

Letters to the editor

Reader thinks police owe ABC an explanation

Dear editor,

I want to express my support for the request by the ABC for an explanation/apology from Campus Security for the use of an "attack" dog for crowd control at the September 8th dance. Given the facts presented in your last week's article, it seems to me that the officer used very poor judgment in bringing his personal dog to the scene.

Whether the officer intended it or not, I can quite understand how his excessive reaction could be reasonably construed as racist. I

do not condemn the officer as a racist, but I do condemn his judgment in this case. I hope the officer will receive a reprimand for his action and that Campus Security will state publicly that they disapprove of the use of "attack" dogs for such minor disturbances. Indeed, short of a full-blown riot or civil war, I see no justification for using dogs in this way.

Corbin Fowler
Assistant Professor of
Philosophy

Reader says Wintergreen's arguments had false ring

Dear editor,

Al Vogan's attempt at justifying the higher prices and reduced hours at the Wintergreen Cafe this year was unsuccessful. The article which appeared in The Collegian several weeks ago contains several contradictions on Vogan's part, leading me to question his honesty in the matter.

Vogan's answer to the higher price question was quoted as "...It was a policy change from an upper level in the university administration..." This statement could easily make one believe that there is nothing that anyone can do to lower prices. Yet, earlier in the same article Vogan is quoted as saying "...Several steps have been taken to lower prices..." I am inclined to believe that even though Vogan has put all the blame on officials at University Park, Behrend has a much greater influence over prices than it is willing to admit. Vogan is also quoted as saying "...Even if the Cafe could compete with commercial outlets, it would be unethical because Penn State is a non-profit organization and doesn't have to worry about costs like taxes and building upkeep." He went on to describe the current battle between the City of Erie and Erie's two largest hospitals.

The problem with this statement is that the City of Erie challenged Hamot's and Saint Vincent's non-profit and therefore tax-exempt status not because the two hospitals were competing with other profit-oriented organizations, but rather because the two hospitals' prices were set at a point which created large profits for the two hospitals.

If the Wintergreen Cafe is worried about its non-profit/tax-exempt status then it should lower its prices, not raise them. It would not be "unethical" for Behrend to lower the prices at Wintergreen, rather it would be

"If the Wintergreen Cafe is worried about its non-profit/tax-exempt status then it should lower its prices, not raise them."

unethical for them to keep their prices high and make a profit when they are under a non-profit/tax exempt status. This entire situation is an example of how Penn-State Behrend is becoming money-oriented school, even though it proudly boasts of being a student-oriented school.

Jeremy Sutch

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