

OPINION

THE DAILY
Collegian

Rosslyne Skena
Editor-in-Chief

Holly Colbo
Business Manager

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Letters

We want to hear your comments on our coverage, editorial decisions and the Penn State community.

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Letters should be about 200 words. Student letters should include class year, major and campus. Letters from alumni should include year of graduation. All writers should provide their address and phone number for verification. Letters should be signed by no more than two people. Members of organizations must include their titles if the topic they write about is connected with the aim of their groups. The Collegian reserves the right to edit letters. The Collegian cannot guarantee publication of all letters it receives. Letters chosen also run on The Daily Collegian Online and may be selected for publication in The Weekly Collegian. All letters become property of Collegian Inc.

Aging plan can be left behind

Support for the proposed Highlands Loop plan appears to be losing steam — and that's OK. The initiative, drafted by the University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA), would provide a bus service with later hours — service until 3:30 a.m. — and 10 new stops on campus and downtown. The route would also extend bus service into more residential areas of the borough, like East Fairmount Avenue.

But many members of Borough Council had some concerns about the service, including the influx of inebriated students and loud buses into the quieter borough neighborhoods. These concerns are reasonable,

and we don't think that continuing to fight for this proposal is worthy of a possibly damaged relationship with the borough. And regardless of the validity of the plan, pushing for progress with the Highlands Loop is, at this point, time that could be devoted to worthier initiatives. The plan was first considered and discussed in April; it is now November, and too much time has already been committed to the issue. In essence, it's fine to move on and remove the proposal from the drawing board.

There's no shame in UPUA cutting its losses and devoting its precious time, money and resources to other endeavors.

We'd like to see funding

from the loop proposal go toward other projects.

Considering UPUA's limited funds and President Gavin Keirans' impending graduation, presumably, other projects seem more important for the time being.

In particular, putting time toward medical amnesty could benefit more students now — not to mention the greater effect that it would leave for future Penn State students.

We appreciate UPUA's efforts with the Highlands Loop proposal, but we hope that these student leaders will not see shame in letting go and throwing their money and energy behind worthier existing projects or fresh initiatives.

I THANK YOU



Efforts exist in State College to minimize impact of mills

Regarding her Nov. 9 column "Integrity matters in pet purchasing," while Julie Wolf is right about the atrocities of mills and the outstanding work of organizations like PAWS and the SPCA, she should have done more homework in regard to local pet stores.

Wildside Pets down West Hamilton is a great example of a local pet store that only sells puppies from local, small-time, breeders. They also sell rescued kittens, and they do not accept orders for a certain breed of dog or cat.

Even Petco out on Atherton only sells puppies and kittens that have been rescued (often from mills). And they often have events such as "Adoption Days" that promote the adoption of local and rescued animals.

While mills are still a huge problem, there are, at least, local efforts in State College at pet stores and non-profit organizations alike to end animal cruelty and provide good homes for both rescued and locally bred animals.

Nicole Barrett
Class of 2008

Grading football performance stops short at essential mark

After scanning the front page, my usual first stop in Monday's Collegian is the football team's report card.

I like to see where you guys are right (Offensive Line: D for Disastrous) and where you guys are wrong (12 for 28 is a 43 percent on my calculator, not a D+, and what about Boone's tackle? At least give him a shout out).

But there is an obvious subject missing from the report card: Coaching Decisions.

There is not a single more important aspect of the game that should be graded more than the plays called by the people our money is going to. I would like to see them explain to their parents/spouse this week's D.

Jared Wineberg
senior-mechanical engineering

Student fair-weather support, late entry to game irk senior

I would just like to say to all the students who arrived late and left early: Your display on Saturday was shameful. Whatever happened to come early stay late?

Sure this motto is easy to live by when it's a close game or we're winning, but a truly great student section would stay and support its team no matter what.

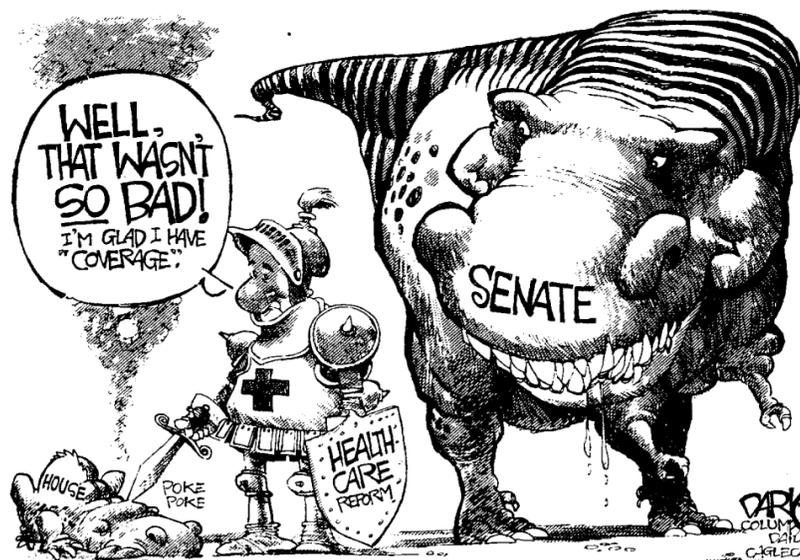
With nine minutes left in the game Saturday, Ohio State was up by 17 points, and droves of students started to head toward the exit.

That is very disrespectful to the team that has given you so much joy throughout these couple of months. Last time I checked you all were in college ranging from ages of 18-22, yet you all acted like 5 year olds not getting what you wanted and throwing a fit.

Also I remember a time when White Outs meant something. The entire student section wasn't even filled by the time the Blue Band came out and performed.

It used to be the student section was completely filled 20 minutes before the band even came out to perform. So I hope you're proud of yourselves, fellow students, for showing Ohio State fans that maybe we don't have the Greatest Student Section in the nation.

Philip Rossi
senior-broadcast journalism



Public too sensitive to T-shirts

By Patrick McDermott

WERE YOU offended by the "Terrelle Pryor" T-shirts that sparked

Penn State's second clothing-related controversy this semester?

I know I wasn't — I bought not one, but two of them. And you know what else?

Terrelle Pryor definitely didn't seem to mind them, either, at least if you go by how he played Saturday.

Following the debate surrounding both the Pryor shirt and this year's White Out shirt, we're getting a little too worked up over a couple of benign T-shirts. I would completely understand if the uproar was over an obviously profane or suggestive design, but neither of these shirts fit that description.

With the cross-like imagery on the White Out shirt raising ire only a few weeks ago, what is it about State College that makes us so concerned about the messages we receive from T-shirts? Are they really that unnerving?

Before leading his Ohio State Buckeyes to a thorough trouncing of Penn State, Pryor said he wanted one of the shirts bearing his likeness to wear in warmups. Distributed by the Penn State Marketing Association, the design showed a very muscular Nittany Lion handing Pryor a

tissue, making fun of the Jeannette native's despair following Penn State's win last year.

Some alumni and students felt the shirt was a poor reflection of Penn State's sportsmanship and demanded the shirt be discontinued. The Marketing Association went one step further: Thursday night I received an e-mail telling me I had to turn in my shirts Friday at the HUB, where I would be refunded. The message told the 40 or so people who had purchased the shirts that the Marketing Association was "working to get all of the shirts out of the public eye."

To the organization's credit, it did reference the ridiculous nature of the demand — the sender of the email even said she was unhappy over the "unnecessary" recall. The decision was certainly unnecessary, and the Marketing Association must have been told by superiors to do it. However, if people wanted to see the design, all they had to do was go to the Internet — the design had even prompted responses mocking Joe Paterno by Friday. The announcement of the discontinued sale only drew more interest to the design, all because three dozen people purchased shirts.

Despite the fuss that was raised, I still can't see why a shirt sparked so much debate. The major reason given for the recall was the design's perceived poor taste; however, I viewed it as nothing more than

poking fun at the face of one of America's most visible college football teams. Terrelle Pryor, because of his status in the world of sports, is fair game to be mocked a little. The shirt wasn't vulgar or blatantly offensive. It was simply a bit of ribbing at the expense of the opponent — something that is to be expected in a heated series.

Furthermore, the "poor sportsmanship" argument holds little water. If you were in State College over the weekend, you saw plenty of shirts that combined "Buckeye" and a certain George Carlin word. Of course, those shirts weren't produced by a Penn State-affiliated organization like the Pryor shirts were. But tons of these shirts were worn by Penn State students who are, in effect, walking billboards for their school. No one knew what shirts out of dozens of designs were made by a Penn State-related group or by entrepreneurial students who wanted to make a buck.

Don't get me wrong — I'll never pretend to be an Ohio State fan. However, I think we all should've taken the Terrelle Pryor approach to the newest controversial shirt design — take it for what it is and laugh it off.

Only if you're a Penn State fan, try not to beat up on the Nittany Lions after you do so.

Patrick McDermott is a senior majoring in journalism and history and is The Daily Collegian's Wednesday columnist. His e-mail address is pfm5010@psu.edu.

blog lines

Back Points

If any number gauges the impact of Cael Sanderson on Penn State wrestling, it's season tickets sales.

So far, 2,047 season tickets have been sold for the five dual meets this year.

This is a jump from the 1,058 season tickets sold for the nine-dual package last season.

The only meet not included in the package is the Nittany Lion Open.

In other news, Nittany Lions' James Vollrath, Luke Macchiaroli, Tom Reynolds and Andrew Church wrestled in the Knight Point Clarion Open at Clarion, PA.

Read more from **Back Points** and the rest of The Daily Collegian's blogs at psu.collegian.com.

Can You Dig It?

This time it's unanimous. After 11 weeks of indecisive voting, the Penn State women's volleyball team finally earned all 60 votes this week in the AVCA poll.

After Texas' loss to Iowa State the Lions are the nation's lone unbeaten team.

Head coach Russ Rose said he addressed the Texas loss to his team before Saturday's match in Iowa, but only to note the parity in NCAA volleyball. He mentioned, as well, that the team that had knocked off No. 2 Texas the night before also came from the Hawkeye state.

The Lions proceeded to sweep the Hawkeyes; 25-17, 25-22, 25-13.

Read more from **Can You Dig It?** and the rest of The Daily Collegian's blogs at psu.collegian.com.