her enraged husband, a police officer trained in the use of firearms, broke into the house to kill her?

Mr. Schiff would have us believe that Jack Martin was the victim of a calculating, cold-blooded killer. But in this case it is Mrs. Martin who is the victim — the victim of a twisted, sadistic husband and a self-serving prosecutor.

STEVE NEAL
Corrales

I was disgusted and appalled at the lack of professionalism demonstrated by *The Tribune* in the write-up of the Martin trial. The explicitness was totally uncalled for and unnecessary to the object of the article. It was written without any discretion as to the audience that might be receiving it.

Come on media and take some responsibility for the influence you have on the public (which includes children!) Let's work to keep pollution of all types out of the public mainstream.

LORRAINE R. MORIN
Rio Rancho

Who should have really been on trial — the wife or the mistress?

D.L. METZGER
Albuquerque

The public was shocked with the verdict imposed upon a docile woman. During a night of hellish horror she was treated like a prostitute for the Hell's Angels. Sex at gunpoint by a sadistic maniac.

He kept telling her that he should have killed her and that he was going to kill her. Her death would have been soon by the maniac. She was pushed into what she did. It was her life or his.

Mr. Schiff swayed the jury. Shame on him, and the jury.

MR. AND MRS. R. WOOD
Los Lunas

So Sophie Martin is convicted of first degree murder — and will be sent away for 30 years without parole! For this shooting the sadist who raped her with his pistol?

I am upset. I agree that she should not have shot

him. But she is no danger to the rest of us. It will cost about \$700,000 of our money to keep Sophie Martin in prison until she is 72 years old. We have already used scarce tax dollars to convict her.

Mr. District Attorney, I want that \$700,000 spent to protect me from the warped little villains that kill and rape and torture for pleasure. These are set free every two or three years to seek new victims. It is the Sophie Martin who should be set free after two years. Sophie Martin is weak and frightened and confused — she needs a shrink and a priest. Let her pay for them.

Mr. Schiff, your job is to protect us from the real creeps — not to put on "show trials" of domestic tragedy.

DAVID E. STUART
Albuquerque

Undercover stories

The Tribune does a super job on its "undercover" reporting.

Some time ago, *The Tribune* published a series of articles about a reporter who posed as a teacher in APS. This week, there is a series about a reporter who posed as a high school student.

Good work! I eagerly look forward to the upcoming *Tribune* series about how two mental defectives, Richard Stevens and John O'Rourke, posed as sportswriters.

That should be the best series of all.

JOHN K. BAKER
Albuquerque

Actress is tops

Actress Kim Stanley may need luck in show business — but she won't ever join anybody at the top of her profession.

Kim is, and always has been, the tops in our profession.

EPY BACA
Member: Screen Actors Guild
Actors Equity Association
American Federation of Radio
and Television Artists

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 be sure 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.

Govt. on our backs

The mail brought a report (mailed at taxpayers' expense) from Sen. Pete Domenici. It noted several great benefits to New Mexico that he had promoted with our tax dollars (government on our backs), and, even more wondrously, it told of his success as chairman of the Senate budget committee in passing a federal budget "which cut the growth of spending by fully one-half."

What he didn't mention was that in his re-election campaign in 1978 he strongly emphasized we had to (a) get government off our backs and (b) cut government spending. He has now helped to put the government on our backs and has helped to bring about the largest federal spending in the history of our country, together with the largest deficit.

REX GARDNER
Lemitar

Don't change it

I wonder if you are aware of the Museum of New Mexico's plans for Coronado State Monument. This monument, located in Bernalillo, was one of the most significant finds of prehistoric Indian art in North America.

Now the Museum of New Mexico plans to change the monument to include the Spanish culture brought here and forced upon the pueblo by Coronado.

Why must this proud prehistoric Indian site be subjected to Spanish influence once again? Let's leave it as a monument to the Kuaia people who once lived there.

LORNA D. POWERS
Albuquerque