

NON-PROFIT

Tax bill not ideal solution

State College and other towns around the state have budget issues. While the proposed state non-profit tax bill — which would target non-profit organizations within municipalities — may help alleviate some of the problems, it is not the right way to solve budgetary problems.

As its name suggests, State College is a college town.

Penn State sits surrounded by the borough, and there is no doubt that students, faculty and staff help boost the area's economy.

Thousands of people are

drawn to the area by the university, and it's hard to imagine what State College would look like without Penn State.

The university even goes above and beyond to help the borough, giving \$18 million in lieu of tax payments to Centre County schools and municipalities between 1992 and 2008.

Other local non-profits like churches and charities also contribute to the community through traditional and non-traditional ways.

It is important to recognize this would be a state-issued bill and would not

force municipalities to tax non-profit organizations.

However, the bill, if passed, could make non-profits more political. Many non-profits shy away from politics, but if taxes were in place, organizations could start swinging support behind certain candidates who act in their interest.

Non-profit organizations are meant to help people and communities, and a tax levied against them would damage their individual missions.

And should Penn State be taxed, we worry that students would be shouldered with the burden.

Buying local food important in push for sustainability

As a College of Agricultural Sciences student, I would just like to thank Bill Wellock for his column about the Farm Show in Monday's Collegian. While it was meant to be humorous, it brought up a great point that many people seem to be ignorant of: Do you know where your food comes from? Pennsylvania is known for its rural lands and family farms, but thanks to sprawling development and large industrial farming, these lands are decreasing at an alarming rate. With the current push toward sustainability, it's more important now than ever to understand how agriculture shapes our world.

I encourage everyone to start thinking about how and where you buy your groceries, as well as ways you can become more sustainable yourself. Buy fresh produce at local farmer's markets, stick to foods that are in season when possible, visit the local dairy for your milk products, etc. One person may not make a large difference. But if we all do these fairly simple things, we could have a huge impact and ensure that our state's agriculture will still be around for future generations.

Krystal Bealing
senior-soil science
and environmental research management

Contributions of City Lights will be missed by music fans

After reading Kevin Doran's letter "Loss of City Lights Records Damages Music Community," I must say that, as an alum and customer, my sentiments are echoed exactly. I wasn't introduced to City Lights until my sophomore year when I made a few friends that were (and still are) involved in the local music scene. It was then that I learned City Lights wasn't just a place to buy and trade in CDs. Later, when Mike's and Arboria shut their doors, City Lights became the only game in town.

Every time I made a trip back to Happy Valley, I always had to stop by City Lights. Sometimes I had no intentions on even purchasing anything, but after talking with Greg Gabbard or just looking around for a bit, I always seemed to walk out with something. Maybe I'm just upset my work schedule will not allow for a trip to stop by and peruse the piles and piles of one last time: but I know I'm not the only one. For those of you like me who can't make it back before the doors close, listen to "The Last Independent Record Store" by State College's own Ted McCloskey. If you do, you'll be able to visit City Lights whenever you want in your heart and mind. Thank you, Greg, for what you've done for the State College music community and for the millions like me who've walked up and down those stairs over the years. You will be missed.

Michael White
Class of 2003

Potential tuition increase unfair to students, families

This letter is in response to the predicted 2.9 to 4.9 percent increase in tuition for the 2010-11 school year. As the last child of three to go to college, I understand the difficulties my parents face to pay even a portion of my tuition — the rest of which must be paid through loans. Although both of my parents have a steady income and our family is considered middle class, many of the federal loans do not take into consideration the increases in taxes, as well as the debt that some families may have to pay off. There are too many contributing factors to the inability to afford tuition as is.

In a society where obtaining a bachelor's degree is essential, stripping it from many who cannot afford it seems to be cruel and unusual punishment. For those students who stand away in high school to be able to attend such an acclaimed university, increasing tuition demonstrates their efforts are unworthy of being noticed.

I understand the increase in tuition is necessary for Penn State to continue its climb to excellence. However, this ascent also leaves deserving potential students behind, teaching them that wealth is the only important factor in our society.

Iris Guo
freshman-biology

blog lines

Washington's Post

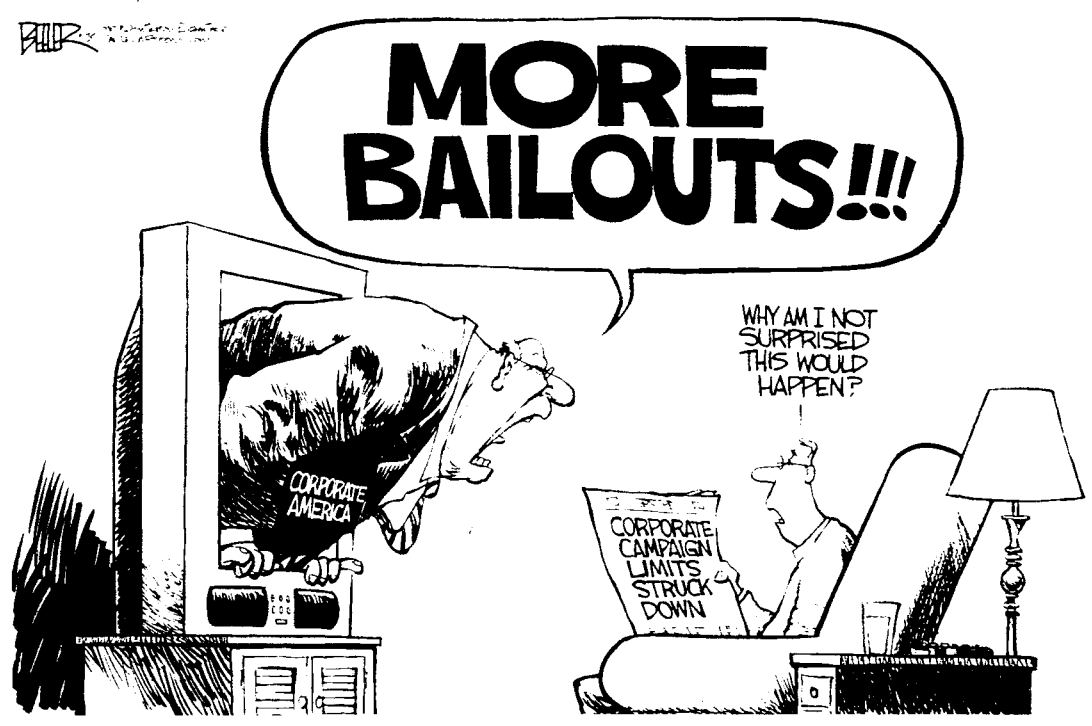
The Lady Lions picked up a big victory against Illinois to keep their winning streak alive. However, the team and community picked up an even bigger victory in its effort to raise more research and awareness for breast cancer research. Basketball takes a backseat now, as these are the statistics from today's PinkZone game.

Read more from Washington's Post and the rest of The Daily Collegian's blogs at psucollegian.com.

There is No Name on My Ballot

Penn State students interested in watching President Barack Obama's State of the Union Address can do so in the comfort of Pattee Library. The News and Microforms Library, found on the ground floor, will show the live address Wednesday night at 9 p.m., according to a press release.

Read more from There is No Name on My Ballot and the rest of The Daily Collegian's blogs at psucollegian.com.



Obama must deliver on promises

By Kevin Sullivan

BARACK Obama has been apologizing since his election.

He apologized for asking Tom Daschle to join his cabinet, a man who, it turned out, failed to pay his taxes. He apologized for making a few lowbrow comments about the Special Olympics on "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno. He asked for America's forgiveness when intelligence mistakes resulted in the failed "underwear bomber" terrorist attacks. In an interview on ABC last week he even stated, "I don't think there's been an interview in which I didn't talk about some mistakes."



MY OPINION

It's refreshing when a politician can take responsibility for his shortcomings. The kind of honesty he is espousing is a surreal correlative to the "I am not a crook" and "I did not have sexual relations with that woman" —isms Americans all but expect from those we choose to lead us.

Except when it comes to actual things he promised that have not come to fruition.

True, the delay of the closing of Guantanamo and health care reform's missed self-instated deadline can be overlooked with a smidgen of self-aware abashment.

But when campaign Obama states over and over that health care negotiations will not be held in an underground bunker far away from media coverage and President Obama denies C-SPAN access, the honesty act is not what his constituents are looking for.

This is not an isolated incident. Since being elected, Obama has been more silent than Milton Waddams' pitiable crusade for his stapler in the movie "Office Space" on a number of key policy promises, like his big promised windfall profits tax on oil companies.

It would be very presumptuous to argue that these inconsistencies are why the president's poll numbers have been dropping or the reason for Scott Brown's Massachusetts senatorial victory.

Last week, liberals will tell you this is the very reason for these events while conservatives will argue it's a tangible indication of a public fed up with Obama's Muslim-inspired Marxist policies.

It should be pretty clear to anyone who wants to look at these instances rationally that it's a combination of disappointment on both sides, and if the president would like to see these things rationally, he should realize he cannot assuage people of two completely different political ideologies and shouldn't try.

Last week, during a Martin Luther King Jr. Day ceremony, Obama admitted to a Washington, D.C., church congregation the contents of his layered character and how the criticism he faces affects him: "There are times when the words that are spoken about me hurt. There are times when the barbs sting."

Is there a point to this kind of honesty? The people who supported his presidency and donated a record amount of funding to his campaign didn't ask for emotions. We have Dashboard Confessional and the Lifetime Network for our outlets of vicarious sympathy. America

needs a President who will put his head down and do the job he told us he would do.

It is true that Obama's detractors will do anything possible to cut his throat. People like Rush Limbaugh can turn anything into a politicized event and do so in front of millions of listeners and viewers. Limbaugh, for instance, after the earthquake in Haiti two weeks ago, urged his radio listeners not to donate to relief efforts and claimed the catastrophe would "play right into Obama's hands ... it's made to order for him."

This sort of thing happens every day. I wouldn't be able to take that kind of criticism either. However, I don't lead a nation of 300 million people.

There are so many people who don't care what the president does and will do whatever they can to destroy him. It's called a democracy.

As we have seen a year into his presidency, some believe in the deepest chambers of their hearts that Obama is a Muslim and convince themselves in a way that's almost laudatory.

No matter how much pork Obama allows into his bills, they still believe he must pray toward Mecca five times a day.

You can't please everyone.

So Mr. President, when you go on air tomorrow night in the House of Representatives' chamber, go knowing that we have been watching you and expect to hear what you are going to do to produce what you promised.

That is, of course, and was missed "Lost" and had to TiVo it.

Kevin Sullivan is a senior majoring in English and is the Collegian's Tuesday columnist. His e-mail address is kjs5089@psu.edu.

THE DAILY Collegian

Rossilyne Skena
Editor-in-Chief

Holly Colbo
Business Manager

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