

## Editorial opinion

### Wishful thinking

The Daily Collegian Board of Opinion's hopes this semester

It's back-to-school time, and all students have their own personal goals for the upcoming semester.

Some students simply want to finish this semester and graduate. Others are hoping for that perfect 4.0 grade point average, and some just want to make it through.

The Daily Collegian Board of Opinion has some wishes of its own for this semester to improve life for the University community.

We hope that:

■ The polls are right, and the football team becomes the national champion.

■ The students, especially those who will be paying more than their peers this semester, actually see the benefits of the recently implemented differential tuition.

■ The new faculty the University plans to hire, and the ones that are already in the classrooms, are utilized for their teaching ability as well as their research prowess.

■ We finally see some progress (and conclusion) to the ongoing saga of general education reform in a way that encourages students to get the most out their time here.

■ The University administration remembers this is a place to learn and extends the hours at Pattee so students have a place to study later in the evening.

■ The University administration, University Police Services and the State College Police

Department do their best to provide safe, well-lit walkways for students. We also hope students will become more aware of their personal safety and utilize the Penn State Escort Service and the well-lit walkways that will be provided to them when walking at night.

■ Students will remember the third part of the University's mission statement is service and outreach and use the new semester as an opportunity to volunteer at any of the many organizations in town or on campus.

■ The University will re-read its nondiscrimination clause again and finally award same-sex partner benefits to its faculty and staff.

■ The State College Borough Council, the University administration and student leaders work together to ease the tensions between the two sides of College Avenue.

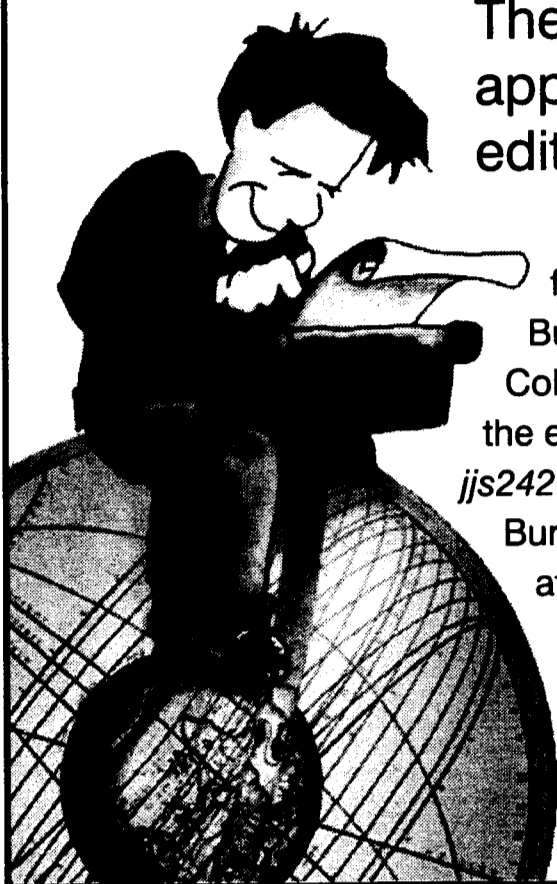
■ The Undergraduate Student Government work together and with other student organizations to keep its promises and best serve the student body.

We know achieving our wish list will not be simple, but nothing worthwhile comes easily.

If the students, administration and borough residents work together, not against each other, this semester can truly be a semester of change and improvement in Happy Valley.

## If you have an opinion, why not share it?

The Daily Collegian is now accepting applications for columnists and editorial cartoonists.



Collegian Graphic/Chris Kelleher

Applications can be picked up and returned to the front desk of the Collegian office in the James Building. Applications are due by 4 p.m. Sept. 1. The Collegian also encourages readers to submit letters to the editor. Letters can be submitted via E-mail to [jj242@psu.edu](mailto:jj242@psu.edu), faxed to 863-1126, mailed to 123 S. Burrowes St. University Park, Pa. 16801 or dropped off at the Collegian's front desk. Letters should include author's name, year and major, telephone number, title or year graduated. For more information call Opinion Editor Jennifer Strawser at 865-1828.

## Letters to the editor

### Respect key element when creating unity

On the day before classes started I was fortunate to be one of the approximately 300 individuals who were invited to and attended Encampment '97.

Encampment is a day-long opportunity to meet and interact with a diverse array of community leaders including University President Graham Spanier, various faculty and staff, undergraduate and graduate students, teaching assistants, townspeople, leaders of student government and student organizations and many more.

The theme of Encampment this year was respect. Respect for others. Respect for self. Respect for community. While discussing respect for community within small groups, a particular aspect struck me as very important: role modeling. I'm writing this letter to remind fellow upper-classmen that you are the role models here. This is your town and your University. It is also mine. I'm proud of it and proud to be here. I hope you are as well.

If you see someone spitting on a window, kicking a garbage can or throwing trash on the ground, let them know that it wasn't cool. Tell them what a cool town this is, and that it does not deserve being destroyed and disrespected. Tell them that this town has provided the best times of your life and will do the same for them. Tell them that the least they could do is leave it the way they found it. It's simple: Don't bite the hand that feeds you.

At the end of our discussion, one individual mentioned the need for us to take what we learned at Encampment and teach others the same lessons. I said that I would engage that need and write this letter. To some of you this message may sound like wishful utopian dreaming. It is until you make it reality.

When you do, you will have made this wonderful community, your community, better than you found it. For this, many will be grateful, and you will feel fulfilled and rewarded. Trust me, I've been there.

This is only the tip of the iceberg from Encampment's discussions, but respect for our community, and the extremely important sense of community that accompanies it, seems to be the foundation for another facet of respect — respect for each other. If we respect windows, garbage cans and sidewalks, respecting people becomes second nature.

**Darin A. Loccarini**  
President of Students Reinforcing Adherence In General Heterosexual Tradition

### Aid to Middle East must have conditions

The violence and the terrorist acts have persisted challenging the sincere desire of the civilized world to shape peace in the Middle East.

The shooting and bombing are senseless denial of a peaceful future for both Israel and the Arab states, and must be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

For decades, the United States of America has been providing aid for Israel and some of the Arab states. I strongly believe that U.S. aid to the Middle East must be conditioned.

President Clinton by his involvement with the peace process and \$100 million a year in U.S. aid in his control must demand immediate positive steps towards peace.

The impasse in the Middle East peace process and sustained Palestinian rioting have pushed President Clinton into a corner, examining both his influence and his imagination.

There is no question regarding the immediate need for a halt to violence and terrorism from both sides as condition for peace negotiation to resume. For terrorists, the justice should be served and move swiftly to fight violent behavior.

The time has come for U.S. aid to be conditioned. It must be used for construction not destruction. U.S. Aid must be conditioned, or I am going to raise this question to the Free World and to the American taxpayers: For how long will the United States of America be under moral obligation to provide aid for people who abuse it and use it for mass destruction?

That is not the principle behind the philosophy of U.S. aid and foreign aid in general.

Now, the time has come to ask this question to the civilized world and the educational leaders: What are the strategies that can be implemented to change the mentality that uses violence and self-destructive acts to demonstrate anger?

Before I answer this question, let us consider the historical fact that the violent behavior among Israeli and Palestinians has been rooted and can be attributed mainly to years of wars and destruction in this region.

Terrorists from both Israeli and Palestinian sides have been born and raised since their childhood to observe and praise killing, shedding blood, fires etc.

I do believe that the educational institutional whether national or international have the power to achieve that goal.

If one of the desired objectives is to pre-

pare children to believe and behave in such a manner that supports non-violent acts, we should structure the educational institutions as well as all the sources of informal education to encourage such behavior.

Indeed, if formal education which is entrusted in school systems and all the sources of informal education had sufficient moral awareness, courage and intelligence, they would organize their curricula and methodologies around the importance of nonviolent attitude and behavior.

It would be perverse if this mentality only emerges after witnessing more shooting and killing.

As I mentioned in one of my previous articles, children all over the world are born innocent.

**Magdy M. Taha**  
Facility manager for the Paul Robeson Cultural Center

### Upper class wages war on Americans

The Marxist critique of capitalism is the best thing that has happened to social and economic thought and action in the last 150 years. Those who deny that are either ignorant or deliberate liars.

The wealthy capitalist upper class, 5 percent of the total population, has waged a 200-year, silent and devious class war against the American people, and in violation of the spirit of the U.S. Constitution, should now apologize and pay reparations of over \$25 trillion.

The primary function of the U.S. presidency, the government, the Republican and Democratic Parties and the mass media is to preserve and protect the wealth and power of the capitalist upper class.

The interests of the parasitic upper class (capitalism) and the interests of the working class (democracy) are forever opposed to each other. Capitalists and workers are not partners. They're enemies!

Capitalism breeds fascism and fascism bombs buildings.

Help stop the spread of global fascist capitalism. Abolish all college and university schools of business.

We can save the world by simply changing the United States into the world's first political and economic democracy, a double democracy, and the whole world will follow our lead!

**John Cassella**  
New Union Party

## the daily Collegian

Thursday Aug. 28, 1997  
©1997 Collegian Inc.

Editor in Chief  
**Rachel Hogan**

Business Manager  
**Christopher Taylor**

The Daily Collegian's editorial opinion is determined by its Board of Opinion, with the editor holding final responsibility. Opinions expressed on the editorial pages are not necessarily those of The Daily Collegian, Collegian Inc. or The Pennsylvania State University. Collegian Inc., publishers of The Daily Collegian and related publications, is a separate corporate institution from Penn State.

### Board of Editors

**Managing Editor** Julie M. Randall  
**Opinion Editor** Jennifer Strawser  
**Campus Editor** Bridgette Blair  
**Assistant Campus Editor** Amy Brosey  
**Metro Editor** Erin Horan  
**Assistant Metro Editor** Mark Parfitt  
**News Editors** Molly K. Fellin, Kerry Lee Nadeau  
**Copy/Wire Editors** David Andrews, Carrie DeLeon, Jenni Neiman, Kelly Ruoff, Holly Shick  
**Weekly News Editor** Patricia K. Cole  
**Weekly Sports Editor** Kate Blaschak  
**Day Sports Editor** Geoff Mosher  
**Assistant Day Sports Editor** Matt DiFebo  
**Night Sports Editor** Nick Zulovich  
**Assistant Night Sports Editors** Brian Costello, Paula Knudsen, Jim Iovino  
**Arts Editor** T.R. Deckman

**Assistant Arts Editor** James Reid  
**Photo Editor** Ian Sherman  
**Chief Photographer** David S. Spence  
**Graphics Editor** A.J. Sedlak  
**On-line News Editor** Megan Donley  
**On-line Sports Editor** Krista Hawley

### Board of Managers

**Advertising Manager** Maria E. Crespo  
**Sales Managers** Rachel Vavrick, Kurt Wolf  
**Accounting Manager** Amy Fleming  
**Marketing Manager** Michelle Brouse  
**Office Manager** Megan A. Hennigan  
**Assistant Office Manager** William Schwab  
**Layout Manager** Tressa Campbell

**Complaints:** News and editorial complaints should be presented to the editor. Business and advertising complaints should be presented to the business manager. If a complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, some grievances may be filed with the Accuracy and Fair Play Committee of Collegian Inc. Information on filing grievances is available from Gerry Lynn Hamilton, executive secretary, Collegian Inc.

**Letters Policy:** The Daily Collegian encourages comments on news coverage, editorial policy and University affairs. Letters must be typewritten, double-spaced and no longer than 500 words. Forums must also be typewritten, double-spaced and no longer than three pages.

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.

The Collegian reserves the right to edit letters for length and to reject letters if they are libelous or do not conform to standards of good taste.

### My opinion

Jennifer Strawser



Gardening, though seemingly a strange hobby for a college student, has been a part of my life since I was old enough to hold a watering can. Between planting, transplanting, hoeing, watering and harvesting my family was busy throughout the year.

Serious gardeners are a tough breed, always desiring to spend countless hours working to produce something they could just as

easily have purchased in the store. My great grandfather gardened all his life and many of my fondest memories of him revolve around time my family spent helping him in the garden.

At the end of the summer my mother and I would dig potatoes out of the garden as we complained that my father would always mysteriously disappear when potato-digging time came.

Every year I'd don gardening gloves to avoid itchy bean stalks, and I'd pick beans, pick beans and pick beans again.

As I stood there in the garden I remembered another part of gardening with even greater fondness, enjoying the product of our hard work and time.

My family often enjoyed our hard work as the sugary juice of red-ripes tomatoes dripped down our chins or as we ate mashed potatoes made from potatoes which had

"I hope those of you who felt excluded from the opinions page will give us another chance, and step into our garden."

just been in the ground only moments before. Growing your own food is one of those labors people talk about when they talk about finding the simple life or living of the Earth.

To me gardening is not a part of a simple life, but its taught me many of life's simple truths — principles which I will always cling to.

■ Though sometimes the harvest is poor because outside forces or your own mistakes kill what you were growing, you learn how to prevent that the next year.

■ In almost every garden lives a plant that will weather the worst

conditions, though it turns out looking a little worse for wear in the end. Even the most damaged looking tomatoes covered with scars and bruises can taste sweet.

■ The fruits of your labor are always shared with others and others are always grateful to receive.

■ A good garden is filled with a variety of vegetables.

I hope to see this on the opinions page this semester. In the past The Daily Collegian's opinions garden has been full of nearly all the same vegetables, all the same faces.

To many people, the opinions expressed all looked the same, and the voices were not their own.

# Cultivating diverse opinions in the garden of life is goal

Forrest Gump had it all wrong. Life isn't like a box of chocolates. In this green thumb's mind, life is just like my backyard garden.

It takes work, patience, and determination. Sometimes rain will fall on it. Sometimes it's full of manure. Parasites want to take what you worked so hard for. And when you harvest bushels of produce you can share it with others.

Alice Walker, author of The Color Purple, used gardens as a metaphor in an essay describing the relationship between mothers and daughters.

Though the essay is one of my favorites, I hadn't really given much thought to gardens and their connection to life.

A few weeks ago as the sun beat down upon me, I battled insects as they tried to stake claim to the green peppers I was picking from my family's garden.

I hope those of you who felt excluded from the opinions page will give us another chance, and step into our garden.

Our readers can learn a great deal from your experience and your growth so far, but they will not have that chance if you do not allow us to have a fresh start and become part of our garden.

Each person has something they can share, stories of adversity, tales of triumph and things they've learned along the way.

So I'm opening the garden's gate and asking you to pick up an application to be a columnist or an editorial cartoonist and write letters to the editor throughout the semester.

I don't want to have a garden without you.

Jennifer Strawser ([jj242@psu.edu](mailto:jj242@psu.edu)) is a junior majoring in journalism and the Collegian's opinion editor.