

# OPINION

THE DAILY  
Collegian

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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

# Planning for festival a concern

The University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) has \$45,000 to spend on its spring music festival Last Call.

Despite having such lucrative resources and ample time to plan a rocking event, UPUA is leaving Penn State students in the dark about where the money is going and what Last Call will entail.

UPUA's budget is big, and students deserve to know where the money is going. But it seems like student government is

being tight-lipped about possible uses of the funds. How much will it spend on entertainment? Food? Activities? Penn State students don't know, and maybe UPUA doesn't know either.

The event, called "Wallypalooza" last year, brought Asher Roth to Penn State. With such a large budget to work with this year, UPUA can't afford another lackluster choice of performer.

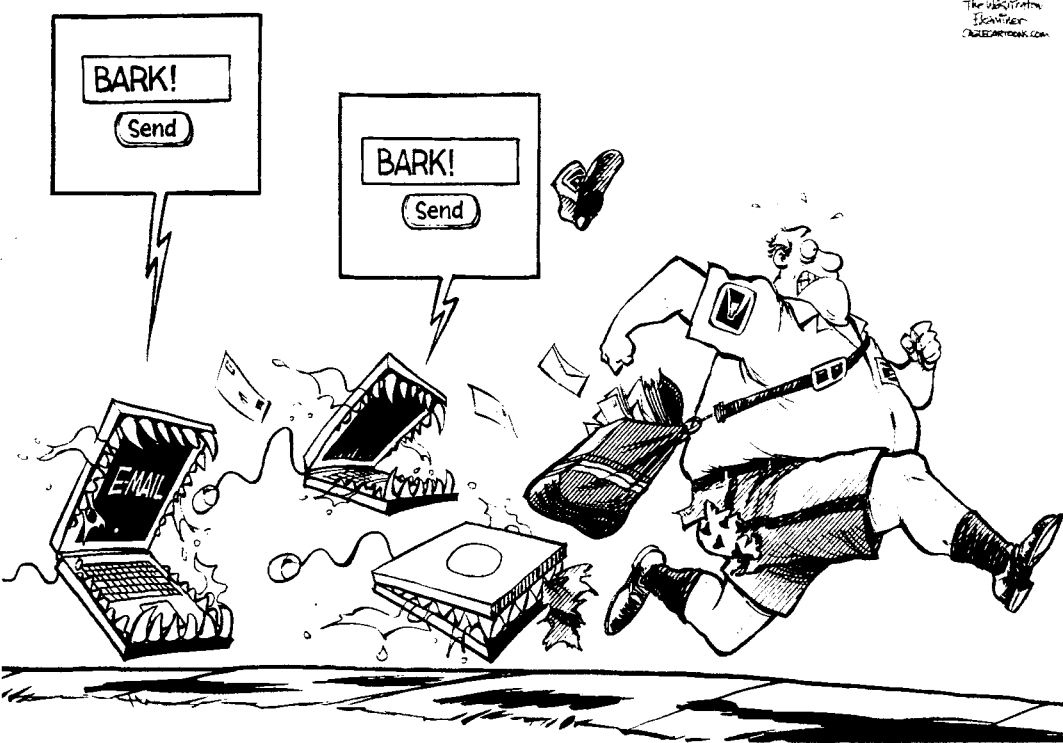
UPUA needs to communicate both inside and out-

side the organization's walls. It needs better and earlier planning so students know what the festival is and who will be there.

Such a large amount of students' money must not be thrown around blindly.

Students deserve a successful send-off, and proper planning is vital.

With a quick assembly vote and so little time remaining, let's hope UPUA truly has done its homework and will create something memorable.



# Investing in gold a worthwhile choice

By Bill Wellock

If I ever have the money<sup>1</sup>, I'd like to make a movie called "Slumdog Gazillionaire."

In the movie, Latika leaves Jamal for a college newspaper columnist in Pennsylvania, and Jamal sets out to win her back. With luck, courage, a good heart and lots and lots of money<sup>2</sup>, he goes after her. He tries his hardest, and after Latika catches the columnist in bed with Penelope Cruz and swimsuit model Marissa Miller<sup>3</sup>, she realizes that Jamal was her true love all along. Together again, Jamal decides to commemorate his love for Latika by building a life-size replica of the Taj Mahal out of Enzo Ferraris.

I can already see the critiques. Haters will say: "Everything about that plot makes perfect sense and is totally believable, especially the part with Penelope Cruz, but there's still one thing I don't get — how is Jamal going to make his money?"

Gold. And Jamal, baby, I'm right there with you.

Gold for breakfast, gold for lunch. Gold for dinner, gold for brunch. And yes, brunch will most definitely be a daily thing.

When people call gold a precious metal, they mean it. As of yesterday, gold was trading at

about \$1,100 per troy ounce.

And — bad for the world but good for investors — the price of gold generally increases during times of financial or political instability. So, that means when the meteors start falling, the price of gold will shoot up. Right? Right??

Not quite, said Penn State finance professor J. Randall Woodbridge.

If, for example, "World War III came along, the prices of all assets would tend to go down," he said.

But in the event of something less drastic, gold prices would likely rise. That's because, according to Woodbridge, the investment value of gold tends to control its price, and that investment value reflects economic and political uncertainty. When people are scared about the economy or political unrest, they tend to consider investing in gold.

"The feeling is that gold is something that will retain its value," said Woodbridge. "If the United States had a major meltdown, the dollar would decline, stocks would decline. The thing about gold is that it's universal."

That was all I needed to consider making gold part of my portfolio, which would actually make it all of my portfolio.

Having lost most of my investment money in the Pokémon card bubble of '98, I went looking for a loan:

Me: Dad, I need \$1,000.  
Dad (takes Brooks Brothers shearing slipper-clad foot from opposite knee and pipe from mouth): What for?

Me: I need to invest in gold. Porterhouse Wolfingbone, the family Great Dane, perks up as Dad folds The Wall Street Journal and rises from his leather armchair.

Dad: Son, I've been waiting for you to ask me this for a long time.

Porterhouse wags tail.

Unfortunately, when I tried to tell my plan to the family golden retriever, she just looked at me like I was crazy. So for now, I'll just have to siphon funds from rent money. But I'm sticking with the gold plan. I'm no Scrooge McDuck, but I know a deal when I see one. Gold is good. And it's big-time.

"The thing about gold is that it has an investment value that is greater than many other commodities, like wood," said Woodbridge.

To which I say: Amen. I am not about to invest in wood. There are no rappers wearing ornate wooden clocks around their necks. There are no celebrated solid wood toilets. No one drinks liquor with little bits of wooden flakes in it.

Besides, nothing says "new money" like a wood baron.

So if you have some money to invest, consider gold. After all, as the adage goes, they're not making any more of it.

1 — I will never have the money.  
2 — Plus a little bit of Jai Ho.  
3 — And what the heck, also Julia Mancuso.

Bill Wellock is a senior majoring in English and is the Collegian's Monday columnist. His e-mail address is waw5010@psu.edu.

# Students must swallow pride, party smarter

By Max Wendkos

In the wake of the debate surrounding State Patty's Day, it seems that the creation of drinking holidays is becoming a bit of a fad at University Park. Many students seem set on creating and celebrating additional "holidays" to prove our ability to party regardless of the concerns expressed by the local community and the university or the measures taken to control our actions.



MY OPINION

For many reasons, the majority of students were unwilling to accept the pleas and suggestions of borough and university officials and their own elected leaders regarding State Patty's Day. Some said they earned the right to celebrate this fabricated "holiday" because of their work in the classroom and with the Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon. But is that why we work hard in class, and is that why raise money for children with cancer? I hope not.

Others questioned whether the crime and hospitalizations are actually worse on State Patty's Day weekend than during football weekends. Well, not only has State Patty's Day weekend produced significantly more alcohol-related crime and hospitalizations than a normal football weekend, it also easily trumps recent Homecoming weekends and primetime football games.

This year's State Patty's Day weekend saw an increase in police calls by 17.3 percent, disorderly parties and noise violations by 19.4 percent, and alcohol overdoses by 14.3 percent. Most notably, though, the number of arrests more than doubled. In fact, there were more alcohol-related arrests just this year than there were in the first three years combined. If the hospitalizations aren't alarming enough to make us question the celebration, I would hope that the continuously increasing threat of being arrested and risking our futures would be.

The downfalls don't end there, though. Consider how foolish it is for us to come together to rebel against the people who determine our tuition, class schedules, judicial affairs policies, local laws, zoning ordinances and more. For example, there is currently a proposed ordinance — the Nuisance Gathering Ordinance — that, if passed, would make "the hosts or other organizers of a gathering or event (of 10 or more people) responsible for the activities of their guests and visitors on the site of the gathering or event and for the spillover of guests or activities onto adjacent properties." In other words, the borough council controls a large portion of the liabilities attached to all of our off-campus partying, and we're sitting here and essentially telling the mayor, the borough manager, the chief of police, other prominent officials and our neighbors to "shove it." Hopefully you all see the problem with that.

Now, I'm not anti-fun; those who know me can tell you that I enjoy partying just as much as the next guy. But since when have we needed to create "holidays" in order to enjoy ourselves? Never, and we don't need to now. Realistically, because we go to a school with approximately 45,000 students and don't party with 99 percent of the campus anyway (even on these holidays), we can just stick to our theme parties with our circles of friends and use them to celebrate whatever we want without fostering an unsafe environment full of cops that simultaneously angers those who we rely on to act in our best interest.

The creation of these holidays has turned into nothing more than students jeopardizing our own health, safety, lifestyle and futures because we're hell-bent on instant gratification and refuse to see the big picture. The only added benefit — seeing people we don't know dressed for the same occasion and the camaraderie that comes along with that — just isn't worth everything we'll lose if we don't swallow our pride and start to party smarter.

We have found ourselves in the middle of a political game in which we have no leverage. We cannot simply "party" those who have expressed concerns into submission. The longer it takes the student body to recognize this and to make the appropriate adjustments, the more we stand to lose.

So, if you've been a supporter of these drinking-centered "holidays," I urge you to reconsider your stance — if not for Happy Valley or the university that you all claim to "love," do it for yourselves.

Max Wendkos is a senior majoring in marketing and psychology and is the president of the Interfraternity Council.

## blog lines

### Footblog

Penn State will be the first Big Ten school to have its spring game televised by the ESPN family when the April 24 Blue-White game airs on ESPN2. Kickoff is 2 p.m. from Beaver Stadium.

Besides Penn State, LSU (March 27), North Carolina (April 10) and Alabama (April 17) will also have their spring games air on ESPN/ESPN2. Last year's spring game set a Blue-White Game attendance record with 76,500.

Read more from the Footblog and the rest of The Daily Collegian's blogs at [psucollegian.com/blogs](http://psucollegian.com/blogs).