

Fruity Ethics

COLUMN

Fruit is grown, eaten and used; however, what do fruit and ethics have in common? I recently heard two stories concerning women and fruit.

A woman shopping at a local grocery store came to the fruit section. She saw these beautiful plump strawberries packaged in individual containers. She opened several containers and began switching the best and biggest strawberries to one container. After she filled the container over its maximum capacity, she placed it in her buggy and finished shopping.

The same grocery store had another fruit culprit. A woman and her small child were strolling through the store when they approached the bagged grapes sold by the pound. The woman placed a bag of grapes in her buggy next to the child. While the two were shopping, they ate the grapes out of the bag. When they arrived at the check out line, they had eaten over half of the grapes.

I have not only heard many stories but I have also seen many incidents of this type of behavior. There were two employees of a local discount store who were looking at some fruit colored nail polish. These employees opened up the bottle of nail polish, painted their nails and placed the bottle back on the shelf. They never paid for the nail polish, and they continue to use items without paying until today.

When I heard and saw these stories, I was appalled. What has happened to society? Years ago people would have considered this stealing. Some people do not even believe this wrong. I believe that the main reason for people having this type of behavior is many people have the "I" complex. No one considers what the effects will be to other people when they eat or use a few items.



BY LENORA MOODY

OPINION EDITOR

Some individuals only think about what they want and need. They do not think about the affect it has on other individuals or the employs of that company. These individuals believe there is nothing wrong with taking something extra or stealing a cheap item.

People like these women affect the next customer that comes along and buys a package of fruit where half of the fruit is missing. These people reduce the end of the year bonuses for employees. The company cannot give employees extra money when the company is paying for what customers are stealing. The people also affect the prices by making customers pay the extra amounts to make up for the theft and higher security.

The taking of few grapes or strawberries may not seem that significant. However, if every customer does this, what would be the result upon the employs, ethics, prices, security and everything involved in businesses?

I see ethics being eliminated from society on a daily basis. Fourteen-year-olds are stealing \$5.97 items, people are using nail polish without paying for it, and women are switching and eating fruit. My solution to the problem of the eliminated ethics is finding them again. These type of people need to forget greed and remember their not the only one existing in this society.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

DEAR EDITORS:

A sector of the athletic department exhibits unexceptable behavior. I know that this is such a bold statement to make, but if given the opportunity, I would like to explain why I think this is true. Now, I cannot name the individuals involved and give them complete anonymity, but I can name their actions which make me believe that what they are doing is wrong. Some of the things I have seen throughout the department include people making fun of other individuals and talking about them behind their backs, excessive running as a "punishment," yelling and public humiliation, and coming nothing short of outright telling a person who and who not to be friends with. There are two individuals I know who have displayed this type of behavior.

One person on many occasions has talked about athletes to other athletes and has made fun of them behind their backs. This is not suitable protocol for an authority figure. These individuals should be encouraging and not berating. I have a serious problem with a person who thinks that by talking about another individual behind their back would be beneficial. Another thing I am aware of are figures of authority making their athletes run an excessive amount as punishment for not doing well in a game. True, the athletes should take blame for their losses, but I do not see how making them run until they are sick will improve their game.

Another issue I have is with these same individuals yelling at others in such a way that it looks

like public humiliation. It is one thing to yell at an athlete in a game situation for a play gone wrong, but this authority figure seems to cross the line. However much I admire this individual, I feel they could go a bit easier. I am also aware the individual has serious issues with who and who not the athlete is friends with. Why? What harm is it to talk, date and be friends with a certain individual the authority figure does not believe is good role model? Unless this friendship or dating relationship is hurting the team, the athlete's performance on the field, or in the classroom, what business is it of theirs.

I believe the authority in question holds too much power over their athletes and what it comes down to is the almighty scholarship. We are college students—not high school students. We already have our friends picked out. We are already set in our ways. We know running until we are sick is not going to improve our game. We know if an authority figure yells at us, we are probably not going to make the same mistake again, but at what cost—the cost of looking stupid in front of friends and family. We also know when we hear about individuals talking about their athletes behind their backs it doesn't make them more aware of their mistakes but ticks them off. I urge these authority figures to think about what you are doing. There are ways to get athletes to do what you want without all the harsh comments and mind games. Work on coaching winning teams and leave being college students to us.

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