

Give me liberty or give me death Rutgers-Newark food service needs to cater to evening students

The Framers of our Constitution explicitly laid out the rights of individuals and the rules by which we govern our country. When we go into an election booth and vote for the candidate we deem best, we never think twice about the absolute privilege we have. This liberty we have of voting a candidate in or out of office is one taken for granted by too many people. In comparison, the governments of Indonesia and Portugal in the Constitutional framework for a special autonomy, agreed as follows:

Article 3:

The Government of Indonesia will be responsible for maintaining peace and security in East Timor in order to ensure that the popular consultation is carried out in a fair and peaceful way in an atmosphere free of intimidation, violence or interference from any side.

The citizens of East Timor were given the opportunity to vote for their independence from Indonesia. After the invasion of 1975, they had good cause to want independence. Almost 80% of the population voted and, as a result, their independence was rejected and terror took hold of their lives. What if one day we went to vote and were met at the doors by armed soldiers blocking our way? Do we think for one moment that "Hey that can happen to me?" Not even for a second. The alarm clock goes off, and most Americans get up and start their day. We turn on the radio or television to listen to the news. We run the water for a nice warm shower, while the coffee is brewing. We get ready and leave the comfort of our homes to begin our day at school or work. Never once during our

activities do we entertain the thought that all of our modern conveniences would not be there upon our return.

We take for granted the fact that we live in a country where, although we have our share of evils, it has a haven of protection around it. There are some 30 odd wars going on somewhere in the world today. The United States, I can assure you, is not directly affected by any one of them. A child will wake up to find his mother is not beside him anymore. He is covered in filth, cold and hungry. Do we stop and consider the terror these individuals must be feeling? How would we feel if

one of our loved ones were in a concentration camp? If all our possessions was gone? The East Timorese people have lost everything. As UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mrs. Mary Robinson, said:

The murders, maimings, rapes and countless other atrocities committed by the militias with the involvement of elements of the security forces were especially repugnant because they came in the aftermath of the freely expressed wishes of the East Timorese people about their political future.

The liberty we take for granted is the same one for which the East Timorese people are fighting and losing their lives. Next time you pass up the chance, forget or are too busy to vote, consider not being able to at all.

Cheryl Marie Moore
Editorial Editor

Recently I encountered a problem that some people may be unaware about: poor cafeteria service. Like my classmates, who were enjoying a ten-minute break, I decided to get something to eat. On first impulse, I went to the cafeteria, only to find it closed. I thought, "Okay, no big deal, I will just go to the R-Place."

Upon getting there, however, I found the food bar closed, and the employee on duty taking off his apron, ready to go home. So yes, the R-Place is open... for those who want to use the computers, watch television, or simply have

a quiet discussion. Food? Forget it! I was left with the choice of either using the pizzeria, buying from the vending machines, or going hungry. Real cute, huh? And even though I got my food, I still had to find out that the pizzeria was out of cheese... So where does all this lead to?

Why is it so difficult to arrange adequate service in the cafeteria and R-Place for the evening student population? Not everyone attends day school here, yet that is the primary market for both the cafeteria and R-Place. It seems to me that we evening students are treated like garbage when it comes to getting decent food service. We pay our money to this school, just like anyone else. Many of us have work obligations, families, and cannot, in terms of scheduling, afford to attend day time classes. Some of us are graduate students who work here during the day and attend classes in the evening. I even

know people who help professors grade papers, type, do the office work, you name it! But all these evening students, graduate students included, are not being treated fairly when it comes to food services. Because if they were, don't you think the hours could

be extended for both the R-Place and the cafeteria?

What have the various student governments done to address the problem? So far, nothing, because it has not received much attention this semester - yet? I would therefore propose to both the NCAS-SGA, the

U.C. - SGA, and the Graduate Student Governing Association that this issue be tackled without delay. A meeting of the cafeteria, R-Place, and various SGA representatives should be held at the earliest possible opportunity. Students would present their ideas, and the cafeteria and R-Place representatives, theirs. Between the two proposals, I think, some sort of deal could be worked out.

As a student leader, I raise my voice in defense of the students and their rights. If the GSGA does not do anything, then, come next election, I intend to run for its presidency. And to my fellow students, undergraduate and graduate, I say that it is time we took a stand as to how we evening students are treated by the cafeteria and R-Place.

Lev D. Zilbermintz

Abundance of late fees is unnecessary at R-N

Late fees are too easily handed down as a sentence for students. Paying fifty dollars can get you out of a real bind. However, do you ever think about what puts you in that bind? Many times the carefree attitude of employees in key departments such as Financial Aid, give you false reassurance. Responses such as "the computers were down" and "things have been running behind, but you should be getting something soon", only leave students slaves to the postman or computer engineers. In which case, can students use such an excuse for late term bill payments?

I have yet to receive an award letter from the financial aid office. Usually award letters are received about a month before the semester, allowing the student to review and accept grant money and/or student loan offers. We are now in the second week of classes and since there is no award letter or financial aid package, there will be a nice fifty-dollar late fee attached to my term bill.

This is what shocks me. It takes a fax approximately 30 seconds to transmit a document but it takes the financial aid office one

week to receive it. Now that's a problem perhaps the math department would like to explain. This type of lackadaisical approach to processing papers and information for students needs to change. In the big picture, students are customers, are we not? Rutgers spends money on recruitment and glossy brochures to lure in new students. So why is it when we step on campus, things aren't as colorful as those brochures? If we are customers, then, we should demand better of these services.

This one incident, a returning student

who heavily depends on student loans, was almost half way into the semester and still had not received a financial aid award package. Subsequently, she was de-registered and omitted from class rosters. What exactly went wrong? Well, lots of misinformation, to put it nicely. For one, the student checked during the summer on the financial aid office, to make certain nothing was missing.

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