

Bee Editorial

Rezoning requests are land use issues, not moral ones

When did moral issues become part of a rezoning request? In case you were unaware, town boards cannot make a decision based on morals or ethics. Hence why a strip club or casino usually become hot topics — residents don't want them for moral reasons and become infuriated when one is approved. Why are they approved? Because they meet traffic, building and environmental regulations, among others.

Many of the speakers at Monday's Amherst Town Board meeting were making moot points. Board members can't make a decision based on an ad once run by GMH Communities. As racy as two coeds in their underwear may be, that can't tilt the decision to deny a rezoning.

Yes, in case you missed it, someone at the public hearing placed a photo of such an ad on the overhead. A representative for GMH Com-

munities later admitted to never having seen the ad before, having heard it was produced five years ago by the owner of the building and in another state.

That is just one example of how the request to rezone Rensch Road became a back and forth debate between attorneys to see who could outwit one another. For four hours it was mostly lawyers. It got to the point that some attorneys apologized for their profession when it was their turn to speak and non-attorneys made sure to point out they weren't in the profession.

The matter is a land use issue as Council Member Dan Ward pointed out — not a moral one. Daniel A. Spitzer of Hodgson Russ, representing the University at Buffalo, asked the Town Board if GMH was the type of company members wanted in town? The answer was yes — not because of the good things it may do for

the students, not because it claims to be safe, not because it holds volleyball tournaments, but because it meets the requirements in the request for rezoning.

Photos of security guards at an out-of-state facility standing next to students who appear intoxicated have no weight on the rezoning decision. For UB representatives to rant about such allegations was a huge waste of time. The seventh public hearing was a huge waste of time. Everything that was once said was repeated. The vote was the same as before.

We hope this is the end of the Rensch Road debate and that UB accepts the vote taken Monday, as well as its new neighbor. We also hope the rumors of UB denying GMH's shuttle access isn't true. That would be a bad decision since the American Campus Communities' shuttles are often spotted transporting students.

Spindle items



JESSICA FINCH

Associate Editor

• **STRENGTH TO QUIT** — Chances are you won't find someone who is more against smoking than I am. I don't understand why anyone would ever start a habit that is so bad for their health — documented time and time again. I always wonder,

what else does a smoker need to hear to realize this is a very bad idea? From medical to cosmetic, the effects are awful.

Well, my friend Danny was a smoker from the day I met him. I'll admit I nagged him, even taking cigarettes away from

him. Some people might wonder when this became my business. Well, I do breathe the same air, and I knew he could do better for himself.

He tried and failed a few times, even hiding it from me when we all went out together. But I was ecstatic when, just a couple of years ago, he finally kicked the habit. He started running, and this past Saturday completed a half-marathon in New York City.

I don't want to speak for him, but I picture him as one of those people who could say in a commercial, "If I can do it, anyone can." I am sure it's hard to do, but the rewards are amazing.

As a competitive runner through college, I know the dedication needed to train for and complete an exhausting race. When I double checked my facts, I asked if he was still not smoking, and he said, "Yeah ... it would have been impossible otherwise." He finished 4,861 out of 10,000 runners. I couldn't be more proud of Danny's ability to quit smoking and

build the strength to run 13 miles.

• **MEN OF THE YEAR** — Think your Fu Manchu is fabulous? Is your goatee styling? Is your beard a jaw dropper? Wahl Trimmer's "Let It Grow" tour will stop in Amherst in search of the Wahl "Men of the Year" sporting the best mustache, goatee and beard in America. The 38-foot Wahl mobile barber shop is making one of its 14 stops across the country at Wal-Mart, 2055 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst from 2 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 16. Guys will have the chance to sit down with on-site professional stylists who can help them master techniques to make the most of their look and choose the right tool for the job. In addition to free trims and professional consultations, guests can enjoy guy games with prizes and enter the Wahl "Men of the Year" contest. The Wahl mobile will also be at America's Fair, 5600 McKinley Parkway, from 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18. For information, visit

www.wahlnation.com.

by DAVID F. SHERMAN
Managing Editor

• **FOOTBALL FRENZY** — When the Buffalo Bills host their first home game of the 2007 season on Sunday, Sept. 9, a great deal of attention will go into the team's game plan to be employed against the Denver Broncos. Yet an equal amount of planning will go into what the fans enjoy prior to the game in countless tailgate parties outside Ralph Wilson Stadium.

We would like to know what your favorite food items are for tailgating and what unusual dishes you prepare as part of this annual autumn ritual. We are also looking for unusual stories related to tailgate parties. Some of the best anecdotes will be published in a Bee feature story on Sept. 5 and 6. Send stories and comments to dsherman@beenews.com no later than Wednesday, Aug. 22.

Out of the Past

125 Years Ago Aug. 10, 1882

During the past week, a post office has been established at Snyderville, to be called Snyder, with Michael Snyder as postmaster.

Mr. Philip Lout of Clarence, who has been a student of Parker Union School, has been engaged as teacher in District No. 7, Town of Amherst, for the coming year.

Mr. Levi Metz left a specimen of gypsy wheat, something new in this locality, at the Bee office. It is thought that this brand of wheat will yield from 40 to 50 bushels per acre.

Mr. Wm. C. Hipner of Eggertsville has improved his residence by the addition of a veranda and a new coat of paint.

A man was arrested in Gowanda on Saturday afternoon for buying and giving whisky to the Indians. He was sentenced to the Erie County jail for 30 days.

On Saturday evening next, there will be an electric light excursion to Niagara Falls over the Erie Railway. Trains will leave the Main Street station at Buffalo Plains at 7:00 p.m. Tickets to the Falls and return are thirty-five cents. (*Editor's note: Buffalo Plains is the area now known as University Heights. It was earlier known as Ellysville for the Ely family who lived there.*)

"When a doctor cures you for free, he is one of nature's no-bill-men."

"Shark skin is said to be as good as sandpaper, and the *New Haven Register* wonders if shark skin is what makes the water so smooth."

100 Years Ago Aug. 8, 1907

The 12th annual picnic of the Williamsville Hose Co. was most successful. The parade, headed by Chief Wehrle, was impressive. The Exempts in their bright red shirts followed the Williamsville band. Next came the active members drawing their handsome hose cart.

75 Years Ago Aug. 11, 1932

The clever sleuthing of Chief E.H. Evans, head of Amherst's police department, played a key part in the rounding up of an alleged gang of counterfeiters this past week. An attempt was made to pass off the spurious five- and ten-dollar bills here, but not always with success.

The Health Department in Amherst has been functioning as usual, the only difference since July 1 being realized by the members of the staff as they are receiving no pay.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Tatu deserve a share of recognition in honor of the 60th wedding anniversary, which they are approaching.

The annual horseshoe tournament of the United Snyder Association is now in progress. Sweeny and Tobin are in first place with a 10-2 record. Any teams currently behind schedule may pitch their games on any night on any court of their convenience. Kindly give scores to O. E. Krueger; call Crescent 7434-R.

50 Years Ago Aug. 8, 1957

Bob's Restaurant, 5987 Main St., was swept by fire of undetermined origin early Tuesday morning. Within minutes, the Main-Transit Community Volunteer Fire Company was on the job under the direction of Chief Norman Gramse, using two pieces of equipment to fight the flames.

A deer was killed on LeBrun Road Wednesday when it ran against the side of a moving car.

The guest receiving the most attention at the annual family basket picnic of the Alfred Jurek Post and Auxiliary on July 28 was "Jackie," the pet donkey owned by the Walter Floss family.

Robert Danni has received an appointment to the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

25 Years Ago Aug. 4, 1982

The leasing of the Eggert Road School to the Cantalician Center for Learning brings to three the number of former school properties in Amherst that will remain tax-exempt instead of returning to the tax rolls.

Lloyd Fink, 82, has completed refinishing a display cabinet for the Williamsville United Methodist Church.

Herbert Stoeckl, a past president of the Hutchinson Hose Co., received the Fire Service Award from the Erie County Volunteer Firemen's Association this past Sunday.