

I would like to go on record to say that I am very upset over the article that was printed in the OD on March 7, 2008. Our team raised \$2818 that evening and donated every penny to the American Heart Association, and what happened in return. The people who donated their time, effort, and cooking expertise were severely criticized. Everything that was served was donated. I had asked some friends to cater this event, who in turn prepared basically what I asked them to prepare as it was food that was easy to maintain, easy to prepare, and yes cost was also considered. Additionally, about 40 members of the American Legion took the time to prepare a dish.

The people who catered my fundraiser have read this article and now are wondering why I allowed that to happen. Why I said that and I quote my misquote ""Dietary stuff wasn't thought about," said Alford". I don't understand why the Observer Dispatch has decided to focus on this angle for a story. What happened the night of our fundraiser was that a very large group of generous people got together for what they felt was a great cause and had a great time. We were not sponsoring a health fair, heart expo, nor trying to raise awareness about nutrition as related to heart disease. We were attempting to raise as much money as possible for the AHA! Also do you know if we used regular pasta or whole wheat pasta?? Turkey sausage?? Low Fat Cheese??? They have NO idea what ingredients we used or anyone else used in their foods. Even the rolls had NO preservatives in them.

We work hard for this event; I feel like my team and donors just received a huge slap in the face. In the future, we may have to reconsider our efforts. I'm sure that the Mohawk American Legion felt the sting of this article as well. Perhaps next year we can put our efforts to some other cause we are endeared to: for example, support groups for returning war veterans, or the Humane Society.

I seriously hope that there is a rebuttal regarding this misleading and insulting article and an apology sent out to all who donated their time and money for events like this. Since when has ziti become bad food to be served? I also would like to know where the information from the other teams was. I know that some teams offer a pancake breakfast others a spaghetti dinner. Did they have meatballs? Did they have sausage? Where was this mentioned? What about the year a certain team sold Krispy Kreme donuts. Can you honestly tell me that those donuts are in the Heart Healthy cook book? More importantly, why is any of this an issue to anybody, and why would Courtney Potts, the Observer Dispatch reporter, stick her nose into this and try to change the ways that we raise money. The Observer Dispatch should really be ashamed at this garbage they are trying to pass as journalism. The American Heart Association gave credence to this garbage by insinuating that in the future they could encourage fundraisers to have menus which reflected the guidelines of the AHA.

Like I have said I am very upset over this. Lots of people work hard every year for this event and now we all feel like it was a waste of time as it has turned in to a huge unfortunate mess. I hope the AHA will support the teams against this local tabloid, and quickly.

Rebecca Alford

Team Rebecca