



Your Letters

Readers defend Shrine circus; South Park part of success; Don't pity killers; Police didn't protect protesters; Voucher numbers misleading

Monday, May 14, 2007

Few circus acts involved animals

Re "Circus shouldn't try to call itself entertainment," April 28: I was outraged after reading Christy Reynolds' commentary on the Shrine Circus. It was obvious that she has not attended this year's circus, or even bothered to look at the program schedule. If she had, she would have known there were not any dancing poodles, ladder-climbing lions, or 700-pound tigers.

My family and I enjoyed a wonderful night of entertainment at the Shrine Circus. The elephants gave a fabulous performance, as well as wondrous joy to the families that were given a ride on their backs. The Shrine Circus provided many amazing acts, very few of which involved animals.

Bambi Lyninger

Dayton

Commentary misses point of circus

Re "Circus shouldn't try to call itself entertainment," April 28: I was prompted to write after reading Christy Reynolds' slanted, misdirected and misinformed commentary. The Shrine Circus is a community endeavor that helps our local Shriners organization remain viable.

It saddens me that Reynolds could so miss the point of the Shrine Circus. Yes, one may give directly to the Shriners hospitals, and many do. However, were it not for the hundreds of thousands of Shriners and their fundraising efforts, there would not be Shriners Hospitals. These hospitals serve thousands of children every year, with no cost to the patient or their family.

The circus serves to entertain children, while indirectly helping assure the continued existence and success of the local Shriners organization. Our local organization of Shriners also transports, on a volunteer basis, patients to and from the Shriners Hospital in Cincinnati, and will arrange free transportation to other Shriners hospitals.

I appreciate Reynolds' concern for the animals in the circus. Much of what she satirizes could also apply to pets that live with humans. I doubt this makes keeping pets a bad thing.

I do hope she has a chance to better educate herself about what the Shriners organization does. Perhaps she could

then write a well-informed commentary about our charity and how it benefits the children of our Dayton community and throughout North America.

J. Bradford Gamblin

Waynesville

South Park adding to southern boom

The article "Boomtown in progress," April 22, described the exceptional rebirth south of downtown and identified the separate puzzle pieces bringing it all together. There was one important component left out — Historic South Park.

During the next 18 months, South Park will be experiencing the infusion of nearly \$3 million of private investment toward the revitalization of 30 existing homes. Some of these homes will be highlighted in the October 2007 Rehabarama.

In addition, the American Institute of Architects has awarded South Park the AIA 150 Blueprint for Your Neighborhood: A Gift to the Community, a grant of an estimated \$50,000 value. Nearly 30 area architects have designed plans for revitalization of the Wayne Avenue corridor, South Park's public green spaces, neighborhood streetscape elements, in-fill residential construction, and rehab residential construction. More than 100 community members have spent four Saturdays during the last six weeks participating in design charrettes with Dayton AIA members.

Lastly, the Wright State University Center for Urban Planning and Administration Graduate School is conducting marketing and housing code enforcement research for Historic South Park Inc. to augment the development and revitalization efforts of the district.

Historic South Park is very much contributing its own "boom" to the Boomtown in progress. Visit www.historicsouthpark.org to learn more about this thriving community south of downtown.

Karin Manovich

Dayton

Ms. Manovich is president of Historic South Park Inc.

Save your pity for victims they killed

Re "Study: Lethal injection method unreliable," April 24: I am pained by the continued concern for and publicity about the few moments of minor discomfort allegedly accompanying the legal and merciful executions of some duly convicted criminals.

What is cruel and unusual punishment is what happened to many innocent victims at the hands of these evil perpetrators.

Victims were not sedated nicely, given a fine last meal, allowed to say goodbye to loved ones or to have a religious mentor present to offer comfort. Their deaths often followed stark terror and perhaps horrible agony. For some, death may have been a relief before their bodies were discarded like so much refuse. They definitely were not promptly transported to the morgue, modestly covered in a neat hearse.

Victims did not have the advantage of a merciful court system that allows years and years of appeals in an effort to assure that the duly convicted criminal was truly guilty beyond reasonable doubt. During the appeals process, the convicted criminal is housed, fed, clothed and provided medical care and other creature comforts by taxpayers who decry his actions and pity his victims and their families. This group and its concerns get little publicity.

Mary Alice Dalton

Springboro

Protesters didn't get police protection

Re "Tipp City man says he was defending self against protesters," April 22: My husband, our niece and I are supporters of the group September 11 Coalition, Military Families Speak Out, as well as others who disagree with the war. We received an e-mail a few days before notifying us of this demonstration, along with the admonition to keep the peace. This e-mail also said the police had been notified we would be protesting, and we could be assured of police protection.

Not only were we not protected, some of us were harassed and assaulted. We saw a man drive into the service station and begin screaming, "We don't want you here."

He screamed epithets and shoved an individual. Two sheriff's vehicles, with officers sitting inside, were on the corner directly opposite the scene when this individual became threatening. My niece ran over to get the deputies to intercede, and she was told they were not allowed to leave their spot.

At that very moment, I imagine George W. Bush was traveling safely up Interstate 70 to speak to an "invitation only" crowd, and there was no way we were ever going to get a glimpse of him or that he would see us or our signs.

The interchange below his exit to the high school was cordoned off, and the interchange above the exit was blocked off, insulating him, as usual, from the protesters who so despise his illegal and immoral war.

Most of us fully understood that this would be the case, but it did not stop us from attempting to exercise our rights as American citizens. Neither presidential bullies nor street bullies can ever stop that!

Doris Procopio

Dayton

Voucher comparison was misleading

Re "More students apply for vouchers," May 3: This article was misleading because it compared the number of students applying for this coming year's vouchers with the number who received vouchers this year.

Vouchers are available in limited quantities. If the reporter is trying to make a point about whether dissatisfaction is increasing within the Dayton Public Schools, and he wants to use voucher numbers as the criteria, he will need to report on the number of students who applied for this school year and compare that with the number who have applied for next year. Better yet, he should look at the number applying for vouchers over a multiyear period.

Gary Ogg

Casstown

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