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High Prices Force Yankee Fan to Say Goodbye to His Season Tickets

Posted: 09/07/2012 3:53 pm

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I'm a season ticket holder with the New York Yankees, happily enjoying the best -- and cheapest -- seats in the house in the bleachers. Ticket prices have doubled for those seats in three years and I just got off the phone with the Yankees asking for a few more days to scrape together money for the post-season package (which they graciously granted.) And there in my email box is a heartbreaking letter from a fellow Yankee fan, a father who brought his son to countless games to share the joy of the game, exactly the sort of every-day fan you want to be coming to the Stadium again and again. And he had to let his season tickets go. Here's the letter he sent out:

Dear New York Yankees,

My son and I have decided to give up our season tickets to the Yankees.

It was an obvious decision in many ways, but not an easy one. After all, my son and I have been sitting together in the bleachers for the past 11 years -- since he was fourteen, to be exact.

Over those years we saw some of the most memorable moments in Yankee history, including the home run in October of 2003 that sent the Yankees to The World Series and their hated rivals, The Boston Red Sox, back to Bean Town with mud on their faces. Then there was the beautiful June evening in 2004 when Derek Jeter dove into the stands to catch a foul ball and end a rally that would have cost them the game and a three game sweep -- again, against their pals from Boston. This game that I just mentioned is often featured in Yankees advertising for its highlights, including announcer Michael Kay's exclamation, "Oh My! That is one of the greatest games you will ever see!"

Yet, perhaps the most memorable and enjoyable aspect of those seats in the old stadium was that they were relatively inexpensive -- just six bucks. The toll at the GW Bridge was three or four bucks and parking was five. So we often went to all three games of a midweek home stand, and thus it became something we just did. The toll at the bridge is now twelve dollars and parking is thirty-four. The seats are now twelve and come with a serious obstructed view of left field; that view is blocked by the centerfield sports bar. The thought that any seat in the house could come with such a serious obstruction is, in itself, an indictment of those who designed the stadium or, more specifically, those who guided them.

We also had the pleasure to meet and sit with a great bunch of guys, and at least one girl, whom we saw year after year. Special among them were Gerry and his uncle Pat. We've been sitting with them all along



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and we'll miss them.

In the end, the real reason we're giving up our seats is the new Yankee Stadium itself. It is no longer The House That Ruth Built, nor is it The Cathedral of Baseball. It is, rather, the handiwork of architects, planners, and marketeers who left no stone unturned in their quest for revenue production. It is, as my son so poignantly observed, The House That Greed Built.

Several years ago, when they announced that a new Yankee Stadium would be built and that the old stadium would be torn down, I told my ticket agent that this was a disaster. He told me that I should understand that the Yankees were, first and foremost, a business. I instructed him that he was wrong. The Yankees were not a business. They were, and remain, a community trust. All baseball teams are. Unfortunately, they're in the hands of corporate greed. The same corporate greed that runs our country with one thing, and only one thing, in mind. And the players are no better -- it's the American Way.

They'd sell the rights to our flag if they could. And they might have that chance some day yet.

Too bad.

Yours ever,

A Yankee fan

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HUFFPOST SUPER USER
Jerry Bourbon
525 Fans

04:21 PM on 09/27/2012

It could be worse. In San Diego, they condemned twice the amount of land needed to build Petco Park, re-zoned it Commercial, and basically gave it to John Moores, the Padres' billionaire owner.

Aren't Blue States great?

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Mr Muckle
261 Fans

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08:01 PM on 09/09/2012

A community trust indeed. The theft of Federal parkland and the promise to restore facilities to all of those who lost when they tore up McCarran Pk which the community continues to wait for, marks them as a community trust indeed.

The new stadium is wrong every way a stadium can be.

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keb8563
0 Fans

07:43 PM on 09/07/2012

So it used to be, $\$6 + 4 + 5 = \15 .
Now, $\$12 + 12 + 34 = \58 .

Almost quadruple - wow, tough to justify that as a casual entertainment expense. I'd be ditching too.

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HUFFPOST BLOGGER
Michael Giltz
freelance writer
132 Fans

11:46 AM on 09/08/2012

And that's \$12 for an obstructed view seat -- none of which should have been created in the new stadium. Instead, they created hundreds if not thousand+ by blithely placing a sports bar that ruined the view for thousands of fans and can only accommodate a few hundred at best with a view of the field AND you need a special pass to go in there. Buying a ticket to the game doesn't get you in. My regular bleacher seats doubled in price from \$10 to \$20 in three years. Great seats and many other stadiums charge more for their cheapest seats. \$20 is not a lot for a game...but it is a lot if you want to encourage a regular fan base that goes to a lot of games. Short term profits, long term disillusioned fans. The good seats are so expensive even millionaires have taken a pass and they're almost strictly corporate now, which means the seats are sold but are often empty (until post-season or big games) and the TV network must struggle not to show empty stretches of seats to viewers during the game. Sad.

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