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Iannone, Carol: Letters Opposing Nomination of (1991): Correspondence 13

Mari Jo Buhle

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Buhle, Mari Jo, "Iannone, Carol: Letters Opposing Nomination of (1991): Correspondence 13" (1991). *Iannone, Carol: Letters Opposing Nomination of (1991)*. Paper 7.
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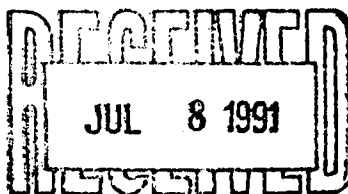
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BROWN UNIVERSITY *Providence, Rhode Island • 02912*

91 JUL 10 PM 3:10

American Civilization



Senator Claiborne Pell
418 Federal Court House Bldg.
Providence RI 02903

Dear Senator Pell:

Thank you very much for your recent letter of congratulations for the fellowship from the MacArthur Foundation.

Two important issues prompt this letter.

I understand that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources will be voting on Carol Iannone's nomination to the NEH National Council on the Humanities. I am joining other concerned scholars to ask you to decline to recommend confirmation. Ms. Iannone is sorely lacking in credentials and in experience to fill this important position. Her affiliation with academic life has been marginal, and her own scholarly work is equally insignificant. Because the National Council plays such an important part in shaping scholarship in the United States, only the most qualified and reputable scholars should serve on its decision-making board. Carol Iannone lacks distinction as a writer, teacher, and critic. She is, I believe, unqualified to hold a position as important as member on the National Council. I strongly urge you to vote against recommendation.

I am also writing to express my personal opposition to the appointment of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court of the United States. Frankly, I am less concerned about Mr. Thomas's judicial qualifications than his open stand against affirmative action and implicit disapproval of women's reproductive rights. As a historian of American women, and as a feminist, I can envision only a period of setbacks to women and minorities if Mr. Thomas attains this position. I am asking you, as a member of the Senate, to vote against his confirmation.

Thank you for your attention

Sincerely

Mari Jo Buhle
Associate Professor
MacArthur Fellow, 1991-96