

OPINION

THE DAILY
Collegian

Rossilynne Skena
Editor-in-Chief

Holly Colbo
Business Manager

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Letters

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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.

CCSG takes wrong approach

Last Wednesday, DJ Ryan stood and delivered a speech criticizing the treatment of Commonwealth Campus students. But instead of making it a goal to fix the problem, the former Council of the Commonwealth Student Governments Liaison to the University Park Undergraduate Association abruptly resigned and left UPUA members surprised.

Ryan cited a disconnect between University Park students and Commonwealth Campus students — saying Commonwealth students are treated as “second-class students” — and resigned with very little warning.

It is understandable that a claim like this would make Ryan upset, but simply walking out on the matter rather than discussing a solution doesn't seem like the right approach to unifying and bringing about change.

What is even more confusing about Ryan's leave is he said a strong relationship exists with several executive members of UPUA, including President Gavin Keirans, Assembly Services Director Samantha Miller and representatives Samuel Loewner, Chrissy Boggs and Christian Ragland. Upon resigning, Ryan thanked these members

for their support of Commonwealth students. But instead of working with them to fix the problem, he left his position.

These two bodies are supposed to work together and have a responsibility to focus on Penn State initiatives.

Ryan didn't do that. He cut off all communication with UPUA and walked away.

How can CCSG expect change when, instead of staying and standing up for his goals, Ryan simply decided to go the other way by trying to make a statement and simply leaving?

Walking out isn't putting up much of a fight.

Commonwealth Campuses deserve two THON dancers

In response to the Feb. 5 article, “Some Commonwealth Campuses left out of THON,” I realize it must be difficult to create and enforce the rules and regulations pertaining to THON. But a fairer and more equitable way to determine who gets dancers must be found. The Commonwealth Campuses should all be allotted two dancers with no contingency on how much money they raised.

After the initial two dancers, the Commonwealth Campuses should then be placed in the lottery according to how much money they raised for additional dancers. We are one Penn State no matter where we are located geographically. Students choose to attend Commonwealth Campuses for a variety of reasons. Let's not punish the hard work and dedication of their THON committees because of it.

Kim Hummel

Junior information sciences and technology
THON Family Relations Co-Chair
Penn State DuBois

Students should not be able to dance multiple times

Immediately upon reading the title of the Feb. 5 article, “708 students selected to dance in THON 2010,” I was met with an onslaught of emotions. My eyes began to water and my heart pounded as I reminisced of this day one year ago — the day my best friend and I were picked to dance in THON 2009 from the dancer lottery. As a past independent dancer, I can relate perfectly to the intense feelings of anxiety leading up to the lottery, when what you worked so hard for since the first day of fundraising was decided.

However, I can only relate with a select number of students, who were actually picked to dance, in the excitement and joy. My heart truly goes out to those who were not picked, in essence the unsung heroes of THON 2010. While independent couples are aware there is no guarantee of being picked, countless pairs pursue their dream of dancing each year. There is, however, something about this scenario I can't seem to figure out. Each year, there are also students dancing in THON who have already danced in previous years. I cannot understand why some individuals are allowed to dance multiple times, while others work just as hard as not be picked to dance once during their college career.

THON is a cause that is near and dear to many hearts at our university, and to some, dancing is the highest of honors. With that said, the students who dedicate their lives to running the largest student-run philanthropy in the world must acknowledge that dancing should be a once-in-a-lifetime experience and should therefore be an opportunity for more students to enjoy.

Angie Schlosser
Class of 2009

State Patty's Day tradition deserves to live on in future

To the students who think State Patty's Day should be banned: At some point in your college career, I'm sure you, like the rest of us, have made bad decisions or gotten entirely too intoxicated. It's part of college and part of growing up. Now, mistakes such as these may be prevalent on State Patty's day, but things like this happen every weekend at every college campus across the country. Penn State is one of the largest institutions in the country, made up of diverse people who lead different lifestyles. As in any situation in life, there are people who take things too far and thus the rest of us must deal with the stigma a few have created.

State Patty's is a day where the majority of students responsibly enjoy the festivities, partaking in an event that although fictional is no less enjoyable than actual holidays. You like to throw around your statistics about arrests and violations — 45 people arrested in 2008. A significant increase in normal activity, but 45 out of a few thousand participants? This minuscule percentage is going to be the basis of your argument? Semantics. I challenge you to observe State Patty's through unbiased eyes, put your personal opinions aside about Penn State being a party school and consider the majority that upholds Penn State's integrity on such a festive and enjoyable day.

Jeff Daniels
senior-history



SO HOW GOES YOUR HOPEY FOR A CHANGEY IN THE WHITE HOUSEY IN 2012 SARAH?



Palin illustrates cable news flaws

By Kevin Sullivan

In case you don't follow these things, one of the biggest stories in American politics this week involved Sarah Palin and the word “retard.”

No, it's not what you're thinking.

But a few weeks after bemoaning “politically correct”-ness in an interview with Glenn Beck, Palin called for the resignation of White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel for his use of the “R-word” at a private meeting.

Later in the week, when radio broadcaster Rush Limbaugh used the word to describe “liberal activists,” Palin shot right back at the host like the maverick she is. The context Limbaugh used the word in was acceptable, she said, arguing that liberal groups “are kooks, so I agree with Rush Limbaugh.”

When is the media going to hold Palin to her own word? It is absurd that no one has called the former governor out for not decrying the political correctness of the Black Eyed Peas 2003 hit, “Let's Get Retarded.”

Why the news outlets love these sorts of stories I don't know. Wasn't anything else happening this week other than some politician turned television personality playing tattletale? C-SPAN broadcasts what happens inside the chambers of Congress, doesn't anything go on there?



MY OPINION

I guess these stories aren't really all that shocking. They're like the “Jersey Shore” equivalent for the concerned class. Easily packaged, effortlessly consumed, slightly edgy and pretty much pointless. Here is your check, Snooki, now enjoy these messages from our sponsors.

Another great aspect of these little stunts is how they are essentially open-ended. People don't watch the news to get information. They watch the news to have their opinions and beliefs adulated.

You can really get whatever you want out of a situation like this. If you think Palin and the Republicans are as infallible as Dr. Gregory House, Limbaugh was just being “satirical,” or something. If you think this group is as idiotic as some “Borat” sketch, then congratulations, you cultural warrior you. Either way, there is a news network there waiting to be proud of you.

For example, in this particular scenario, Fox would probably be the former and MSNBC the latter. And for the free thinking and civil, there's CNN, who can't touch an issue with a six-foot pole. That the major news networks are set up in this manner isn't really that shocking as viewed in hindsight either.

In their 1988 book, “Manufacturing Consent,” Edward Herman and Noam Chomsky put forth that news outlets are fighting for profit against one another, essentially, by having a scoop. Because these stories require politicians and corporate figures for legitimacy, coverage is constantly distorted in their favor. To be relevant, they must make those they report on happy to ensure future relations with sources whose words become the news.

But Fox News has been built out of conservative commentators and former Republican political insiders.

As such, it has a solid base of viewership among conservatives. According to a poll by Public Policy Polling, while 74 percent of Republicans trust the network, only 30 percent of Democrats do, which is quite a discrepancy.

The fact remains: Fox News is the only network brave enough to stand up against the Chomskyan propaganda model. This is something that all networks should be doing; however, and Fox seems to be the only one in the position to do so.

Now if only it wasn't paying Sarah Palin to launch a electoral campaign, didn't a give disproportional soapbox to “independents” like Bill O'Reilly who always side with conservative principles and took shots at Republicans on occasion as well.

At least there is always “Jersey Shore” season two to look forward to.

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

blog lines

Small World

My first weekend excursion in Ireland was a blast, with many side stops on a trip that led to the city made famous by the catchy Steve Earle song “Galway Girl.” Maybe Earle didn't make the city famous, but he was right when he sang that he lost his heart to love in the city of Galway.

The pedestrian-friendly, colorful city sits right along the coast of Galway Bay. It has a lot of amazing stuff that makes me want to go back, and I've only recently left!

It offers young people a thriving nightlife with pubs and night clubs galore and great shopping during the day with artisan jewelry and sweater shops lining the cobbled and brick streets. The locals are chatty and helpful, willing to point you in the right direction or recommend their favorite pub or restaurant.

Read more from the study abroad blog **Small World** and the rest of The Daily Collegian's blogs at psu.collegian.com/blogs.