

## Editorial opinion

### Priorities, priorities

*University should preserve student spaces, not expand staff's*

To compensate for the loss of more than 115 faculty on-campus parking spaces, the university has decided to add decks to the HUB and Nittany parking decks.

More on-campus parking certainly is necessary but while faculty parking will be increased by at least 400 spaces, there are no current plans to expand parking for students.

More on-campus parking is needed for students, especially in the HUB parking deck.

The university should not take away the few precious parking spaces for students in the HUB deck; if it does, it should only be temporary.

Moreover, if the university is adding 400 additional parking spaces, some of those spaces should be reserved for students as well.

Students are part of this university, too, and some of them were

not fortunate enough to get dorm housing or an apartment downtown.

Some of them rely on their cars to travel to and from campus.

Although students may use Parking Lot 44, the commuter lot, it is far from the regular classroom buildings on campus and students will have to factor even more time in their transportation routine to get from the lot to campus.

Faculty and staff may have lost 115 spaces, but by 2001, they will have gained about 285 more with the additions to the parking decks.

It will not hurt the university to give a portion of these spaces to students, especially those who rely on their cars to get to and from campus.

In fact, it would help the university by focusing and addressing student concerns.

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## the Collegian

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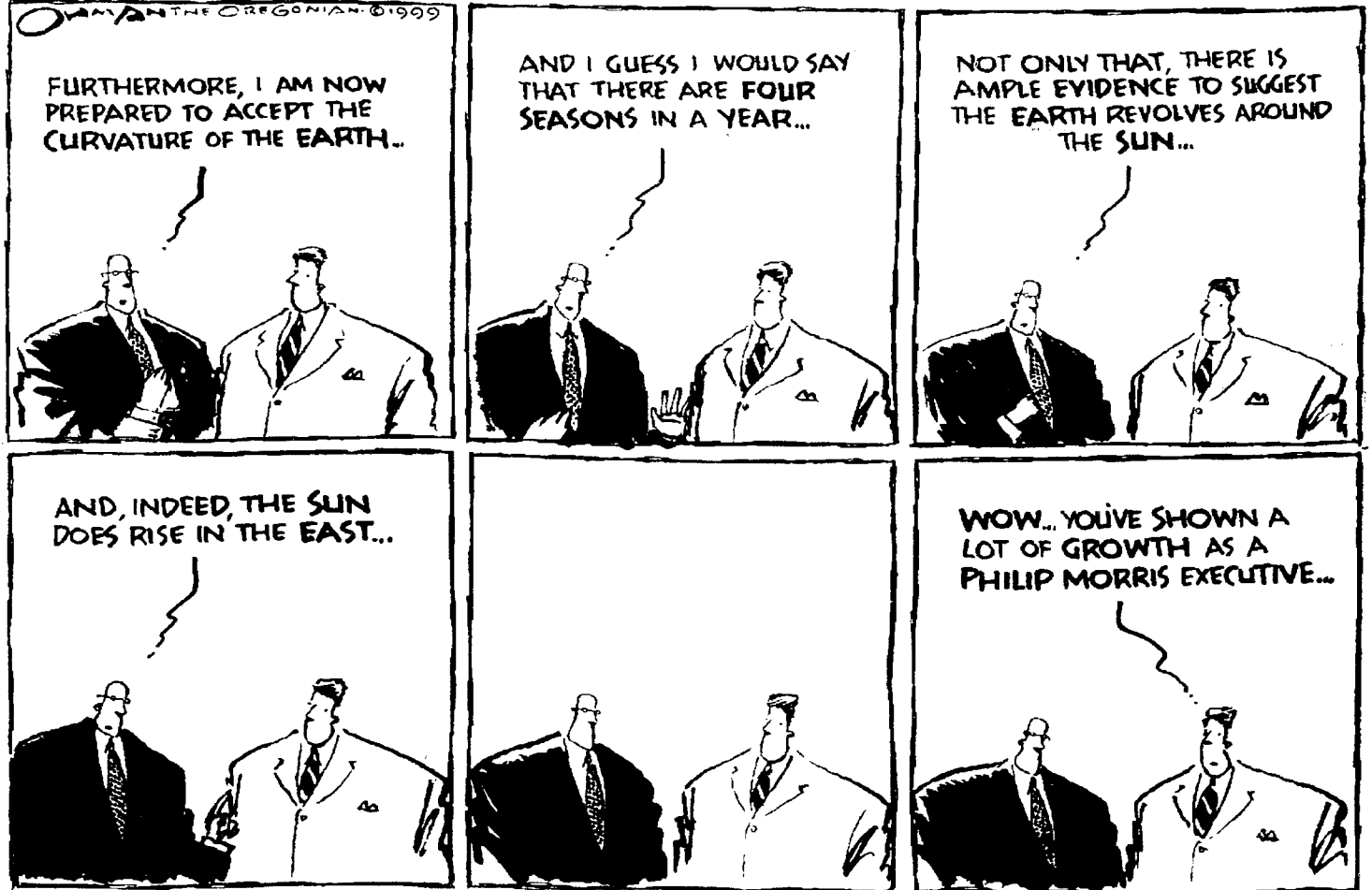
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## Letters to the editor

### Americans need to look at consumption

Since the world's accumulation of 6 billion people on Oct. 12, more people have taken notice of the population problem. It can be difficult to determine whether the earth is able to sustain additional billions of people or rather billions of wasteful people.

For example, take a look at typical middle-class American family. It has peace, plenty, and prosperity. Life is comfortable, serving the wants of the individual because the needs have been met. Perhaps an individual with such security and comfort overlooks problems having to do with population. If so, then the individual would not understand that his or her actions would be a factor in these problems. But they are.

The growth of the United States' economy is staggering compared to the economies of any other industrial economy, especially third-world countries. The American teen's spending is equivalent to a third-world family's annual income.

Capitalism allows people to store their money in banks to gain interest. After which they spend an average of more than six hours a week at shopping centers, spending the money they've accumulated.

Why is this behavior wasteful? We are preoccupied by the blinding glamour of consumerism. We do not see what resources are wasted to provide products to our demanding economy. Nor do we see that the race to obtain bigger and better stuff leads us to waste the still useful stuff of old.

It has a greater impact than one would think. For example, do you like to drink coffee? According to J. Ryan's article, "Coffee," it takes 12 coffee trees a year to sustain a two-cup a day routine. That takes 11 pounds of fertilizer, a few ounces of pesticides, and leaves 43 pounds of coffee pulp behind.

So, why should it make a difference that the air is polluted, or that there is less available drinking water left? Why should it matter if plants and wildlife are destroyed from loss of habitat? Who cares that there is a loss of 90 percent old-forest as well as the extinction of more than 500 plants and animals (so far)?

This is only the beginning of the end. If we think we can continue to live this way, raping the land of its value without allowing it time to heal, then one day our waters will all be undrinkable, and there will be no more trees to make wood from. There will be fewer and fewer wild animals left, and little to no sources for food. By then it would be too late.

How can we think that luxuries can bring us happiness, when there is less happiness in our economy than there is in less prosperous economies?

Perhaps, Americans will never obtain the simpler, slower society. Or even a society with more of an emphasis on the family and the environment.

But if one person can cut his or her consumption and wastefulness in order to maintain the environment while the population continues to grow, there is hope of slowing the decay.

Take shorter showers, put larger loads in washer and dryer, recycle, buy in bulk and opt for plastic. Spend less money on luxuries and give more money to charities that help educate and provide for those with lacking economies, because the increase of population is directly correlated with the illiteracy and poverty of the nation. If we were to start helping and acting now, then everyone and everything could benefit.

Rachel Adkinson  
junior-photojournalism

### Treaty supporters naive of weaknesses

Naive would fittingly describe the viewpoints of the Collegian's Board of Opinion as well as Ling-Nan Zou on recent comments regarding the nuclear test ban treaty.

Remarkably, the Board of Opinion would have us believe that we are the "global cop" and that we should "instruct" and "command" other nations on their political policy. This is the fundamental weakness and audacity of popular political rhetoric.

We are not a global cop, nor should our military be used as such. Doing so would undermine our national security. Nor should we be so arrogant as to order other nations to abide by our guidelines.

Shortly after President Nixon signed a treaty banning an intercontinental ballistic missile defense system in 1972, the Soviet Union implemented one, while the United States did not. Furthermore, while U.S. taxpayers pay \$35 million in fuel oil annually to North Korea in a treaty to freeze its nuclear armament, the country continues to test and build its stockpile.

Additionally, would Ling-Nan Zou or the Board of Opinion like to tell me why China has been raping our nuclear secrets if it would turn around and disarm its nuclear arsenal?

The Board of Opinion states that this treaty wouldn't require disarmament, only an end to testing. Don't be so foolish as to believe the treaties would stop here. Disarmament of the U.S. arsenal is next.

Zou states emphatically that Republicans should feel "slimy and thoroughly unclean," and relates their stance to protect our country with nazism and Stalinism. Unfortunately for Zou, the United States has neither the authority, nor the responsibility to put the world's interests ahead of its own.

Bill Abbott  
senior-advertising

### Republicans should be commended

I must say I am certainly opposed to the unfounded opinions that were presented in Ling-Nan Zou's letter discussing the test ban treaty. If one takes a simple look at the facts, he or she will quickly see that the Republicans should be commended for their actions on behalf of the American people, rather than being condemned to "burn for their actions" as Zou puts it.

This treaty was voted down by the Senate not because of partisan politics, but because the treaty is flawed in many ways.

It would tie the hands of the United States and allow our nuclear deterrent to become outdated, while rogue nations such as China and Pakistan who have not signed the treaty are free to continue to test and improve their weapons.

There is also no way to reliably provide verification of compliance with the treaty. The U.S. Department of Energy has so far failed to produce any reliable system that would allow for detection of a nuclear detonation. This lack of verification would allow other countries to continue to conduct low-yield tests without detection, while the United States would be unable to test because of the "zero yield" clause that President Clinton added to the treaty.

The opposition to this treaty outside of Congress is rather weighty, having six former secretaries of defense, four former CIA directors, four former National Security advisers, as well as Henry Kissinger, former secretary of state, opposing the treaty.

The Republicans did the right thing in standing up to the president and voting down the treaty. It is one of the paramount duties of a Congress member to look out for the best interests of the American people, and a strong national defense is very much in the best interests of the American people.

The Republicans in Congress did not vote down the treaty because of partisan politics, they did so because it was their duty.

Rick Smith  
webmaster, Penn State College  
Republicans

# Way to slenderness matters to no one, just the look

The door clicks behind you. You turn to secure the lock. Your hands are shaking and your fingers fumble with the knob. As the lock clicks, you turn toward the sink, open the faucet, and turn on the small battery-powered radio by the sink. The room is overwhelmed with buzzing and you drop to the ground — your head over the porcelain bowl. You look down. Ahead lies your salvation, your cleanser.

You lean closer. In the water is the reflected the outline of hair, then a forehead, then two eyes. It's the face of someone you hardly know, someone you don't want to know. As you exhale, the mirror billows.

Below lies a black hole, which will soon take away all of your sins. You lift your hand to your open mouth and insert your index and middle fingers. They dance along your pallet and tongue then quickly jet to the back.

You gag.

Your chest goes into convulsions. You lean in closer.

Then they come up — all of your sins and your dirty secrets. U2 plays in the background. Pieces of partially digested

## My opinion

Heather Hallman



pizza and french fries project from your open mouth and hit the water, causing some to splash back up into your eyes. The faster it falls the more that splashes up.

Your nose begins to run and tears dance in your eyes.

When it's done you lower your head to the seat, throw a desperate hand upwards to hit the handle, and promise yourself that this was the last time, that from now on it is just salads with fat-free ranch dressing and dry baked potatoes for you.

As your hand tips the silver lever, there is a rumble and then suddenly, it's all

"You know that it's stupid to think that you're not worth anything because you're not skinny or pretty. You know that in 10 years none of this will matter. But you know that everyone wants to date the skinny girl or be friends with the pretty one."

gone, taken to a different world. Where that is you don't care as long as it's gone, as long as no one ever knows.

You wipe your mouth with your hand, notice a taste of oregano on your tongue, and struggle to stand. Your heart is pounding. Your legs are weak. Your body's empty.

You stumble to the faucet and take a handful of water to gargle with. Raising your head, you see someone staring back with tears in her eyes and a red face with water droplets running down her cheeks.

You try not to think about what splashed up, about what was lingering behind. You pat water on your face and begin to cry harder.

Taking a deep breath, you get yourself together, wipe your nose, and turn off the radio and the faucet. You rub your eyes

once more and unlock the door. You turn off the lights and leave your dirty secrets behind.

Now you're pure once more — empty, but pure.

At least others will be able to look at you again. They won't see the blimp, the ugly girl, the one who couldn't stick to a simple diet. You know that it's stupid to think that you're not worth anything because you're not skinny or pretty. You know that in 10 years none of this will matter. But you know that everyone wants to date the skinny girl or be friends with the pretty one.

You see everyone at parties trying to dance with the pretty people. You hear the guys on the Loop talking about the girl with the big breasts and the 22-inch waist. You know that everyone knows that eating

disorders are rampant on college campuses because of this thinking.

Every one of us has ideas of what the perfect person is.

We think of people who are funny, kind and intelligent, but all too often, we focus on their appearances more than their souls.

We all want to be seen with the sexiest, thinnest mate possible. So, in order for anyone to live up to these standards, we force them to go to extreme measures.

There are 12-year-old girls wearing makeup, 16-year-old girls getting breast implants, and 21-year-old women living off of lettuce and carrot sticks. We all know this is happening, but no one ever does anything. We keep our standards of beauty first.

So, eating disorders must be condoned. It must be OK to puke up everything you eat in the name of beauty. We only care about the appearance. We never really think about what splashes up.

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