

Firm appeals decision upholding canvassing policy

By LARRY GALLONE
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

American Future Systems, a company which deals in cookware, china and silverware, has appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals a decision which upheld a University policy on canvassing in the dorms.

U.S. District Judge Malcolm Muir ruled against the Bryn Mawr, Pa.-based company saying its First Amendment rights were not violated by the University. American Future Systems President Edward Satell said the company's freedom of speech was restricted because the University policy prohibited it from selling its products in dorm areas.

University policy does not prohibit salespersons from contacting students by mail or telephone but does prohibit a salesperson

from going into the students' rooms or other dorm areas without being invited by the students, M. Lee Upcraft, director of residential life said. Sales representatives are allowed to talk to students one-to-one but to extend it beyond that would be a violation of University policy, he said.

The students who were involved in holding sales demonstrations said they were contacted by American Future Systems sales representatives. Satell said his salespersons were invited into the dorms by the students who were contacted.

There have been discrepancies involving the students who were participating in the sales demonstrations. According to the court record, the students who held demonstrations, mostly

women, were to receive tote bags and chances in a drawing for a Florida holiday vacation.

The vacation winner had to be 21 years old to accept the prize, but sometimes the offer expired before the student reached that age. Satell said neither he nor his sales representatives were out to deceive anyone. The person winning the trip had the option of either transferring the prize to someone else or renewing it until she reached 21.

Satell said the University objected to American Future Systems because it is a commercial organization. "Our views as commercial ideas are as valid as other ideas," Satell said.

Raymond O. Murphy, vice president for student affairs, said the University has an obligation to protect its students. "A measure of

privacy has been insured in dorm and residence halls areas," he said.

The University is also in litigation over a lawsuit dealing with political canvassing.

Steven Brush wanted to campaign for political candidates by going door-to-door in the dorms. This violated University policy concerning canvassing.

Three dorms — Beam, Hartranft and Nittany 34 — allow open canvassing this year.

American Future Systems lawyer Joe Finklestein said the company is appealing the judge's decision because, "We are protected by the First Amendment and we think the decision is not correct."

Chris Carey, executive assistant to the Association of Residence Halls Students, said the precedent set by the decision is important and

the rights of American Future Systems were not violated but rather the students' right to privacy, was protected.

Judge Muir wrote that if the First Amendment rights of American Future Systems were violated, "that infringement is justified by Penn State's interest in preventing the dangers inherent in in-person solicitation or sales, or alternatively, by Penn State's interest in protecting the privacy of its students within the residence halls."

University counsel Delbert McQuade said, "It is apparent from the court's decision commercial speech is not a guaranteed absolute right."

As a result of the judge's decision University policy concerning dorm canvassing will remain the same, Upcraft said.

Promotes variety and moderation in diets

Activities highlight National Nutrition Week

Nutrition is the word this week as the American Dietetic Association sponsors the seventh annual National Nutrition Week.

March 4-10 has been designated as a time for nutrition organizations to heighten public awareness of nutrition.

The goals of the American Dietetic Association include the promotion of education in dietetics, nutrition and allied areas, Louise Hamilton, a professor of foods and nutrition extension who is president of the American Dietetic Association, said.

"We (the organization) do this in many ways and the National Nutrition Week is one of them," Hamilton said.

A major idea of the week, Hamilton said, is that "for best nutrition people should eat a variety of foods and eat in moderation."

The American Dietetic Association is made up of about 37,000 professionals. The Student Dietetic Association, made up of junior members of the American Dietetic Association, has planned activities on campus in celebration of the week.

The Student Dietetic Association will present nutrition public relations woman Debra Daul who will speak at 7:30 tonight in the HUB Assembly Room on "Public Relations and the Food Industry." She has appeared on the Dinah Shore Show.

On Friday nutrition students from the branch campuses, Mansfield State College and Indiana University of Pennsylvania will be arriving at the University, Cynthia Eutsler, co-chairman of the Student Dietetic Association's National Nutrition Week committee, said.

"We chose National Nutrition Week to have these

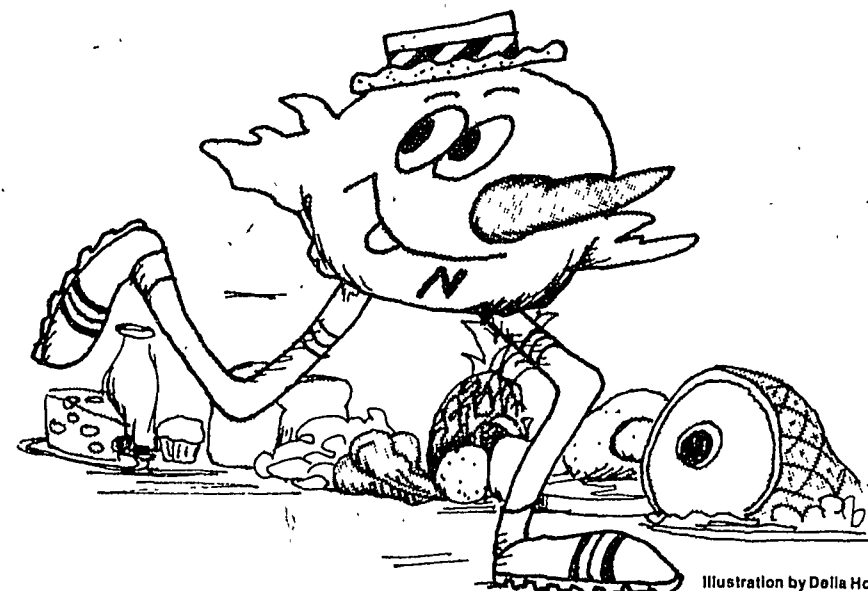
students become more familiar with the University and our organization," Eutsler said.

Saturday a tour of the Meals Laboratory and the Human Performance Research Center will be given to the visiting students, and the public is welcome. Eutsler said food demonstrations will also be held on Saturday.

The Nutrition Information and Resource Center, Beecher House, is sponsoring an open-house Friday afternoon from 2:30 to 5:30 and encourages students and the rest of the community to come.

The center is setting up an exhibit and information session at the Nittany Mall Friday evening from 6:30 to 9 and Saturday afternoon from 1 to 5.

Next year the American Dietetic Association plans to expand this focus on nutrition from one week to the entire month of March, Hamilton said.



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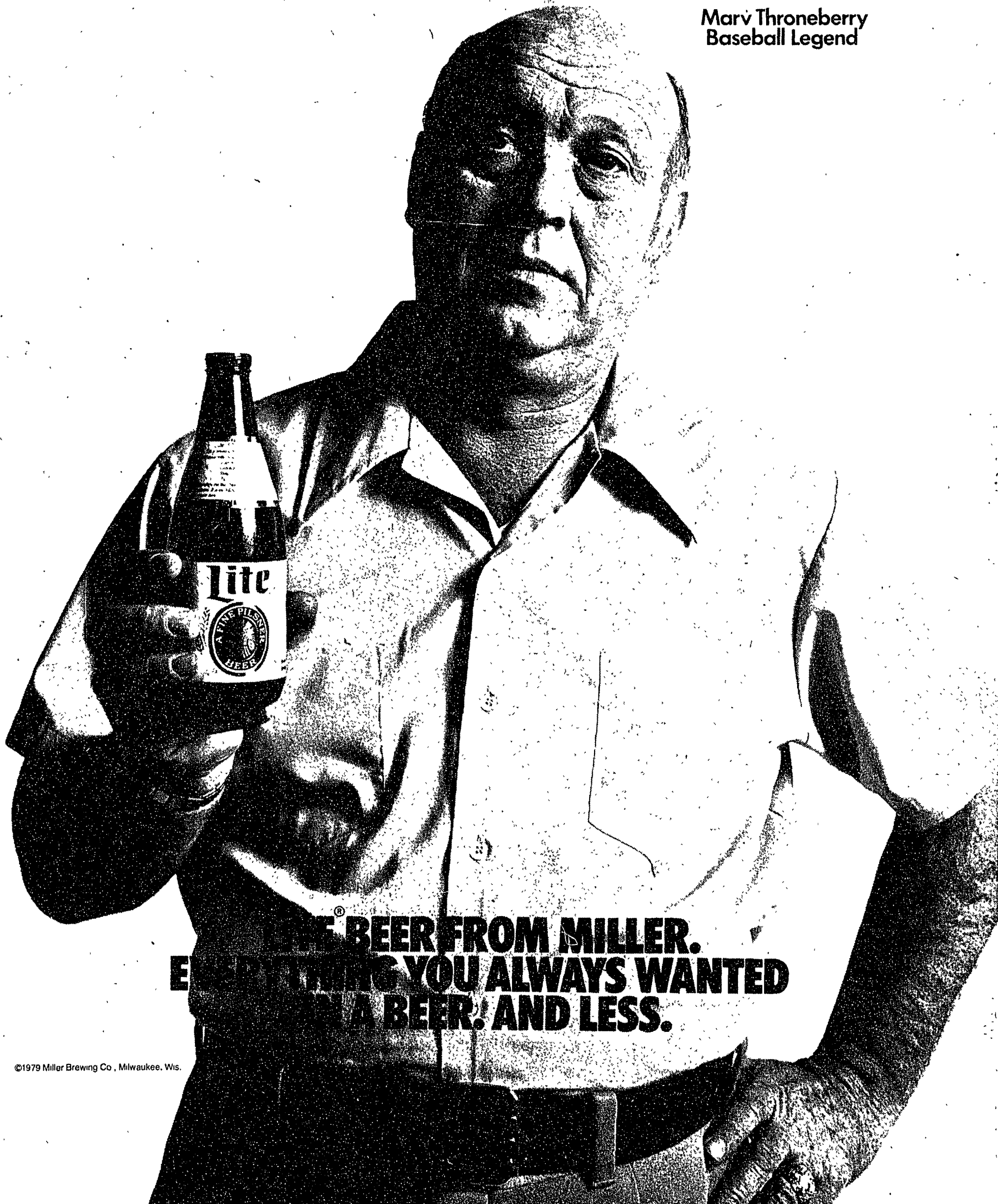


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