

OPINION

THE DAILY
Collegian

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About the Collegian: The Daily Collegian and The Weekly Collegian are published by Collegian Inc., an independent, nonprofit corporation with a board of directors composed of students, faculty and professionals. Pennsylvania State University students write and edit both papers and solicit advertising for them. During the fall and spring semesters as well as the second six-week summer session, The Daily Collegian publishes Monday through Friday. Issues are distributed by mail to other Penn State campuses and individual subscribers.

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Letters

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

■ **E-mail**
collegianletters@psu.edu

■ **Online**
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■ **Postal mail/In person**
123 S. Burrowes St.
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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.

EDITORIAL: NUISANCE GATHERING

Advocacy must last until decision

To students, it was clear from the start that the Nuisance Gathering Ordinance would face much opposition.

After students, residents and even the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) fought the ordinance, the State College Borough Council decided to postpone final judgment until February 2010.

One ACLU of Pennsylvania staff attorney said that the ordinance being delayed signified "a victory for civil rights."

However, the fight is definitely not over — judgment on the ordinance is merely postponed. Students, residents and all those opposed to the measure will have to continue advocating against it and continue telling Borough Council members their opinions.

Some changes to the ordinance include raising the number of people that

constitute a party from three to 10 and removing the threat of jail time. The borough staff also established a "Safe Harbor" provision that allows hosts to call police for assistance if a party becomes unmanageable.

While some of these changes are for the better, they still don't get to the core of the issue: misplaced accountability.

And perhaps most alarmingly, the borough is showing a problematic misunderstanding of students.

Consider the Safe Harbor provision. Except in true emergencies, students are not likely to call the police on their own parties.

Further, Borough Council President and Mayor-elect Elizabeth Goreham said something she would like to see is hosts registering parties, specifying the location and submitting a guest

list. Will that mean that if you have more than 10 people in your house at once and put on some music, you're going to have to register it?

To the borough, that might be a party. But to a college student, that might just be hanging out.

Though we were happy to see the Borough Council listen to students, there is still a clear disconnect between the two groups, which presents a clear danger when it comes to a document like the Nuisance Gathering Ordinance.

Students must continue to verbalize their opinions to prevent the passage of an unfair ordinance. We implore council members to have open minds and use realistic vision.

The council has shown it is willing to listen, but resolving this issue will take a real exercise in understanding.

News of professor's situation shocks past pupil, assistant

The Dec. 10 article "Students want lecturer to stay" was shocking. As a 2008 graduate of Penn State in the Crime, Law and Justice Department, I was privileged to have professor Jose Texidor for four classes during my undergraduate career in addition to being his teaching assistant my senior year.

Professor Texidor offers real life experience to students pursuing the idea of law school post-college, as well as law in the military arena.

He brings real-life meaning to textbook readings and lectures. Through his teaching techniques, he forces his students to think critically. If you were to ask any student, Texidor's classes fill up the fastest during scheduling days and kids even "go standby" outside on the first day of classes in hopes to get a seat for the semester.

The administration would be doing Penn State students a great disservice by not renewing Texidor's contract.

He brings life to the Crime, Law and Justice Department at Penn State and always captures the attention of his classroom, something not every faculty member can master.

Samantha Schonfeld
Class of 2008

Christmas celebration talks overlook true origin of holiday

Stephanie Goga's Dec. 10 column "Christmas always worth celebrating," much like the novel she references, attempts to defend Christmas in light of overwhelming consumerism.

Unfortunately, there is the elephant in the room about which nothing, in neither Graham's novel or Goga's column, is spoken. First and foremost, Christmas is a celebration. To more than two billion people on this planet, it's the most important birthday on the calendar. I suggest, without proselytizing, that the real issue at hand is the divorce of the holiday from its origins.

It's a noteworthy piece of the discussion if we are going to critique the holiday we see today honestly.

Rob Nagel
senior-finance

Trashed classroom appalling to parent with teenage son

Penn State Pride — what happened? Did it get left at the football stadium gate?

I had the opportunity on Monday evening, along with my youngest son, to come to the University Park to hear a visiting lecturer from Clemson University.

My son, always looking to see what colleges campuses are like and to experience what his older brother's life is at college, asked that I attend this lecture with him.

What I found when I entered the lecture hall were some very energetic student leaders preparing for the evening, with appropriate handouts and reading material, all the while engaging the visiting lecturer. As I entered the room, I stopped and looked at my son, and said, "You've got to be kidding me?" As I begin to find a seat, I noticed garbage of all kinds — newspapers, fliers, empty coffee cups strewn about the hundred plus chairs. I actually had to kick garbage out of the way, so I could sit down and put my book bag on the floor. Students in attendance were totally oblivious to the mess.

Is this Penn State Pride? Where is the decorum of cleaning up after yourself?

I fully recognize that the buildings, such as the Thomas Building, receive a lot of students throughout the day and it is difficult to keep clean, but what I found in the classroom was no different than what I found in the restrooms — both appalling. As a visitor, I was not impressed and neither was my youngest son, who is making his decision of where he goes to college next year.

So, to Dr. Thomas, former Penn State president, don't take any visitors or friends to see the building that has been so honored with your name. You won't be happy, because the pride and respect for Penn State obviously doesn't extend to the educational environment.

Dennis Correll
Montoursville



COLUMNIST

Columnist upset as time runs short

By Chris Bickel

Do you know what I hate? Time. It seems that this phenomenon

is working against me and everything I know and love. It eludes me as to why I never listened to my parents, grandparents and teachers. I was also told to cherish the moments you have because you will never get them back.

This weekend, I finally realized how true that is.

Two friends of mine turned 21 on Sunday morning, so of course we went to Phyrst right at midnight so they can experience their first bar-bought alcoholic beverages. It was a great time.

So as I'm being forced to stand on the bar table and take my Surfer on Acid shot while singing and dancing along to a cover of a Journey song, I look around at my friends and realize how soon the times like these will be coming to an end — at least for me.

And recently, my thoughts have pummeled me this weekend like a ton of bricks. The fall semester is almost over, and it has hit me that I only have a few

more months as a college student. That scares the hell out of me.

Fellow Collegian columnist Stephanie Goga wrote a column not too long ago titled 'Soft question now has hard answer,' and now I realize how true it was. I, like Stephanie, would brush off the question "What are your plans after you graduate," or I'd give some general answer. But when it comes down to it, the thought has been furthest from my mind.

So now, when I should be enjoying the little time I have left at Penn State, I have to start thinking about my future. Heaven forbid I have no post-college plans or else I may get the same looks that college dropouts get.

Still, this isn't meant to be about the future, but more so about the past and making the best of the present. Since I've failed to heed the advice of my elders, I implore to those who still have a significant amount of time here at Penn State to live it up.

If you are like me and don't listen to the older generations, listen to one of your peers. With graduation looming, time is up several touchdowns on me because there are so many things I haven't experienced at Penn State. I never got to sit in the S-Zone at a football game. I

never had the honor of being involved with THON, for one reason or another. I didn't throw Frisbee out on Old Main's lawn when it was nice out, and I never took the time to play the Zombies vs. Humans game.

Granted, I still have some time remaining in the last semester of my college life to catch up, but in some cases, I missed out on a lot of scoring opportunities that I will never likely be able to take advantage again. It's my loss, but it doesn't have to be yours.

Sure, I've made some big plays in my time, like when I went backstage at the All-American Rejects concert in the Bryce Jordan Center my freshman year or meeting the multitude of people I've encountered through the years — even making it onto The Daily Collegian's news staff.

But take my nostalgic trip down memory lane to heart and learn from my mistakes. I still might be able to get the win over time in the end, but I need to work my butt off to do so. For the juniors, sophomores and freshmen: Don't rely on the last quarter of the game to catch up.

Chris Bickel is a senior majoring in public relations and is The Daily Collegian's Friday columnist. His e-mail address is cdb5067@psu.edu.

blog lines

Above the Net

UC Irvine head coach John Speraw sees the talent disparity between East Coast and West Coast volleyball shrinking yet said being on the West Coast still gives him an advantage with recruiting.

"I'm sure there are some challenges that Penn State and other East Coast East Coast universities have that we don't," Speraw said. "By sheer numbers alone, you see a higher level of talent ..."

Read more from **Above the Net** and the rest of The Daily Collegian's blogs at psuollegian.com.

Footblog

Jeff King has been a teacher for 12 years. He has taught at State College Area High School for the last seven. This fall, he has served as a mentor to Penn State student Stefan Wisniewski, whom Footblog readers might just be familiar with.

When not working his day job as the Nittany Lions' starting center, Wisniewski can often be found at ...

Read more from the **Footblog** and the rest of The Daily Collegian's blogs at psuollegian.com.