

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Deficiencies in facility well documented

A letter printed Jan. 2 raised questions about issues of safety and access at the UW-Fox Valley auditorium, suggesting that problems with current conditions have been overstated. The inaccuracies and misleading impressions of the letter need to be corrected.

An independent and certified consultant conducted an inspection of the auditorium in 2006 and noted more than two dozen serious facility code and safety issues. These are not imagined problems or pretend violations. These are real problems that prohibit full access for persons with disabilities and building design problems that could lead to tragic consequences in the event of a fire or other calamity. The detailed report, complete with code citations, is available from the UW-Fox Valley Web site (www.uwc.uwfox.edu).

The letter also alluded to the campus' willingness to serve as a venue for the NEW World Cinema film series open to public. The film series will not and was never intended to be held in the campus auditorium but, rather, in our largest classroom.

Finally, the letter suggested that funding for the replacement communication arts center should come from ticket revenue at UW-Madison's Camp Randall stadium. Camp Randall has nothing to do with UW-Fox Valley; revenue generated there stays in Madison to fund the athletic program at that campus. The agreement that allows the existence of all UW Colleges campuses specifically states that the facilities will be provided by the municipalities in which they reside. UW System cannot, by law, provide money for the construction of buildings at UW-Fox Valley.

The reasons for proceeding with the proposed project are clear and compelling: safety, access and to support the education of the next generation of citizens and tax payers. The time to do this project is now, before the cost escalates further with inflation — and before an accident or worse happens.

Jim Eagon
UW-Fox Valley, Menasha

Underheim had record of being spin master

Dan Rylance (letter, Jan. 3) wasn't here 20 years ago for a first look, but he is so right about Underheim, a spin master. When Underheim ran to represent Oshkosh he did his first spin. At a forum he claimed accomplishments in his three months on the County Board. When I asked him to be specific, he got angry and

defensive and asked me what I expected from him in just three months. Why didn't the Northwestern pick that up?

I lost all respect for the editors when they endorsed Underheim over Kathy Propp who was the Democrat he opposed. Kathy had real governing experience following numerous terms on the City Council only belatedly acknowledged by the Northwestern.

After 20 years of limp representation in Madison Hintz will, indeed, effectively represent Oshkosh. Now, I'm awaiting the unseating of my Representative and we'll all be back on the state map.

Maureen Fitzgerald
Oshkosh

UW-Fox Valley deserves county board support

I am currently and have been for the past six years the maintenance technician at UW-Fox Valley in Menasha. I know from firsthand experience that the mechanical condition of our existing auditorium is poor. I am not writing to talk about the mechanical and safety issues as they have been well documented.

This is my opportunity to give my blue-collar nuts and bolts assessment of the communication arts center project. First I don't work at Fox Valley Tech as most people assume when I tell them I work at UW-Fox. Every year when student orientation is held I run into parents and students I know from Oshkosh. The usual response is "This is a great campus; we didn't know it was here." There are many young students from Winnebago County who will someday get their start at higher education at UW-Fox. I urge Winnebago County residents to support the CAC project as many of your sons and daughters will someday benefit and enjoy this new learning addition. The start to a quality, affordable education is right in our backyard and it's worthy of our continued support.

My daughter started at UW-Fox and, after transferring to UW-Oshkosh has consistently been on the dean's list. In my nearly 26 years of state service I can assure Winnebago County residents from my personal observation that this staff is second to none when it comes to commitment and dedication to carry out its mission.

Steve Koehler
Oshkosh

Obesity tax idea shows ignorance, intolerance

After picking my jaw up off of the floor, I just had to ask if Mr. Bollum wrote his recent letter regarding an "obesity tax"

as a joke, or if (God forbid!) he was actually serious.

As a victim of a lifelong weight battle (and yes, I said victim!) I cannot believe that someone could be so foolish as to believe that a person could be voluntarily overweight. That's like voluntarily contracting HIV or hepatitis!

Anyone who hasn't been living in oblivion for the last five years knows that a person's weight can trigger a multitude of ailments and subsequently medications for such. Trust me, if I didn't have to put out so much money for prescriptions every month I would be well on the way to financial nirvana!

Perhaps Mr. Bollum should be looking over his shoulder in case a tax is levied against ignorance and intolerance.

Debbie Jungwirth
Oshkosh

Accusations distasteful, should not be published

I must chastise the editors of the Northwestern for their extremely poor judgment in publishing a particularly distasteful letter on Jan. 8. Opposition to the war in Iraq is a right, and hatred of our President popular. But this letter crossed the bounds of good taste and decency.

First, the writer accused our President of the "murder" of 3,000 American troops, 68,000 Iraqi civilians, and 3,000 American civilians. "Murder" is a legal term that certainly does not apply in this case. Would the writer accuse President Truman of the "murder of the 200,000 victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki?" Probably not.

The writer avers that "never in the history of these United States has any President gone into another country and kidnapped the leader and turned him over to his enemy." It is not unreasonable to believe that Presidents Roosevelt and Truman would have loved to "kidnap" Hitler and turn him over to the Nuremberg trials. Is there any difference?

Except that we were successful in getting Saddam.

Finally, and most disturbing, is the admonition that someone "get rid of Bush." He suggests that "they hung Saddam for less." Is the writer really suggesting death for the President? It is not unreasonable to infer from the tone of the rest of the letter that the he/she would advocate this.

Again, The Northwestern should be ashamed for publishing this hate-filled diatribe. Discussion and debate about Iraq and foreign policy is healthy, but anarchy and assassination are not. Please use better judgment in the future.

David Hayford
Oshkosh

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