

OPINION

THE DAILY
Collegian

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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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■ **Online**
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■ **Postal mail/In person**
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University Park, PA 16801

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.

Festival not just drinking holiday

It's early July, which means Penn State students who are back in their hometowns or living elsewhere for internships will once again be coming back to State College in hordes. For one weekend in summer, Penn State's downtown area will look like a football weekend, and every student and State College resident knows why: Arts Fest.

While some may be coming for the art part of the annual Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, the majority of Penn State students return for what has become a weekend to visit friends and, more important, consume alcohol.

Arts Fest has become synonymous with alcohol consumption and less about what it was originally meant to be — a celebration of the wide-rang-

ing arts inhabiting and being cultivated in State College.

There is no stopping the massive amount of excessive drinking that will be done this weekend, but there is something to be said of responsible drinking. This weekend is not just another excuse for students to come back to State College and have a good time and reconnect with friends.

Arts Fest is supposed to be about the countless number of families, specifically young children, who come to our little town to enjoy the art, the music and just the overall atmosphere of Arts Fest. Artists from all over the country come to Central Pennsylvania to showcase their work.

When making the decision to go out and have a few drinks, keep in mind

the fact Arts Fest is — and always has been — a family affair. Also, take the time to go out and experience all Arts Fest has to offer.

And few art festivals around the country have as much to offer as State College's. Arts Fest is considered to be one of the best arts festivals in the country, and it isn't because of its lively nightlife; it's because Arts Fest creates an atmosphere few festivals can rival.

Before going out for the night, take a walk down Allen Street to see the exhibits or walk over to Central Parklet and watch Brad Goll make sculptures from a 25 ton pile of sand.

Whatever you decide to do this weekend, take time to enjoy Arts Fest for what it really is.

Webster's Bookstore Café more than just a bookstore

As a Delta Program alum, I cannot stress my complete and utter disappointment at the closing of Webster's Bookstore and Café. It was much more than another shop downtown. In actuality, it had become the central hub of State College for many others and myself. It was forever the answer to the question, "Where should we meet?" and would serve as somewhere to go when you had a couple of minutes with nothing to do. It was a study spot, a tasty food venue and friendly. It was something special and original downtown, and it's something that simply cannot be replaced, especially by another chain or bank.

Nathaniel Peters
sophomore-interdisciplinary digital studio

blog lines

Snap, Crackle, Pop

Liz Phair, an alt-rock indie goddess turned pop sellout to some, the voice behind the deliciously generic 2003 single "Why Can't I?" to me. (Cut me some slack. I was in eighth grade and it was on the radio constantly.) The flaxen-haired songstress scored rave reviews with the release of her angry, seminal, lo-fi masterpiece "Exile in Guyville" in 1993. So, naturally, when she released a self-titled fourth album filled with sugary pop nonsense 10 years later, the indie community exploded with hatred, anger and grief.

Read more from the arts blog **Snap, Crackle, Pop** and the rest of The Daily Collegian's blogs at psu.collegian.com/blogs.

Footblog

A week ago, the Penn State football team had one commitment for the 2011 season prompting debate among Nittany Lion fans as to whether Joe Paterno's health was impacting recruiting. But in the last six days, the Lions have received two commitments, the most recent coming from Fairview High School defensive end Jordan Kerner, according to **FightOnState.com**. Kerner is the 16th-ranked defensive end recruit in the state.

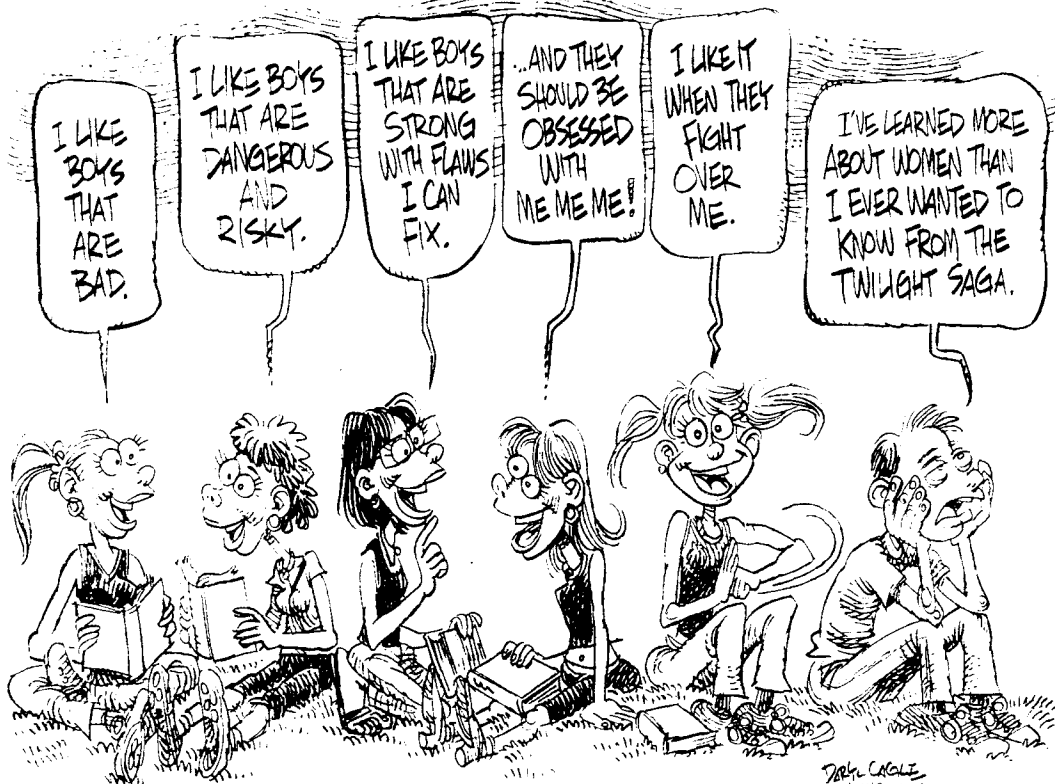
As far as rivalries go, there's no telling what the future holds for Penn State and Nebraska. We'll have a better idea once divisions are set and 2011 schedules are set, but until then, former Penn State tight end Mike McCloskey wants to clear up a few myths surrounding his catch during the 1982 matchup, which helped Penn State to its first national title. The question he's been asked numerous times about whether he caught the ball inbounds is something he doesn't know the answer to. Though he was ruled to have caught the ball that set up the Nittany Lions' decisive touchdown, he still wishes he knew whether or not he was inbounds.

Read more from the football blog **Footblog** and the rest of The Daily Collegian's blogs at psu.collegian.com/blogs.

Small World

Confession: I can't make a decision to save my life. I know what you're thinking. I can't be that bad. But after 18 years of stammering through everything from choosing an entree to lining up weekend plans, it's become laughably (if not painfully) obvious: I can be that bad. My propensity to draw out even the most mundane decisions seems to make its way into everything I do, but nowhere was this tendency to be exasperatingly indecisive more apparent than when I was wrestling over where to go to college.

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



Apple, Jobs creating illegal monopoly with HTML5

By Andrew Metcalf

I've never loved Apple as a company, but I've never had any huge beef with it. I actually admired it during its renaissance in the early 2000s with the release of all sorts of sexy hardware. But lately, co-founder Steve Jobs' controlling and paranoid tendencies have concerned me.

With the recent release of the iPhone, I worry that Apple has gone a bit too far. Specifically, I'm referring to the company's decision to completely block the Flash player on the iPhone in favor of HTML5, which Jobs claims to be the future of the internet.

For those of you who are less technically inclined, HTML is the most basic language used to make websites. We've been on the current version, HTML 4.01, since late 1999, which is an eon ago in the computing world. The reason for this incredibly long gap is largely

because of the difficulties the leading browser manufacturers — Microsoft, Apple, Google, Mozilla, etc. — have in agreeing to a common standard. Experts have predicted it could take years before an HTML5 specification is finalized. As a result, other technologies, such as Adobe's Flash, have provided developers with the ability to create rich, dynamic, and cross-platform online content.

Apple is apparently fed up with both this long wait for an HTML5 specification and with Adobe, so the company has decided to harness its virtual monopoly on the smartphone market. It has prohibited Flash from running on its iPhone in any capacity, and are requiring developers to use its version of HTML5 to play audio, video, or display highly interactive content.

As a web developer, this pisses me off. Flash can be a memory hog and certainly isn't perfect, but I find it pretty obnoxious that Jobs wants to single-handedly decide the future of the internet while ignoring its evolution for the past 10 years.

I have nothing against HTML5, but I'm really frustrated that any content I have made in Flash will

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simply show up as a blank box on an iPhone or iPad.

HTML5 is still very much a draft, and it could be years before an actual standard is agreed upon. Moreover, I am not really convinced that HTML5's new features will truly be able to do everything that Flash can do today.

Jobs occasionally blames the technical requirements of Flash, claiming it wouldn't run well on a phone.

However, Adobe recently released Flash on the Android platform which powers many smartphones, including the Droid series, and early reports claim that it runs pretty damn well, so I'm fairly certain that's not the issue.

Instead, I believe that Apple wants to have control over the developing HTML5 specifications, and by forcing developers to code for Apple's version, Apple gives

itself leverage for pushing the company's own agenda.

What's funny to me is that this sort of anti-competitive behavior is exactly what Microsoft was sued for in 1998. Back then, Microsoft was accused of maintaining an unfair monopoly in the browser market by packaging Internet Explorer with Windows. The prosecution alleged that Microsoft could require developers to code specifically for its browser by supporting non-standard code, and therefore control the development of web standards.

Sound familiar? Whether that lawsuit was fair, legal or necessary is up for debate, but judged by that same standard, Apple is equally guilty.

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MY OPINION