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1991

# Iannone, Carol: Letters Opposing Nomination of (1991): Letter to the Editor 01

Paul Hayes Tucker

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30 July 1991

Letters to the Editor  
Boston Herald  
One Herald Square  
Boston, MA 02115

Dear Editor,

William F. Buckley Jr.'s commentary on the U.S. Senate's recent rejection of Dr. Carol Iannone as a member of the advisory council of the National Endowment for the Humanities obscures the issue at the heart of the Senate's unprecedented vote.

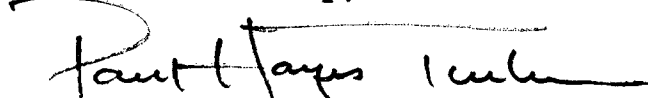
No one would deny the value of Commentary, the magazine in which Dr. Iannone has published two articles. What is upsetting--and what determined the outcome of the Senate's deliberations--was the simple fact that Dr. Iannone did not possess the credentials required for the position.

Legislation on this matter is quite clear. Council members must be people "who are recognized for their broad knowledge of, expertise in, or commitment to the humanities and have an established record of distinguished service and scholarship or creativity." While Dr. Iannone's articles and book reviews have been thoughtful, they hardly constitute a body of work that would qualify her for a seat on what is the most important federally funded humanities body in the country.

Merit, therefore, not ignorance or politics, was the issue.

With nine of the twenty-six council members scheduled to step down next year, distinguished Senators like Pell and Kennedy should be applauded for insisting upon standards that are not only mandated by law but also reasonable for all of us who are concerned about the advancement of the humanities.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Hayes Tucker  
Professor/Art Department  
University of Massachusetts/Boston  
Guest Curator/MFA/Monet in the 90s