
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

No pass-out policy not fair to many

I was not able to prepare a comment regarding alcohol sales at the WVU Milan Puskar stadium in time to meet the WVU Board of Governor's (BOG) deadline, so I am writing this open letter in the hopes that it will reach at least some of its members.

Although I don't feel strongly about alcohol sales at the stadium, I am opposed to the proposed no pass-out policy at halftime. I think it will damage something most families enjoy without bothering anyone, tailgating.

I think I speak for many women when I say the social part of WVU games is something we enjoy as much as watching the game.

Our family has some close and generous friends who live near the stadium. For more than 20 years, they have

opened their home to dozens of friends, relatives, former classmates and the children of all of these groups. Many bring special dishes to share. For those who live far away, our friends' home has become a "home away from home" for their children who attend WVU and go to the games. From my observation, most halftime tailgates are like this — we form huge extended families, we have a great time, and we are responsible.

Many of those who attend WVU games and enjoy halftime tailgates have driven for hours in the morning to make it in time for the opening ceremony. Because many have to leave when the game is over, eliminating our ability to get together during halftime will take away a cherished opportunity to socialize with people whom we don't often see. Not allowing fans to leave the sta-

dium and return after halftime means we can no longer go outside the stadium to warm up in frigid conditions. Those with small children will no longer be able to leave so that their kids can take a nap or get a needed toy or extra clothing from a vehicle.

I am not convinced that stopping pass-outs at halftime improves fan behavior.

But ending pass-outs will be inconvenient and much less family-friendly for the large majority of us who eat and drink responsibly at our tailgates during halftime. Whatever decision is made regarding the sale of alcohol during football games, I hope that fans will continue to be allowed to leave and return to the stadium after halftime.

**Delegate Barbara
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