

# OPINION

## National Insecurity: John McCain

By **MARTIN SANTALUCIA**  
Columnist  
MFS5075@PSU.EDU

Those who remember the brief news coverage the 2008 presidential race received several months ago will recall numerous reports of John McCain's political death. He was roughing it on commercial airliners and carrying his own luggage. Late night comedians joked that the Straight Talk Express, McCain's campaign bus, had been downgraded to a rusted tricycle with a torn cardboard sign taped to the front. While no race has ever been decided that early, other candidates who appealed to a much deeper Republican base were rising to stardom and building up the steam that they hoped would carry them to the following November. Once again, the Republicans were going to unite behind a ridged conservative and run head-on into the unfortunate soul the Democrats had convolutedly deemed to be the least qualified or least likable candidate for the presidency. In the lock-step world of Republican politics, McCain simply was not going to cut it. Since then, however, something strange happened. The Republicans, in perfect accordance to the Democratic playbook, broke rank and began eating their own

by putting up an unlikely nominee that half the party hates. Enter the recently re-animated corpse of John McCain. With wins in all three of last week's primaries, McCain ensured that the nomination of his Republican opponent Mike Huckabee was about as likely as Creationism (thank God for ironic miracles). Within this headlining revelation, however, is the much larger mystery of what happened to the previous frontrunners that had the nomination in their grasps, but let go too soon. First in line was Rudy Giuliani. Since his lost bid to become Emperor of New York City, there had been mumbblings of a presidential run. Right off the bat, he was the Republican frontrunner. The conservatives loved his close ties to Bush during the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in New York City. Moderate Republicans were drawn to his "kick some terrorist ass" approach to foreign policy. The country knew and respected him for his handling of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in New York City. What better candidate to carry on the Bush torch than the man who single-handedly caught Osama Bin Laden and paraded his body through the streets of America than — and then he dropped out. For many presidential candidates, the most unfortunate part of

campaigning is the tendency for the frontrunner position to act as the world's largest X-ray machine. Several aspects of this device killed Giuliani; the first and possibly most prominent was everyone realizing how damn annoying it was to be constantly reminded what his role was in the terrorist attacks of 2001. While it is important to base a presidential campaign on your strongest quality, one should avoid pointing out that it is also your only quality. At almost the exact same moment, the tide of the election shifted away from his pet topic of terrorism and toward the economy. To remedy the situation the Giuliani campaign took an arrogant and stupid trip south to Florida, insisting that any damage previously done to his campaign would be repaired by the political literacy of the Floridian electorate. After nearly being beaten out of third place by Mike Huckabee in the state, Giuliani collapsed and backed John McCain. While Giuliani sank toward the end of his run, one candidate thundered onto the polls before even declaring his candidacy. This Republican Godsend from Reagan himself was none other than Fred Thompson. For Thompson, the frontrunner position was probably most devastating as it instantly brought attention to the fact that

many of his staff members were more excited about his campaign than he was. The anticipation of his belated campaign kick-off aided in possibly making his run one of the most disappointing events of the election for his supporters. Fortunately for him, his lack of interest in his own candidacy probably made the event relatively painless, allowing a smooth transition back into obscurity. The last frontrunner, and most recent (as of this being written), to dropout from the race was Mitt Romney. Romney played the part of president better than any other candidate with his perfectly groomed hair, wide smile and deep pockets. Preceding and during Romney's significant and scattered wins across the country in early primaries and Super Tuesday states, nagging questions about his past stances caught up with him. The former governor of Massachusetts, the first state to legalize gay marriage, had some issues with the religious factions of the Republican Party. Romney also had previously been pro-choice and at one point ran as a Democrat. This mixed poorly with an inability to raise funds, which resulted spending millions of his own money to finance his run — a strategy that was barely getting him through the primaries and

not boding well for the general election. In an effort to get out of the way of the now charging McCain campaign, Romney dropped out and is now backing the new Republican frontrunner. Worthy of at least a passing note is Mike Huckabee who still, as of last Thursday, had not dropped out of the race. Huckabee, while a victor in some states including the all-important Iowa caucuses, scares the crap out of most moderates and independents. Because of this, he never ascended to national frontrunner status and really only serves as a reason for some of the super-conservatives to not back McCain. The fact that, until recently, Huckabee was still winning states points out the fatal flaw of McCain: he is not the true Republican frontrunner. Rather, McCain serves as the default for the Republican Party after their first, second and third choice candidates found their campaigns failing on a catastrophic level. Having said all of this, I still maintain the promise I made to myself to not predict any outcomes regarding the general election or Democratic nomination; however, I see this obvious split in the party playing a role in both how Republicans will vote in November and how hard they will campaign for the newly crowned frontrunner John McCain.

## President's Corner



By **SAHAR SAFAEI**  
SGA President  
SVS5033@PSU.EDU

*Editor's Comments: The Capital Times gives a spot for the SGA President in the newspaper so your student body president can inform you about issues regarding SGA and Penn State Harrisburg, and does not associate itself with the content of this article.*

Everything that is written in this article has been written by a person that has lost all mental sanity and is going on abnormal amounts of sleep. The following article may cause mass amounts of confusion and ulcers. Ulcers caused by the inhibition of COX-1 enzymes by NSAIDs... Crazy amounts of NSAIDs. I am sorry I have nothing to write about. I am sorry that the sky is blue. I am sorry that I know why the sky is blue. I am sorry that I know the integral of log. I am sorry that Valentines Day sucks. I am sorry that the good ones are taken. I am sorry that the senate leader is no ones special guy. I am sorry that Giant does not carry maple butter. I am sorry that Billy's balloon is evil. I am sorry that in "To Kill a Mocking Bird," Scout, a girl, is not really a girl at all but a robot guy. I am sorry that at Giant when you buy a bottle of spearmint water the receipt that is given to you is longer than the bottle itself. I am sorry that I get less than 5 hours of sleep a night and therefore this article is to its greatest potential as far as I'm concerned. Commercial Break ---- DO you need Gratuitous amounts of ENERGY? POWER THIRST!! SCIENCE, ENERGY, SCIENCE, ENERGY! Power thirst will make you better at everything forever! Power running, power jogging, power sleeping, power eating, power spawning babies! You'll have so many babies! FOUR HUNDRED BABIES!!!!----Now back to the educational program. I am sorry that Powerthirst© doesn't actually exist. I am sorry that Kristin is terrified of Pandas. I am sorry my spoon is too big. I am sorry that there are people standing outside of the SGA office. I am sorry I had a dream but I did not sleep therefore my dream is no longer there. I am sorry that I celebrate Pi day and Mol day. I am sorry about the rash. I am sorry that my sister can not drive. I am sorry for those people who do not know that I do have a twin. I am sorry that Christopher Walkens is cooler than you. Commercial Break---Giant's Organic food isle has incredible specimens of things. Such as panda pudding, tea that does not lie to you, and green tea cola also the much loved spearmint water. Now back to the educational program. I am sorry that Shelia is so confused. I am sorry that gas prices are so high. I am sorry that size does matter. I apologize for the people who go to class hung-over. I am sorry for the lack of sufficient parking on this campus. I am sorry for skipping class, and being late to the classes I do attend. I am sorry I have so little time. I'm sorry there's nothing to do in the HBG except write things to be sorry for. I AM SORRY FOR COLLEGE BEING SO EXPENSIVE. Rally at the Rotunda April 2nd at 1:00pm. Help make a change! Help to lower your tuition. If you are interested in attending please email [svs5033@psu.edu](mailto:svs5033@psu.edu) or [mfs5075@psu.edu](mailto:mfs5075@psu.edu) with your contact information. Good luck with the rest of your semester. Peace.

## Univeristy Park verses Commonwealth, the debate rages on

By **PHIL NARSH**  
Columnist  
PSN5001@PSU.EDU

Maybe I've been a bit desensitized by Main campus, maybe I just haven't found the right parties yet, but it feels that The Penn State Harrisburg campus is surprisingly dull at times. It is as simple as women's basketball compared to football in Beaver Stadium; PSH is boring. Penn State Harrisburg enrolls roughly 4,000 students. Compare that to an estimated population of 38,720 (as of 2007) up at the University Theme Park and its surrounding area, and you end up with one Hell of a difference. The college world I became accustomed to at Main is a world

where the weekend starts on Thursday nights, where Halo Studies 101 is a mandatory first-year seminar, where post-game riots are a very real possibility, where jungle juice flows from magnificent fraternity-owned waterfalls by which the indigenous 'sorositutes' play, and where vomit on the street on a Saturday night is as common as a cool autumn breeze. A savage, brutal land of flat-brimmed hats and beer funnels. I've been known to remark to fellow students the following quote: "Nothing surprises me anymore after living in State College. I wouldn't be surprised to see a camel walking down College Ave." But here in Harrisburg I've actually seen people reading in public! What sort of combination

monastery and public library have I wondered into? However boring it may be at times, there are several benefits to attending a small college. The energy is completely different here. The students are certainly nicer and more approachable here on average, possibly because they don't have as far to walk between buildings. Class sizes can get massive at Main, whereas I haven't seen a single auditorium class here. While this does in fact cause the grading curve to be nowhere near as steep, but does allow for a closer student-teacher connection. Here at the Capital campus it's much easier to become involved in a group or educational organization. Not to mention the fact that the gym services are free, where as

State College will charge your bursars account upwards of \$60 per semester for it. From what I have observed, the students here are much more motivated, organized and goal-oriented than your average State College student. This is probably due to a lack of party atmosphere and the fact that undergraduate students have only been allowed to attend for the last few years. Despite these benefits and improvements, Harrisburg campus just can't hold a candle to fun, excitement and self-destruction that Main can produce. Harrisburg is a non-smoking campus, and, as of later this year, a dry campus on top of that. "I don't think there is any similarity," said Lee Samuelson,

a student who has been to both institutions. "You just have to look at State College from the top of the hill to see there's no comparison. Our campus could probably fit inside of Old Main!" Simply put, our campus flat-out does not have access to the resources, the facilities, the number of students or the sheer size that big brother school does, which means there isn't much to do here but learn. And you can forget dating. What with the crowd here, it would seem that every woman is either in a relationship they've been in since high school or married! So grab a diploma and get in line folks, because it certainly seems that there isn't a whole lot else to do but get that piece of paper.

## Ten ways to save money on gas

By **LEE F. BARBER**  
Staff Reporter  
LFB11@PSU.EDU

As gas prices continue on the rise, college students at Penn State Harrisburg who commute to campus (and even those who don't) are subject to this costly epidemic. The following are a few things to keep in mind to put less strain on your wallet and keep more money in the bank.

**1. Air Conditioning isn't as bad as you think**  
Many believe that A/C will eat away at your gas mileage and drive with the windows down as an alternative to staying cool. While this can be true, it's not always the case. When you're on the highway, driving at high speeds with the windows down causes a great resistance pushing against you, taking away from your car's aerodynamics. This puts more work on your engine which in turn causes more consumption of fuel. The alternative is driving with the windows closed and using the A/C. On the other hand, driving with the windows down without A/C in stop-and-go traffic is ideal.

**2. Keep the fluids topped off**  
While your windshield wiper fluid

will not affect your gas mileage, fluid levels on other parts of your car will help keep your car running effectively and prevent costly repairs. The most common of these that is often disregarded is oil level. Change your oil every 3,000 miles—or else. As personal testimony, I recently pushed the limit and neglected my oil change until 4,000 miles later. As a result, the inside of my engine was lined with a gummy deposit of oil known as "sludge" that will ruin your engine. The engine had to be flushed and cost my typical oil change to be more than necessary. Another thing to keep in mind is that an oil change is a quick and easy process that you may even be able to do on your own instead of paying for the service. If you don't know how to do it, ask around, send me an e-mail, or simply search the internet for a wealth of knowledge.

**3. Consider your daily routes**  
If you take on a daily epic journey to school or work, spend the time to figure out the best route without heavy traffic or other interferences. While the highway may seem faster, the act of stop-and-go traffic will ruin your gas mileage and ultimately take you longer to get to where you're going.

Even though you may have to travel further, finding another route that is less congested will keep you moving and save money at the same time.

**4. Avoid idling**  
Letting your car run without moving is the biggest waste of gas ever. Don't waste time waiting in a drive-thru line. You're better off parking and going inside to order your food. You'll most likely get faster service and end up leaving sooner than you would have in the drive-thru anyway.

**5. Use the Cruise Control**  
A common feature on most every car today that is often not used is cruise control. Take advantage of this gas saving option by utilizing it on highways or other less congested roads. The concept here is to prevent your car from accelerating when not needed and keeping your car's cylinders rotating at a steady RPM (Rate Per Minute).

**6. Gas Octane**  
Many people don't understand, nor do they need to understand, what gasoline octane is. For most cars it is unnecessary to purchase premium fuel unless your car manufacturer recommends it. Premium fuel can cost up to 15%

more than regular fuel. By doing without, you'll save up to \$400 per year.

**7. Do the speed limit**  
There are reasons other than safety and environment protection that the speed limit on highways is posted at 55MPH. One of them is because every 5MPH you travel over 60MPH costs you an average of \$0.10 more per mile! Preventing quick accelerations and sudden stops will also help save gas.

**8. Ready, Set, Go**  
You might feel compassion for your car when starting it up at below freezing temperatures, but more than 30 seconds of initial start-up idling is unnecessary. Many have the preconceived notion that letting your car run until the engine's temperature gauge has reached normal is good for the engine. If your car was a human and you just woke it up from sleeping for a "piggy back" ride to class, this may be the case. However, no matter how small, keep in mind that your car is a heavy-duty machine and within seconds your car's internal computer system will fire its fuel-injectors and other components getting it ready to move. My rule of thumb is by the time

I've put my seat belt on and picked out a CD, I'm ready to roll.

**9. Keep the proper pressure**  
Under inflated tires can reap you of up to 3 miles per gallon. You're best bet is to buy an inexpensive tire pressure gauge and keep it in the glove box. After pumping your gas, it's recommended you take a couple minutes to check your tire pressure at every fill-up. Your tire's recommended pressure is clearly listed on the sidewall of each tire. You should be safe going 5 lbs. over the recommendation just to make sure you're meeting the minimum. Many gas stations now offer "free air," Sheetz in particular. Other stations charge around \$0.50. Remember to take your pressure caps off before you turn the air compressor on--this will save you a lot of time.

**10. Buy gas in advance**  
Know where you're going and don't just buy your gas anywhere. Don't wait until you're already on the highway when you reach empty. Gas stations conveniently located directly off the highway often charge up to \$0.06 per gallon more than average. You can monitor current competitive gas prices and get more gas saving tips at [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov).