

EVERYBODY'S COLUMN

UB should be investing in University Heights area

Amherst and Buffalo will suffer if 3,000 beds, retail shops, movies and a bowling alley are built on the University at Buffalo's North Campus.

Former president William Greiner caused UB to invest in expansion on the North Campus at the expense of the South Campus. If the project is built, the exodus to the North Campus of students who live in University Heights will cause the demise of the Main Street commercial area.

The result will be empty storefronts, apartments without tenants and a sharp drop in property values. The destabilization of this area will undoubtedly cause destabilization of the bordering Amherst neighborhoods.

Greiner justifies this disinvestment by noting that the die was cast 40 years ago when the North Campus was created. But the creation of the North Campus was intended as an expansion. No state, local or university official stated that the creation of the North Campus was intended to diminish the South Campus. Ongoing policy decisions are responsible for its diminution.

The Princeton Review reports that UB students felt isolated on the North Campus. Instead of further institutionalizing this isolation by creating a city on campus, UB should provide enhanced transportation to University Heights, downtown and Elmwood Avenue.

MICHAEL E. FERDMAN
Former President of Forever Elmwood Buffalo

their employees while saving how many lives, exactly?

I am currently in the process of gathering signatures to run for the Assembly in the 150th District. If elected, I will work to change this law. We can have zero involuntary exposure to smoke without destroying lives in the process.

MARTY J. WALTERS
Owner, Marty's Sunset Inn Irving

Errors regarding debate are water under the bridge

Phil Fairbanks was correct in a May 30 "Off Main Street" item. After reviewing my files, I did in fact call Mark Sommer about his commentary on my performance as the moderator of the Lazio-Clinton Senate debate in September 2000. I regret the error I made in my interview with the Washington Post.

News readers should also know I wrote Sommer a letter citing a factual mistake in his column. He never responded. Margaret Sullivan, the editor of The News, did call me and directed a clarification be published in The News on Oct. 18, 2000, which said, "Sommer's commentary asserted that 'Clinton had already answered similar questions before.' In fact, Clinton had not been asked that question previously."

That acknowledgment of Sommer's error settled the issue then and now.

TIM RUSSERT
Moderator "Meet the Press"