

Editor's Comments...



but why do we refuse to focus inside of our borders?

An ideology where any American, no matter white, black, gay, straight, smart, disabled, rich or poor, can walk down the street without being chastised or judged is obtainable. I do not believe that laws regulating personal thoughts of hate will cure this societal malady. I do believe that it will be a slow recovery from years of social standards and inherited beliefs.

We regulate through the Civil Rights Act and the ADA that no man or woman, regardless of gender, race or intellectual disability will be discriminated against, but this can only apply to things such as housing and employment.

It is deemed in civilized society that discrimination against another due to a difference to be wrong. It is the living room conversations, or the jokes between friends that cause hidden discrimination that may channel into outwards aggression.

Call me crazy, but I believe that the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do. It will take the one person in the room who calls out comments that are inappropriate, the one person who holds the door for a woman in a wheelchair, and the one person who stands up for basic human decency to change what has been acceptable in American society for years.

We need to celebrate our differences, not highlight them. There should not be a need for a Black Student Union or a need for women's rights groups. The only thing these groups do is call out the difference between Americans with the mission of creating an even bigger rift.

We accept our friends for who they are, for their mistakes, but we should also accept others that we do not know for the same reason. We are all human, we all have dream, we all feel happiness and

pain.

No matter if you scramble an egg or poach it, it is still an egg. The same applies for people. We all want what is best, we all want peace, we all want ultimate happiness.

Learn, appreciate, change. I beg you. We are the future of this country, let's be proud of what we grow up to be.

You can help promote change by contacting different clubs around campus. The MCRT or MAAEP are great places to start.

Or get in contact with SGA Diversity Chair, Pheobe West. She is starting a lecture series that focuses on the history of different cultures, and hopes to start a class on this topic. Get involved! The more people who help to make a change, the better.

If you are the type to laugh in the face of activism from your couch, at least come out and attend a MCRT meeting, or one of the MLK lecture series. Or even join a club that you know no one in.

Diversity is not just about race, it is a group of different people coming together for one common goal: happiness.

On a completely different topic, Marques: good luck next semester, and thank you for all that you have accomplished. You have set a standard for every SGA president that comes after you and inspired change within the school. The amount you have done in such a short time is amazing and I thank you. You will be missed.

Marin Alice

From the barstool

By **MARUJA ROSARIO**
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The crux of the semester is quickly approaching, and with it comes the chaos of papers, exams, and general widespread panic. But there is more to this time of year than just finishing the semester, and I call this time the fabulous holiday season. So on top of finishing my 30-page paper for a class, I am also concerned about fighting people for parking spaces, adding on and crossing off people on my holiday list, and trying to figure out how to pay for it all. Which is how I ended up sitting on my barstool trying to release some stress.

Turns out that lots of other people are trying to do the same thing. Most of them are also huddled on their stools, rocking back and forth with the sheer horror of trying to take care of the holiday season. A bartender tells me a story about how when she moved to Pennsylvania, the thought of not being able to shop in a mall and stop at a restaurant inside it to get a festive beverage before taking the crowds again filled her with horror. Which got me to thinking that my Christmas shopping would be much merrier if I could also get a festive beverage in between the chaos.

Other conversations include also figuring out how to pay for the all the presents that they have to buy for people. I heard comments as simple as putting them on "the god

damn credit card" to extravagant ideas of trying to hit the lottery.

Then there are the complaints about the time and how no one has any to go Christmas shopping. More are taking to the Internet for their shopping needs, finding that to be the most efficient way. For people like me though, who have no idea what they are getting until they see it in the store, we are the champions in procrastination. In fact, one such comment included buying Christmas presents on December 24 at the local gas station.

On this particular day, for whatever god forsaken reason, Christmas songs were being played, which opened up a whole new can of worms. Everyone begins to complain about the music and how it does not make people, especially drunk people, merry. As the fourth one begins, one lovely lady just says, "Seriously?" and from her tone the listener knows that she is two songs away from ripping someone's throat out.

Then there are the complaints about seeing that family that you only see when it is the holiday season. People are already getting drunk with the thought of having to see that side of the family that they do not associate with unless forced.

Which brings me to the point. For all the supposed joy of the holiday season, I sure as heck couldn't find it at the bar. All I found was a barrage of complaints covering almost everything the holidays try to promote. Spending time with family,

giving gifts, and being merry are the last things on these people's minds.

They are too busy trying to figure out how to pay for it, how to pretend to be happy, and the best way to cope with this invasive time of year.

I personally do not care for Christmas because I feel it has been commercialized, and it would appear that the rest of the bar stands with me. Which then leads me to dream up what would be a great Christmas.

Wouldn't it be great if I didn't have to get you a present simply because you were kind enough to get me one? Nothing personal, but I truly don't have the money.

Wouldn't it be great if I got to choose the people that I call family and spend Christmas with them instead of being forced to spend it with someone I really don't know? If I could surround myself with my definition of family, I would be joyful.

Wouldn't it be great if the radio stations let the malls be the sole players of Christmas music so that I wouldn't have to be reminded every second of the day that it is Christmas time?

And lastly, wouldn't it be great if we could all go back to the time when you looked forward to waking up early and opening presents, not caring their worth or their value, and just being pleased that someone thought enough about them to give them a little something?

Happy Holidays my friends. Drive safe, be safe. See ya later.

I recently went to interview for an internship at the Arc of PA, which helps pass legislation for developmentally disabled people. I was told to sit in the conference room and wait for my interviewer. There was a poster in the room, with the face of a developmentally disabled child and the text "I'm different" across the poster.

As shocked as I was at the statement, I quickly realized that underneath this statement was the text "I want a small wedding."

Yes, we're all different. I hate jelly and foods of different textures on my plate. Others prefer Coke over Pepsi or Thousand Island dressing over Ranch.

I've noticed talk lately about differences. A difference in race, a difference in sexual orientation, a difference in appearance is always an underlying part of society.

But there is a lot more that unites Americans than divides them. Don't we all want the best life for ourselves and our families? Don't we all cherish our given American freedoms and wish to defend them?

We have worked as a society to gain rights for women and minorities, we do not tolerate oppression outside of our borders,

Okay people...



That's right folks! Gas is \$3.15 at the local 7-11. Remember those good old days when gas was under 3 bucks? Remember when it was under 2?! It's true, gas used to be cheaper than a gallon of milk. But now, thanks to many factors, we're all spending half of a pay check to fill up our tanks. Imagine telling your children how cheap gas used to be, in the same fashion that my dad used to tell me how he could buy eight crayons and a coloring book for a dollar. You'll sigh and remember how good it was, and how you remember when gas hit three bucks a gallon and the world was shocked. But really, how much more of this are we willing to take? I ask those of you who commute to campus, how much is this hurting your wallet? Now, those of you who live in Pineford don't count, but what about the students who commute from Hershey, Harrisburg, or even across the river? I'm pretty sure that you should get some more money from FEAA for gas. It's amazing how we all just accept this with little fight. Yes, we all sit around and are appalled at the price, but remember when gas hit 2 dollars a gallon? And now it's over 3 dollars?! A friend recently came to bragging that he got gas for \$2.85, a price that would have seemed outrageous this time last year. Though I do not have a proposed plan to reduce gas prices, because I personally feel that boycotting gas for a day is worthless, but something has got to give! The money in my wallet is quickly falling, unlike gas prices in central PA.

The Capital Times seeks to provide complete, correct information. Any necessary corrections, comments or critiques are wanted and welcome.

Please stop by The Capital Times office (E126), e-mail captimes@psu.edu, drop a suggestion in the box outside the office or call the office at 948-6440.

Any corrections should be reported no later than a week after the paper is printed.

CORRECTIONS:

Diversity was spelled wrong on the ticker.

THE CAPITAL TIMES

The CapTimes is currently looking for Ad Managers and Layout Editors. Contact mab5338@psu.edu if interested.

POLICE REPORT

11/12/07: Employee injury: M&O employee was pricked by needle while emptying trash in room w311. Employee's report of occupational injury was completed.

11/13/07: Health and safety: PSO in area of first floor women's restroom in attempt to determine person leaving waste in trash can. Negative results

11/14/07: Smoking policy: Staff reported people smoking in front of library. Gone on arrival.

11/14/07: Reckless driving: M&O employee reported gold Honda was driving with passenger on hood. Citation issued for reckless driving to operator.

11/15/07: Reckless driving: M&O reported black car speeding and doing donuts in rear lot. PSO checked area with negative results.

11/15/07: Community education:

PSS spoke to Capital Times about department services.

11/15/07: Trespass: Caller reported person in construction area. Gone on arrival

11/17/07: Disabled vehicle: PSO contacted towing company at owners request for vehicle that broke down.

11/19/07: Health and safety: Periodically checked road conditions due to snow.

11/19/07: Vehicle escort: Provided escort for chancellor from campus to HIA

11/20/07: Parking: Sherwin issued parking ticket for parking in 3 parking spaces

11/21/07: Employee accident: Multiple employees reported being exposed to floor tiles in Demey school. Employee injury reports

completed.

11/23/07: Employee injury: M&O employee reported being exposed to asbestos at Demey school. Employee report of injury completed.

11/24/07: Vehicular escort: PSO provided escort for chancellor from airport to campus

11/24/07: Suspicious incident: PSO observed white male sleeping in vehicle. Male early for airplane flight taking nap.

11/25/07: Security lapse: Found rooms c12 & c15 open with lights on. PSO secured doors. Monitor for rooms was outside smoking/educated monitor about crime prevention.

11/28/07: University policy: Observed 5 smokers in smoke free zone. Dispersed them to other side of Olmsted drive

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