

OPINION

A minute with Mauti



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Looking back over the summer, I've been trying to think about what crazy adventures and stories that I have to share with you to kick off this lovely fall semester, but I just can't seem to find one good enough.

It seems that I learned more than I cared to this summer and somehow came out of the whole thing older and more mature. For one thing, I had to deal with losing someone who was very near and dear to my heart.

It was hard, but I still took the time to follow the last piece of advice that I gave out in the spring: To have a fun summer fling or two without looking back and with no strings attached. But something got in my way of doing just that.

I don't know what yet, but something was affecting my ability to just date for fun without committing myself for the long term. Maybe a fling just wasn't what I needed this summer. Sure, I just turned 21 and had a blast taking the bars in Pittsburgh by storm.

There were cute guys everywhere. I wound up going out with one of them in the midst of everything else in my life going haywire. He was a nice teddy-bear like accountant, and we had fun golfing and doing the typical dating thing, but something just wasn't there. And shit happens.

If all I wanted was a fling though, then why in the hell was I looking for what was missing? I made up for it by meeting a retired Eagles player at bar. No, no he wasn't like old and retired.

Just 29 and retired. I know. He was an Eagle, and I being a hardcore Steelers fan, it was like going against my religion, but he was just fun to talk to at the bar anyways. Then by way of car shopping, I was sold on not only a car, but on the guy who sold it to me.

But once again, I thought I was selling myself short, so I returned him. I know, I know. I couldn't help it.

It seemed like I just couldn't get down the fling thing. I guess I am just too much of a romantic to have a fling. Although the advice didn't work for me, I'm sure it worked for some of you. I must say that the unspoken theories did work for me this summer. Like:

Why is it that when you aren't looking for anyone and just car shopping or walking home from the bar, you always seem to find a cutie, and then when you are looking for someone, you never seem to find what you want? It was just another twist of fate I suppose.

Between a death in the family, rescuing a dog, getting a new car, and applying for jobs, no guy seemed to fit, and I just couldn't seem to get the no strings attached part. Is that was I was supposed to find out?

Is there really such a thing as dating with no strings attached or are we as humans doomed to have some kind of attachment to anyone we cross paths with? Or can most women just not do a no strings attached relationship without feeling angst over it?

Guys seem to be able to pull off no strings attached like it's their second nature. (Sorry, guys, if you think I'm generalizing, but honestly, look around.) So why can't women? Oh well, it seemed like fun at the time anyways...

Prepare to be parched

By **HEATHER COLEMAN**
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No more liquids is the new battle cry for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) after a plot by British terrorist to bring aboard liquid explosives on trans-Atlantic flights was uncovered about a month ago. All liquids, including beverages, as well as water, shampoo, any lotions or creams, toothpaste, hair/shaving gels, and any other items of similar consistency, are no longer allowed beyond the checkpoint or on board aircrafts. Additionally, any of these types of items purchased beyond the checkpoint, in the airport, must also be thrown away before boarding the aircraft. Does anyone besides me see a problem with this? If not, let me continue.

The primary goal of the TSA has been to ensure airport security and prevent the hijacking of another aircraft, but the only way they seem to be able to do this is by stripping us of our freedoms, which has been the main complaint of this agency since its creation. So, how far is too far before people will actually stand up for their rights and freedoms. A wise man once said, "He who gives up freedom for

security deserves neither." The TSA is never going to be able to fully prevent another terrorist attack from happening again, especially when the main weapon of their whole operation was the actual plane. Last I checked, not many people can fly without a plane.

The problem with airline security is that most of their ridiculous new rules are rash and regrettably not that helpful. Someone tried to get liquid explosives on board a

plane, so the TSA's solution is to immediately ban all liquids, and the problem becomes solved. But wait, anyone who took chemistry knows that there are plenty of things that can explode, and good luck trying to check for all of them at the boarding gate.

The TSA has taken into consideration that there are some people out there who do have special needs and to ensure their health they have permitted a few liquids on board in small amounts, like breast milk and eye drops. But did the TSA ever think that terrorist could use these few exceptions to their advantage and still smuggle whatever they needed on, while leaving the rest of us average citizens, who usually travel for vacation and relaxation, without valuable liquids for hours.

Yes, most airlines do provide a complimentary drink once they are up in the air, but what do you do during a lay-over? You are either forced to visit a water fountain constantly or to purchase something to drink, that you otherwise could have brought with you, and then, let me remind you, forced to throw it away if you do not finish it before it is time to board the aircraft.

What is worst about the no liquid policy is that the TSA is not just taking these

things away from innocent average citizens, but young children as well. If a child brings a bottle or sip cup filled with liquids the TSA does not care and will dump it out, which brings me to another point. The whole reason TSA even banded liquids from airplanes is because alleged terrorists in Europe were going to use mixed liquids to make a bomb. Therefore, what is the sense behind pouring these liquids down the same drain when they supposedly explode upon being mixed? And whose problem is it when a baby starts crying during travel because they are thirsty?

The point is that smart terrorists will always come up with new ways to get explosives on board because where there is a will there is truly a way. In the meantime, the impulsive approach to security that the TSA has taken does not make anyone safer. In fact, all it really does is annoy paying customers, take up tons of precious time, and leave everyone feeling thirsty.

Remember the crazy shoe bomb terrorist a few years ago? It was just that one person, and no one has ever tried the Wile E. Coyote approach since. Now, thanks to him, however, passengers everywhere are still taking off their shoes for examination before boarding flights. What happens next if someone tries to use a shirt for a bomb or even a bra? At this rate, in a few years, maybe even months, all plane passengers will be forced to fly handcuffed and naked. Goosfraba!



Photo courtesy of Google Images
Water bottles line a trash can at an airline checkpoint. Higher security means no bottles on flight.

President's Corner



By **ARIEL O'MALLEY**
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Hello everyone, and welcome back! I hope your summer was filled with lots of happiness and many good memories. Hopefully, you are all settled in again and ready to get this year started.

As President of SGA, I feel it is only right to give you all a brief idea of what exactly SGA does. SGA governs over all of the clubs and organizations on campus. We do event planning, community service, and much, much more. Most importantly, however, we are here for you. We are here to help you fix the issues you see on campus and to make Penn State Harrisburg a place that you can be proud of. If you ever run into a problem or have a concern about something on campus, please feel free to stop by the SGA office so that we can help you. SGA is still looking for more members. There are openings for Senator and Court, as well as committee positions. If you are looking to get involved and make a difference on this campus, SGA is the place for you. If you are truly interested, please stop by the SGA office (E-136) and schedule a time to meet with myself and Augie Bravo (Vice-President, SGA).

Now that you know what we are, let me tell you what we have been up to. The members of SGA were very busy over the summer planning all sorts of things to make this year a year to remember. We are going to be taking on the project of creating a Student Union, where all the students can go to relax and hang out together. I would like for this room to contain various types of entertainment. However to make this a place where everyone can go, I would like to know what sort of things you would all like to see in the Student Union. For example, would you like to see a pool table, air hockey, foosball, or maybe something else? Please, let me know if you have any ideas or thoughts on the matter.

There are also many events in the works such as Fall Fest and the infamous Stuff-A-Plush, which will have an added benefit this time around. At this point, I would like to bring something to your attention. As a member of the student body, you have the ability to plan your own events to bring here on campus. At the end of this month, Student Activity Fee proposals will become available which you can fill out to get funding for your events. If you need any assistance in filling out the form or locating a vendor who supplies the sort of event you are looking for, please come and speak with me. I will be more than happy to help!

I hope that this semester is wonderful for all of you, and I wish you the best of luck with all of your classes. I would like to leave you with this quote from Henry Miller. "All growth is a leap in the dark, a spontaneous unpremeditated act without the benefit of experience." I hope you all take a leap in the dark this year to enhance your growth. (Remember that SGA will be your flashlight along the way!)

It's your time at Penn State University

By **DIANE KENNEY**
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Here we are at the start of another semester and many new changes have occurred. The biggest one that needs to be approached is this entire new freshman class. They are an amazing new addition to our little campus, and to have new, young, energetic life here on campus is exciting.

Another big addition to our campus this year is the new lion statue sitting outside of the library. The lion is the biggest

representation of our Penn State pride, and I'm proud he was added to our campus.

As always with the beginning of each year, the Student Government Association is planning on making big changes. As a new member of the Senate, I am very happy to be a part of something that promises change, and I encourage anyone who wants to be involved in SGA to come and check it out because it's your time.

This year, Student Activities has planned many new activities. Though it will be hard to top

Laguna Beach's Jessica and Alex, I'm sure they will come up with something. Many activities have already taken place this year and have had higher attendances than last year.

I have had four exciting years of life-learning experiences here at Penn State. Though I am graduating in just twelve weeks, whatever new chapter I start will have a hard time teaching me the things I have learned while being a student in the Penn State system. Starting with freshman year with petty girl fights and cramming all night for finals, to

senior year when I learned how one achieves their "A" game.

Your college experience is what you make of it. I've had amazing ride that I will never be ready to get off. This is my last semester as a Penn State student and I plan to make the most of it, starting off with All U-Day up at UP for the Penn State/Northwestern game. After I leave in December, not a day will go by that I won't think of my times at Penn State. I encourage all students to take in the Penn State experience, bleed Blue and White and always remember, GO STATE.

'Ignorant' about PSH's parking problem

By **LISA STONE**
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The following letter was sent to the editor of The Capital Times in response to the story "Visitor Parking is for Visitors?" It was never printed because the writer did not include his/her name for print.

Dear Lisa Stone,

First and foremost, as Webster's Dictionary defines is, the word ignorant means "uninformed, or lacking in education." So, upon reading your article "Visitor Parking Spots for Visitors?" it appears (unless Webster is ignorant as well), that it is you, Lisa Stone, who embodies the very definition of the word, and not those of us who are using visitor parking spaces. Maybe you should have researched your article a little better, because we are fully aware of what a visitor spot entails; we just don't care. Rude? Yes. Inconsiderate? Absolutely. Lazy? Maybe a little bit. Ignorant? Not so much.

Maybe the problem lies in the fact that on top of the grotesque amount of tuition we pay to attend this fine educational institution, we also have to pay \$40 a semester to park. If we are paying an extra \$80 (yes Lisa, \$40 + \$40 = \$80) every academic year to park (not including the summer semester), we should be able to park wherever we damn well please, and in this instance, it is as close to the door as humanly possible. If visitor parking was in a less convenient location, we would not park there. It

is not like we are taking handicapped spots from the physically disabled here. It's just cold outside, and hey, we're a little lazy.

Possibly, we could find a solution to this "problem" by asking these "prestigious" visitors who do not pay \$80 to park, to walk the extra 10 or 20 feet, and leave the prime spots for those of us who have to lug \$700 worth of books, on any given day, into Olmstead. Maybe, Lisa, if you parked a little closer to Olmstead, perhaps in a visitor's spot, and didn't have to walk the extra 10 feet, you could get to English class in time to properly comprehend the full meaning of the word 'ignorant'. This would enable you to write articles worthy of a college education.

So, next time you decide to insult Webster, or play campus cop for a day, maybe you could whip out your badge on those students who are parking in handicapped spots, and taking away from those individuals who actually need their designated spaces.

The crime here, Lisa, lies not in parking in visitor spots, but in the tragic deforestation that had to occur for you to get your worthless editorial printed in the Capital Times.

Sincerely,
The "so-and-so's" who really enjoy visitor parking

Upon first reading this letter, I was surprised that something I had written had received actual hate mail. Flame wars are usually something I steer

well clear of in the course of my day. I apparently hit a sore spot with this article, something that happens when your writing is published. I accept that not all people will agree with me, what I stated in the article regarding Visitor's parking were definitely my views on the issue. There are, however, a few points I would like to correct "The so-and-so's who really enjoy visitor parking" on.

Firstly, I should address my use of the word ignorant. In the Webster's New World College Dictionary Fourth Edition, the word ignorant is defined as 1 a) having little knowledge, education, or experience; uneducated; inexperienced b) lacking knowledge (in a particular area or matter) 2) caused by or showing lack of knowledge or education 3) unaware (of). In the case of its use in my article, I was using it to refer to the so-and-so's (and those like them) and their lack of knowledge in the area of common courtesy.

I will skim over such grammatical and spelling errors, as using instead of it in the first sentence of their letter and misspelling Olmsted twice in the third paragraph, and move on to examine the issue of my apparent math mistake. Upon re-examining the list of prices provided by Police Services, I see that full time students are indeed charged \$75 for a yearly pass, as I stated in my article. Apparently, I did something that the Webster dictionary defines as "research" into my topic.

I also would like to point out that using such a poor excuse as laziness

to violate university policy is not something I would proudly claim. Only ten spots are reserved for Visitor Parking in the Olmsted lot. Be honest so-and so's, the only reason you park there is to take advantage of the fact that other students obey the posted signs. There are numerous other spaces that are close to entryways, you simply can't get them if you show up five minutes before class in most cases.

I will completely skip your feeble attempts to insult my character and education and instead move on to address the issue of enforcement in the handicap spaces. To this issue I would like to point out that officers will often hit violators found in these spaces not only for unregistered vehicle violations but also for parking in handicap spaces. Violators of this variety usually face not only a one hundred dollar fine but also a less than sympathetic Vehicle Registration Office.

So, in closing, I would like to state that I fully stand by my views on this issue. I also do not feel that my article was worthless. At the very least, I have the courage to state my views publicly, take credit for them, and make myself available for discussion on the matter instead of posting anonymous hate mail on the door to the Capital Times office as the "so-and-so's" saw fit to do. I agree that the parking situation is not perfect, but breaking the rules just because you are rude, inconsiderate, lazy, and yes, ignorant, is completely inexcusable.

Look for more from President O'Malley here in The Capital Times