

The Spectator

9-04-08

Main story:

'Please, sir, I want some more'

By Juna'uh Allgood

Managing editor



In this time of rising costs, budget cutting seems to be hitting students in a place where it hurts-- their stomachs.

The cafeteria, operated by Sodexo, is constantly in a struggle to balance its budget with students' appetites. This year students are noticing some changes in the equation.

One of the most noticeable changes is the new serving policy. Cafeteria workers now dish out the food. Roger Busby, the Sodexo campus services general manager, said that there were three factors that went into this decision. One reason was speed. Busby said students get their food faster now. A serving line is also more sanitary than the previous buffet, he said, because only employees trained in food safety are touching the serving utensils. The change also was a way of economizing.

"With skyrocketing costs everywhere we wanted to make an effort to reduce our food costs and one major way of doing that is of course reducing food waste," Busby said. "In portioning the entrees we have already seen a tremendous reduction in the amount of food waste."

Although waste may have been reduced, many students are not happy with the new procedure.

"Meal plans increased [in price], yet when we go, we're not allowed to eat nearly as much as we used to," said Kris Ferguson, a sophomore pre-Dentistry major.

Many other students have expressed similar sentiments. "They're giving you such small portions that it's not in your best interest to go to the cafeteria because you'd have to go through the line twice," said Margaret Thomas, a junior Social Science Secondary Education major. "Someone who has to go to class doesn't have time to eat with the current schedule."

Busby said that some glitches are still being worked out and that students can always go back for seconds. He asked for “a little patience ...as we train the staff and let them kind of get used to it. Any time that anyone has questions, comments or suggestions, I encourage them to email me.”

Some students said that even when they ask for seconds, cafeteria workers refuse them. Justin Pruett, a junior Nursing major, said that he had corresponded with Busby many times this semester and Busby reassured him that students could always ask for more. But Pruett said that he has been repeatedly refused extra servings. “I simply asked for an extra piece of chicken fried steak,” Pruett said, “The lady looked at the other lady and asked if I could have another, and she responded that I could not have another.”

Busby said that cafeteria workers are still being trained to use judgment in the portion sizes they serve and their distribution of extras. He said that if a student asks “for a pork chop or something, we’re going to give it to them. But we’re going to encourage them to come back for seconds.”

Students eating in the cafeteria have also noticed another change: no straws. Apparently straws are destructive. Busby characterized them as “the No. 1 killer of garbage disposals.” With no straws to clog drains and disposals, repair and replacement costs can be saved.

In a company wide attempt to “address and help control” rising food costs, there has been a shift from last year’s menu rotation. It was a rotating menu that repeated every 16 weeks. This resulted in a need for more storage room and higher prices on the extensive ingredient lists. Now the menu rotation is on a four-week schedule. The schedule will reset itself this Friday.

Some other things that students have not seen so far this year are the Food Ambassador Program run by SGA and the diabetic dessert options. Busby said that the Food Ambassador Program is not gone; he is simply awaiting the election of new senators for SGA and they will be restarting the program when they resume meetings. The diabetic options are coming, and Busby said that he needed “to follow up on that because that should have been back up already.”

A change that should appeal to students, Busby said, is an expansion of the deli program which offers different specialty sandwiches. It, too, however, will be presided over by a server who will hand out one sandwich at a time.

“I need to know when we hit the nail on the head and I need to know when we miss the mark,” said Busby, who encouraged students to e-mail compliments or concerns to rbusby@oe.muw.edu.

Campus Query – What do you think the W’s new name should be?

Compile by Celeste Finimore



Lee Hurley
Junior, Culinary Arts

“We need a name that defines who we are as a diverse university, that all can agree to.”



Bess Toyama
Sophomore, History Ed.

“I think the name change should stay with the history of the true university.”



Lacy Jaudon
Sophomore, Nursing

“Instead of Mississippi University for Women, what about of [Women]? If we want to keep the history, it should just be MUW.”



Corbett Estes
Freshman, Pre-Nursing

“I think it’s important to appeal to different groups of people. I think it will be good to change the name. I don’t like Welty University, but I’ve heard Northern University or something.”



Arielle Degruy
Freshman, Psychology

“I think Reneau did more for the school, so I think they should choose Reneau [University] instead of Welty.”



Kaila Douglas
Junior, Exercise Science with Teacher Certification

“I think the name should just stay the same.”



Anastasia Mitchell
Sophomore, Biology

“I think if they change the name it will attract more guys. I don’t like Welty or Reneau.”

Opinion

Our View

The presidential election deserves better coverage

Whatever your preference in the upcoming presidential election, the journey will certainly be exciting. For the first time in history, we will have either an African-American president or a female vice-president.

There will always be times for debates, sniping, mudslinging, and all the other silly things that go on during elections, but for now we should at least be allowed to view this election through unbiased coverage so we can make up our own minds.

If the 24-hour news networks have their say, they’ll make up your minds for you. And they’ll do it with venom usually reserved for left-wing bloggers and right-wing radio talkers.

Fox News has been seen as the conservative alternative to the supposed “left-wing biased” news media. Their coverage of the various Democratic National Convention speeches has been mostly done to downplay any excitement brought about by the speakers. The most disgusting display, however, has been after Michelle Obama’s speech at the DNC. Long has she been derided by her seeming lack of patriotism, and analyst Megyn Kelly decided she would use the opportunity to attack Mrs. Obama by asking, “Well, what if Michelle *had* said something unpatriotic?” Not that she actually did, but what if she had?

MSNBC is currently positioning itself as the pro-Obama network, so much so that even stalwart and long-trusted anchor Tom Brokaw has openly criticized the network. The main driving factor here is Keith Olbermann, a articulate and intelligent analyst who

came to prominence with sharp humor and his willingness to criticize the Bush administration at a time when it was unpopular to do so. With his rise also came reports of his reputation behind the scenes as an egotistical tyrant with a penchant for ridiculing others, which has since shown itself on MSNBC broadcasts. Olbermann has no problem insulting guests with opinions different from his own. His main influence has always been legendary journalist Edward R. Murrow, but none of Murrow's good taste has managed to find its way in.

CNN meanwhile acts amazed with itself by its giant interactive TV screens and Wolf Blitzer's constant hyperbolic descriptions.

With this political branding on the news channels, it's hard finding a clear story being told. The parody world of the media built by Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert is now a reality. There's plenty to be excited about with the American political scene without the media making itself the story. We deserve better.

Correction:

Due to a reporting error, The Spectator printed incorrect information in the Aug. 28 print edition. In an editorial on page 2, we erroneously stated that MUW had recently canceled the Marketing degree. In fact, the School of Business does not offer a Marketing degree; it offers a Marketing concentration for the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. A Marketing minor is also offered. Neither the concentration nor the minor is being canceled. We apologize for the confusion and inconvenience that our mistake caused.

Additionally, referring to the same editorial, we would like to make the following clarification: The dance classes that were canceled as of this semester were not part of a dance program.

The Spectator strives to report the news accurately. When we make a mistake, we will gladly correct it.

Friends: Those crazy people who keep you sane

By Sarah A. Wilson

Editor

If you have amazing news, whom do you immediately think to call? I think of Michelle Hitt, my pledge sister and friend for life. Then I think of Woolly, Spanky, Dance, Little, Roomie, and a few other select people (whose nicknames vary in embarrass-ability), who have seen me through thick and thin and will be truly happy for my joy.

These treasured friends enjoy seeing me happy almost as much as they enjoy seeing me get stuck somewhere. They laugh with (and at) me, and if you have friends as good as mine, you know that they are the only people who can help you move on from a truly unfortunate time, without feeling sad or burdened to do so. They also provide a source of constant laughter and have never once left me with nothing to do.

My fifth grade Discovery teacher, Mrs. Paula, told my elementary school graduating class "Girls are mean, as is the world. Take firm hold of your true friends and do not release." I soon learned that the first part was true, as I moved into the world of vicious

and vindictive pre-teen females that made up my middle school. In middle school, your BFF would SYB (stab your back) as soon as look at you and it is still my opinion that the kitten heels and Lip Smackers, worn by everyone who was anyone in middle school, badly disguised the claws and teeth that girls of that age grow to survive the frenzy of power, boys and popularity that come with the territory.

After a sleepover gone awry, where I woke to find myself covered in pixie sticks by my 'best friend' who now 'hated' me and wanted to be BFF with a girl named Courteney, I decided that only the first half of Mrs. Paula's warning was true and that I didn't need friends. I would be an island – independent and free. I would no longer have to save up to buy Hello Kitty birthday presents or take sides in another stupid fight where both girls were wrong.

I could concern myself with more important things – like expanding my Beanie Baby collection or finishing reading every Nancy Drew, Girl Detective book ever written (and boy there are a lot of those). I was content – for a while. And then I was just lonely.

But Middle School passed, and most of the girls figured out that it took too much energy to constantly make other people feel bad. High School started and, having learned my lesson, I surrounded myself with true and trustworthy people. These amazing individuals singularly got me through the death of my mother and sister. I would not be the same person without their wonderful ability to love.

Spanky, Dance and Wes, known to the civilized world as Sara, Candace and Wesley, remained in my hometown after graduation. Dance goes to school at USM and will undoubtedly save every endangered sea mammal there is one day. Spanky has gone into the Coast Guard, and Wes will be the next big producer in Hollywood and beyond. We all keep in touch, albeit not as much as we would like, but we love each other dearly.

I have been blessed with a similarly amazing group of college friends as well. They love me even when I write about them and will be the people most in my memories when I look back at my life and smile. I understand Mrs. Paula's entire lesson now, and my friends aren't going anywhere.

Letter to the Editor

If you read the August 28 edition of The Spectator, you saw the false statement on page 2 in the “Our View” column that stated, “The W also keeps cutting programs that students love. First went sports, then dance and now the marketing and interior design degrees.” The College of Business and Legal Studies is not eliminating the marketing concentration. In fact, the marketing concentration is a critical part of the College’s projected growth, and its curriculum is currently being

updated to include new courses and creative collaborative efforts with the MUW Department of Communication.

There is not a single phase of business that marketing doesn't affect, making a marketing degree one of the most helpful degrees currently available in the business world. Marketers are literally the interface between the organization and the customers. With an understanding of consumer behavior and effective communication techniques, marketers are able to help guide businesses towards commercial success.

The scope of marketing employment opportunities is extremely wide and includes jobs in areas such as Advertising, Sales Management, Internet Marketing, Public Relations, Retail Management, Retail Purchasing Agent/Buyer, Marketing Research, Tourism Marketing, Non-Profit Marketing, Healthcare Marketing, Professional Selling, Pharmaceutical Sales, Promotions Management, Web Content, New Product Planning, Small Business Ownership, Events Coordinator, Brand Manager, and Distribution Management.

In addition to our concentration in Marketing, we also offer a Marketing Minor, a program that is designed to complement other majors. If you are majoring in Art, Communication, Culinary Arts, International Studies, Political Science, Theatre, Health and Kinesiology, Psychology, or have a desire to open a business in your chosen field one day, a Marketing Minor will add to your credentials and marketability in the job market.

All of the courses in the College of Business and Legal studies are offered on a rotation and include many alternative class delivery methods such as online, night, and hybrid online/in-class courses. This flexible course schedule is helpful to individuals who are trying to balance school, work, and family.

- Dr. Dee Dee Larson
Associate Professor of Marketing and Management
Contact at 329-7251 or dlarson@muw.edu if you are interested in a career in marketing.

Lifestyles

No humor in “Death”

By Casey Parkman

Online editor



Roger Corman, at age 82, is a classic B-movie Hollywood producer with almost 390 films to his credit. His latest flick is a remake/reimagining/redo/resomething of his cult classic “Death Race 2000,” which starred Sylvester Stallone. If you ever drive down a road and see someone standing in or near the street and you call out the number of points you would get to hit them, well, then that come from “Death Race 2000.” It’s one of those things of unknown origin in everyone’s collective unconscious.

This latest “Death Race” (minus the “2000” - remember when that was the future?) takes place in a prison in the near future, when the economy has covered the country in dark shades and colors. Jason Statham, current acting king of B-movies, brings his thick British accent and permanent five o’clock shadow to the film as the main hero. The recession has caused the factory at which he was working to close down. He comes home on his last day of work, and we find out he’s a loving father and husband, but ominous music lets us know his peace won’t last. A masked intruder breaks in and murders his wife, knocks Statham out and frames him for the killing. Luckily the director didn’t think we needed to spend time with the court battle and the outrageous emotions connected to such a horrible thing, so we get straight to the action!

See, Statham (and I’m calling him Statham because no one plays the role of Jason Statham better than Jason Statham) was a race car driver in his past and he’s needed in prison to take part in a reality TV show “death race.” This prison takes their many gangs, gives the leaders an armored and armed vehicle, puts them on a race track, and lets them blow each other to hell and back all to entertain the masses.

It’s all clear where this is going. The warden, played by a slumming Joan Allen, is also the race’s producer and director. It’s not a spoiler to say she had a hand in framing Statham for his wife’s murder. If it is, you need to watch more goofy action movies.

Statham is also joined by his pit crew chief, played by Ian McShane from the amazing “Deadwood,” and some half naked women from a female correctional facility that seems to have no dress code.

So what you have is a goofy, loud action movie with lots of guns, explosions, bad and badder men, sexy women, and little need for plot. It also strives for that “comment” about where we are as a society with our terrible economy and need for violence and reality TV. What it lacks is any sense of humor about itself, the same sense of humor present in Corman’s previous “Death Race 2000.” I had the same problems with the “Dawn of the Dead” remake from 2004. Both that and this current “Death Race” take themselves too seriously, and when striving to make an action movie a satire, you really need to be able to laugh every so often.

It makes for a fun evening movie, that’s for sure. The explosions are good, the action is fierce, the one-liners are intense, and the squinted eyes are squinted as hard as they can be squinted. If the creators had taken one second to see how ludicrous it all is, though, it would have been a much better movie.

The women beyond the ballots

By Joshua Lee

Columnist



The way potential female Vice Presidents have been portrayed during this election season is positively shameful. When Sen. Clinton announced she would suspend her presidential campaign back in June, the discussion shifted from the consequences of having a female president to the effect female running mates would have on the campaign. Of course, they did so in a patriarchal context, completely ignoring the vice presidential candidates as people and instead talked about them as bait, thrown out only to attract the legendary *female vote*.

When you listen to pundits on either side of the isle, you can hear in each of their trembling voices the awe and mystery with which they regard the women's vote. They think it is mysterious because they can only conceive of women voting in the shallowest of terms. The fact that there are *issues* that affect *women* seems to fly right over their heads, and they instead think of blocks of female voters mainly in terms of biological sex. They ask "Do you think that McCain choosing a female VP will increase his chance at getting the woman's vote?" or, before that, "Do you think Gov. Sibelius is one of the *good* potential female vice presidential candidates?"

Rarely do women's issues get brought up in this context at all. This is a prime example of missing the forest for the trees. Women's issues should be one of the key points of discussion involving any elected candidate because women are people and a part of the electorate just like everyone else involved. Yet those issues are ignored in favor of rabble-rousing nonsense about what a candidate *must* do to get the "women's vote," like women are some cyclopean monstrosity that can be harnessed if the politician performs the correct ritual and whispers the right words.

Oh, but surely now that we actually have a female vice presidential candidate in Gov. Palin, people will discuss issues affecting women, right? In a decent and sane world that would be the next step. Unfortunately, "decent" and "sane" are not exactly the adjectives most people would apply to the age in which we live. Instead of looking at all the candidates and taking them to task, the pundits talk about Gov. Palin's *daughter*, whose youthful indiscretions are apparently appropriate gossip for almost every newsroom in the nation (and not tabloid fodder as the story would be if it was about any other important person's daughter). Not to mention the countless stories about her diet, her exercising routine and how young she looks. At this point, I don't know whether people are purposefully trying to obfuscate any potential discussion of women's issues, or whether they are just so obsessed with navel-gazing that they think the number of miles a day a governor jogs plays a terribly important role in their administration.

As long as this sort of attitude continues, we will always have problems with the representation of women in our government. We can't just keep ignoring the needs of *actual people*, content with erecting symbols indicating that someday in the far future, maybe we will pay attention to half the electorate. We have to engage female candidates as people, not just banners to attract a horde of voters or minor celebrities to be smiled at and forgotten.