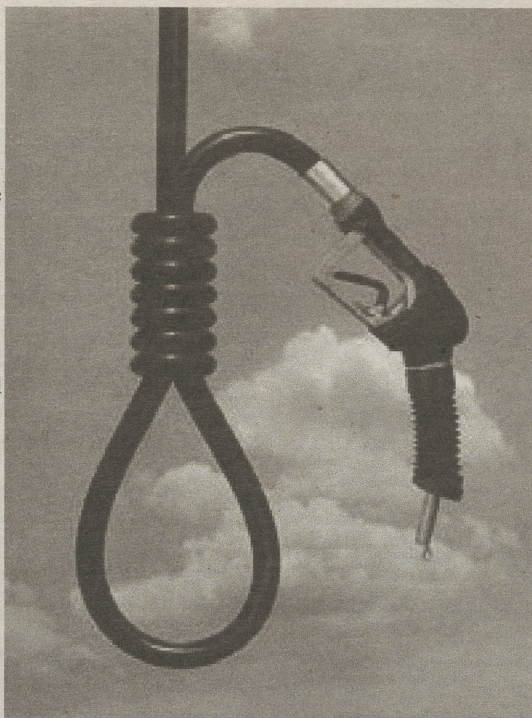


# Opinion

## GAS\$\$\$

By Matthew Rodgers-Lion's Eye Staff Writer-mm187@psu.edu

If you haven't noticed, the price of gas is going up, up and away. Unfortunately, there is no relief in sight, as AAA has announced that summer-time gas will be above \$4 per gallon. Unlike gas increases during past summers, the cost of gas will probably level out above \$4 per gallon, and stay. We have heard these rumors before, urging people to "drive responsibly," but that is not feasible when gas stays above the \$4 mark. Last year prices rose dramatically over the summer, but dropped just as quickly through September into October. Brace yourself, and start saving if you have any vacation plans.



It is not just the price of gasoline that will affect you and your daily life...and budget. Looking at a typical day, there is nothing that you do that is not in some way connected to the price of oil. Airfare will increase. Groceries will cost more. McDonald's dollar menu will turn into the \$2 menu. Your vitamins, Tylenol, shampoo etc. will go up in price. Everything that you do, including going to the bathroom, will cost more. Our country may have moved from an industrial to service related economy, but transportation is the key factor that lies beneath any price tag...even water.

You are only kidding yourself if you think that gas prices will boomerang and fall back to normal. Open up the front page of any newspaper and peruse the headlines. The Middle East, which has been America's best friend when it comes to oil, is wrought with turmoil from Tunisia to Afghanistan. Iran has lowered their output of crude oil in an attempt to end economic sanctions brought against them by the United Nations. Unfortunately, Iran looks like they are in it for the long haul, which may be the underlying cause of president Obama's recent pledge to open up waters in the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean for oil exploration. It is not just the fact that Iran has lowered their export. They have also threatened to close down the Strait of Hormuz, which accounts for about 20% of the world's oil output on any given day. Iran also has oil pipelines that they can shut down, crippling East Asian countries. So the Middle East may be a dry bed of oil to the United States.

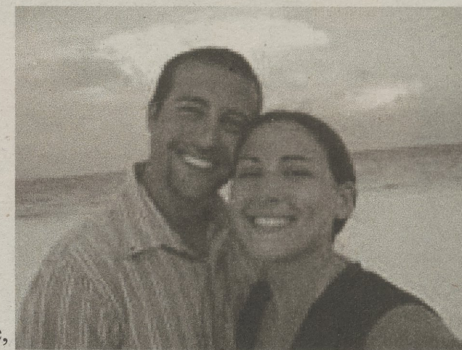
Moving on from the Middles East, Africa is the next destination for exported oil. Of all areas in the world, Africa is probably the most unstable. In Nigeria, one of Africa's biggest oil-exporters, public demonstrations and protests came to a head when the Nigerian government withdrew the gas stipend, which kept the cost of gas at a meaningful level. The price of gas almost tripled that day, leaving the population at the precipice of revolt. The Nigerian Oil and Gas Ministry could only offer an apology to their citizens, stating the stipend had been extended multiple times over the past decade. The population should have known the price increase was coming. I can understand the increase, but there should have been advanced notice.

I could go on; creating discussion points of all oil exporting countries, but that gets away from the article. Be prepared for the winter, it may be the next time you see a gallon of gas under \$4 per gallon. But the winter is home heating oil time, so I am sure there will be a reason for increased oil prices.....maybe a presidential election will do it; music to Republicans ears.

## Brandywine BELIEVES

### I Believe Everything Happens For A Reason

By Aimee Ralph  
Junior, Communications Major  
Cooper Honors Scholar



I believe everything happens for a reason. There is a reason why I went inside the house that night, and agreed to a date with Mike.

I had not seen my friend Kristin in a few years. I had to make some tough decisions the past few months about college. I decided to leave college, and pursue a full time career until I decided what to do. I had been so busy with work that I forgot what it was like to go out and have a good time.

One night Kristin and I got together for dinner. I told her all about my life and what was going on during that time. We had a great night and reminisced about old times. I dropped Kristin off and was invited inside to say hi to her boyfriend, whom I had known from years before. I walked in the door and was greeted by a guy whose name was Mike. He was watching a hockey game, and I immediately sat down because hockey is my favorite sport.

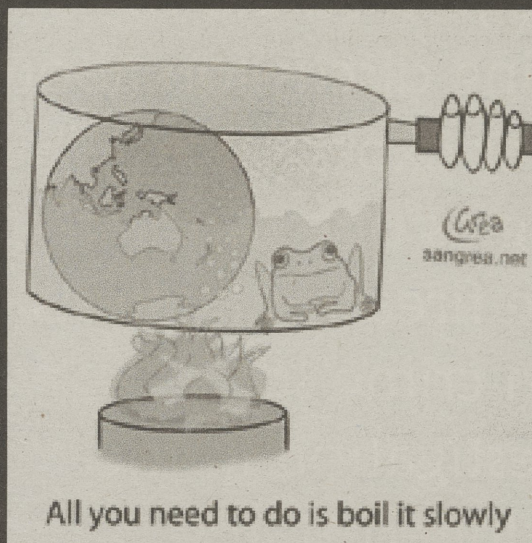
The guys were heading out, and while Mike waited for his roommate, we sat and talked. I had a lot in common with Mike, but had no intention of having anything else with him. I was working full time, and was completely focused on my future. The guys left, and Kristin asked me what I thought of Mike. I told her that I was not interested. Thirty minutes later, the guys came back. Mike wanted to come back to hang out with me. There was a reason why Mike left his friends to come back to me. I was unsure what to do, so I casually left.

The following day I received a phone call from Kristin. She wanted to thank me for taking her out, and tell me how much fun she had. Before I could hang up the phone, Mike got on and asked me if I was interested in going out on a date. I agreed to hang out with him at the house a few nights later. I now know there is a reason I stayed on the phone with him.

I called Mike to tell him I was going to be late, and he wanted to see me anyway. When I arrived at the house, Mike had a full dinner cooked, and flowers on the table for me. I did not think a man in his mid-twenties had such a heart. That night we sat up and talked until 4am. I did not care about having work in just a couple of hours.

I got to know Mike so well that I agreed to be in a relationship with him. Now, almost four years later we are engaged and set to be married.

There's a reason why I went to dinner that night with my friend.



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## The Lion's Eye



### MISSION STATEMENT

We are the newspaper of the Penn State Brandywine campus, serving the students, administration, faculty, staff, and visitors of our campus. We vow to inform all of our audiences, and we will strive to make each issue better, so that we remain a vital part of the Penn State Brandywine experience. We also pledge to be professional, and to follow the highest standards of quality journalism.

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