

Editorial opinion

Heroines

Women athletes deserve respect for dedication in unequal world

Tina Nicholson, Kristy Yamaguchi, Char Morrett, Jackie Joyner-Kersey. All of these names should ring a bell in almost everyone's head.

To many people — even the sports gurus of Penn State — those names are not associated with anything other than women's athletics. But for a large number of young people those women are heroines, role models and innovators in their sports and their lives. They are lifetime athletes who knew at the starting gate that they were not going to earn large amounts of money like professional male athletes, for doing what they love most — to play.

To play basketball, to play field hockey, to play soccer, to play volleyball. To skate to shoot, to dive head first, to swim, to jump. Through their athletic endeavors, women athletes nationwide and at Penn State have proved that all men and women are created equal, despite programs and emphasis that may suggest otherwise.

Tomorrow is National Women in Sports Day, and it commences Women's History Month. The Dubois Campus is holding a celebration of women and sports tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to promote awareness. The event will showcase local women's sports teams and have information about the all-important Title IX.

Before Title IX was passed in 1972, women at the scholastic and collegiate level did not have a strong representation in athletics. Title IX made it possible for women to participate in as many sports as men. Today, all high schools and universities offer the same amount of sports for men and women.

But women's athletics programs still are not put on the same level as men's. The University has 14 men's and women's varsity teams, but looking at the attendance of women's games versus men's shows drastic inequalities. Most women's basketball games are free, and students still cannot fill the Bryce Jordan Center; yet for men's games, students will camp out to get good seats.

Is it the University's problem? Or is it our problem, as students to fix the inequalities?

It's a little bit of both.

Next year, University Park should follow Dubois' lead and celebrate women and sports. And students must give much-deserved respect to women's athletic teams by attending their contests.

These are just two small steps in the fight to end inequalities between men and women.

But small steps lead to big changes, and that's the ultimate goal.



Letters to the editor

A more human world

Thank you for the diversity articles on the graduate and undergraduate students Feb. 21 and 22. We hear so much negative talk about diversity that it's a pleasant surprise to hear something positive for a change.

I have been writing about diversity issues at Penn State since 1988 when I wrote the Kaleidoscope of Cultures program for the College of Education. I have served on the University Faculty Senate as a graduate student and on numerous committees for the University, and am now pursuing a doctorate in multicultural education in the Interdisciplinary Graduate School Program.

I hope other students will see and understand the need to define for themselves a true definition for cultural diversity, multicultural education, cultural awareness and concern for others. The history of Penn State as well as America is fruitful with contributions made by all Americans, but we need to uncover and explore the impact of contributions made by the less represented among us. Please join today in helping our less informed brothers and sisters realize that without the support of all people from the "Buffalo Soldiers" to "Native Americans" from those who served in the Revolutionary War, the Spanish-American War, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Vietnam, Persian Gulf War and every American battle in the world, if we had not fought together then our world history may have been completely different.

It is now up to us to educate each other in schools and in the community about the contributions all people have made in the building of our communities. Multicultural education is a way to pull our Afrocentric and Eurocentric brothers and sisters together to not exclude but to include, and to have appreciation for the contributions of everyone. Did not black people fight for liberation during the Holocaust? Did blacks help to protect the settlers in the West? Did the U.S. Army reward Native Americans and black people for fighting against each other for the benefit of the pioneers in the West?

Some of us are composed of three different races (African, European, Indian) which makes us multiracial if not multicultural. Multicultural education is a way for white, black, Hispanic, and Asian people, and others to share their knowledge, history, and culture. Some of our history may be painful, but in order to develop a better appreciation for the contributions made by the less recognized in society we must

learn it anyway. Please join now to change tomorrow to make the world more understanding, accepting, trusting and more human.

Andrew Jackson Sr.
academic adviser/instructor
College of Education

URGENT

I am writing this letter to inform students that there is a little girl who needs help. On Feb. 21, I received an E-mail message from a friend who sent me some disturbing news. The E-mail message told me about a friend of his who has a sister that is suffering from leukemia, and that she needs a bone marrow transplant very quickly! Therefore she needs a donor. I have enclosed this letter for students in order to get information on how to help:

Friends:
My twelve year old sister has Leukemia and needs a bone marrow transplant to survive, but has no blood-related siblings. Her name is Karen, and she is one-half Korean and one-half North American (European descendants). Finding out whether one is an appropriate donor requires only a blood test. All expenses for the donor will of course be paid. If you are or know anyone who is of like origin, please E-mail me as soon as possible at mdoyle@cosmix.com. I would also appreciate you sharing this message with the people you know. Karen's doctors are searching through the registered donor list, and haven't had much luck. Our best bet is to find someone who is not yet registered as a donor. I welcome any suggestions you have, and appreciate your concern.

Thank you.
I hope that for this girl's sake that students will help out in this search for a much needed donor. If you think you could be a possible donor, or know someone who could be please take immediate action now. My E-mail address is skp111@psu.edu Time is of the essence!

Sang Pak
junior-mass media studies

Preaching Pat

As national elections near, I still have little hope for our future generations. I say this after browsing through my Collegian on Feb. 22.

My frustration grew when I read the article on a high school in Utah which banned all extracurricular clubs because of a homosexual club that wanted to be recognized as well.

A quote within the article read, "Everyone suffers because of the gays." I disagree, everyone suffers from this Bible-preaching government of ours. We are entering into a new millennium and our government is still fearful of the homosexual community. Pat Buchanan recently commented after winning New Hampshire that all Americans could rally around two documents: The Constitution and the Bible. Whatever happened to the separation of church and state? We are electing homophobic leaders, and they are making their primary views into laws. Mr. Buchanan could possibly run for president, and he claims all Americans should believe the teachings in the Bible as if it were law. This is purely an individualistic choice and should not interfere with equal rights for every human being on this earth.

What is fearful to me is that my generation is accepting this or doing nothing to stop this madness. I see Penn State the same as I see our national political system; views of the masses are cheered while views of the minority are shunned. I am not offended by the Willard preacher at all, but I would like to see a speaker preaching Satanism on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

I don't believe in either topics but a diversity in views and acceptance of all would be a pleasant change.

As a white, heterosexual, registered Independent, the upcoming election is a difficult decision. I would like to see a candidate who will respect people and their alternative views.

Mr. Buchanan, until you realize that the cornerstone that every American should rally around is equality for all, I hope you suffocate in the waste that you are producing.

Dean Scalise
junior-advertising

Hey Penn State students:

Remember, USG campaigning starts the Monday after spring break. Take the week to think about what issues you think your student leaders should deal with. Send us a letter and tell us what you think.

You can send it via E-mail to jta108@psu.edu or bring it to the Collegian office, 123 S. Burrows St.

the daily Collegian

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Students' letters should include semester standing, major and campus of the writer. Letters from alumni should include the major and year of graduation of the writer. All writers should provide their address and phone number for verification of the letter. Letters should be signed by no more than two people. Names may be withheld on request.

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Mail other letters to: The Daily Collegian, 123 S. Burrows St., University Park, Pa., 16801-3882.

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Pulled teeth, healthy skin and Brad Pitt compose local's break

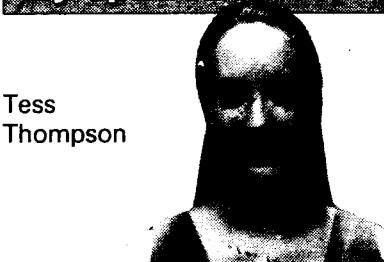
OK, so those of you who are actually here probably don't care what my column is about. As you sit through your final classes — if you decide to go to them — there's probably one thought on your mind: spring break.

At Penn State, the break starts sometime around Wednesday the week before, when people start going to Florida instead of class. By Friday afternoon, classes usually have a 1:1 professor/student ratio.

Spring break is a misnomer. Why call it spring when the vernal equinox is weeks away? During our alleged "spring" break, there is always at least one blizzard; either we get snowed in at State College, or we get snowed in trying to return. Why can't we have a spring break when it's actually spring?

Everyone's solution to this inhospitable weather? Go to Florida, of course. Pay a lot of money to go be-

My opinion



Tess Thompson

with people who have paid a lot of money to look at each other on the beach.

Going to Florida seems like a horrendous idea. I can say this without fear of nasty or reproachful letters because most of the people who are going to Florida are already sunning themselves.

For one thing, going somewhere far away is expensive. For another, it's a proven fact that people do themselves irreparable psychologi-

cal harm by trying to squeeze themselves into bathing suits in the middle of winter. Some people actually try to prepare themselves for break by working out beforehand and going to tanning salons. Now, there's nothing wrong with working out and trying to get adequate exercise as a general rule. But it seems stupid to try to work out for the sole purpose of looking good in a bikini for a few days.

Equally stupid are the people who are going to tanning beds, exposing themselves to radiation so they'll be a nice, toasty brown before they even set foot in the sand.

Instead, you can just go home, wherever that is. My first year, I went home to Boalsburg and promptly got snowed in. School was canceled for my brothers, so we were just one big happy family in one very small house.

Home does have its good points, though. For most of us, home

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offers benefits better than beaches and sunshine: free food, for example. Laundry facilities. You can go home for a week, watch "The Price is Right" and the Home Shopping Network, maybe even open a book, and return with a new appreciation for the State College social scene.

I would discuss staying in State College over spring break but, as a townie, I can tell you that this place becomes a ghost town. Get out while you still can.

My fun plans for this week begin with one thrilling event: getting my wisdom teeth out. After each vacation, there are a few people who come back as veterans of the oral surgeon, each one with a uniquely

harrowing story. Soon I will be joining the ranks of the maimed. Even as you read this column, Dear Reader, I may be unconscious.

Partying was the farthest thing from my mind a few weeks ago when the oral surgeon explained to me how I will be able to attach ice packs to my cheeks with towels and a clamp.

However, when other people return from break happy and tan, I'll console myself with the thought that I absorbed very little UV radiation in the oral surgeon's office; when I'm eighty, my skin will be a lot less wrinkled than theirs. (If it sounds like I'm rationalizing, it's because I am.)

After I get off the codeine, things are going to pick up a bit; my friend Lauren and I are visiting people we know in D.C. and New York. We see it as a "Thelma and Louise" style adventure, although Lauren is quite firm in saying there will be absolutely no guns.

We've already decided that if we accidentally kill someone, we're going to head for the Canadian border (rather than the Mexican) because it's closer.

We have not yet discussed who will get to sleep with Brad Pitt if we meet him as a hitchhiker.

Whatever you choose to do, have a good spring break. Be safe, have fun. And if you see a slow, white Nissan heading towards the Canadian border, don't tell the police who's in it.

Tess Thompson is a junior majoring in English and a Collegian columnist.